

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1733

By: Thompson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-401), which relates to student communications; requiring immediate notification to law enforcement of certain violation; updating statutory language; requiring school employees to report certain disclosure, allegation, or information to law enforcement within certain time period; clarifying term; requiring certain officer to submit certain report under certain circumstances; requiring certain report to law enforcement prior to certain investigation or questioning; prohibiting school personnel from taking certain actions until law enforcement has been notified; providing exception; requiring certain information to be kept confidential or redacted; requiring school employees to annually sign certain attestation; providing certain construction; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 6-401), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-401. A. As used in this section:

1 1. "Electronic or digital communication" includes, but is not
2 limited to, emails, text messages, instant messages, direct
3 messages, social media messages, messages sent through software
4 applications, and any other electronic digital means of
5 communication; and

6 2. "School personnel" means teachers, coaches, administrators,
7 school bus drivers, or any other persons employed full-time or part-
8 time by a public school or charter school.

9 B. School personnel engaging in electronic or digital
10 communication with an individual student shall include the student's
11 parent or legal guardian in any electronic or digital communication,
12 unless such communication is on a school-approved platform and
13 related to school and academic communications.

14 C. Exceptions to the requirement in subsection B of this
15 section may be made in case of an emergency, subject to subsequent
16 notification to the parent or legal guardian. School personnel
17 shall make reasonable efforts to use school-approved platforms,
18 systems, or applications that allow automatic inclusion of parents
19 or legal guardians in communications with students.

20 D. Schools shall provide training, developed by the State
21 Department of Education, for school personnel on the student
22 communication requirements of this section.

23 E. Any school personnel who is reported to be in violation of
24 subsection B of this section shall be put on administrative leave

1 while the school district investigates the incident and notifies the
2 board of education. If the investigation finds that no misconduct
3 occurred, the school personnel shall be reinstated and the incident
4 shall be noted in the school personnel's employee file. If the
5 investigation finds misconduct occurred, the school personnel shall
6 be disciplined according to the school district board of education's
7 policy, up to and including termination of employment, ~~and the~~
8 ~~incident shall be reported to law enforcement pursuant to Section~~
9 ~~1210.163 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.~~

10 F. A school district shall immediately notify law enforcement
11 of any violation of subsection B of this section pursuant to Section
12 1210.163 of this title.

13 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.164 of Title 70, unless
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. 1. In addition to any report required pursuant to Section
17 1210.163 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, every school employee
18 having reason to believe, or receiving an allegation or disclosure,
19 that a student is the victim of sexual abuse, sexual assault, or
20 sexual misconduct, shall report the disclosure, allegation, or
21 information within twenty-four (24) hours to local law enforcement.

22 2. For the purposes of this section, local law enforcement
23 means a law enforcement agency that is independent of the school
24 district and shall not include a school resource officer employed by

1 the district unless directed by the independent law enforcement
2 agency. When a school resource officer is utilized pursuant to this
3 subsection, the officer shall submit a written report describing the
4 circumstances and any actions taken to the independent law
5 enforcement agency.

6 B. 1. Any disclosure or allegation made pursuant to this
7 section shall be reported to law enforcement prior to any
8 investigation by the public school district or school district board
9 of education or questioning of the subject of the disclosure or
10 allegation.

11 2. No school investigator, administrator, or official shall
12 conduct interviews of the subject of the disclosure or allegation or
13 engage in disciplinary proceedings until law enforcement has been
14 notified and has had the opportunity to interview the involved
15 parties, unless law enforcement determines that an immediate school
16 response is necessary to protect student safety.

17 C. In reports required by subsection A of this section, local
18 law enforcement shall keep confidential and redact any information
19 identifying the reporting school employee unless otherwise ordered
20 by the court. A school employee with knowledge of a report required
21 by subsection A of this section shall not disclose information
22 identifying the reporting school employee unless otherwise ordered
23 by the court or as part of an investigation by local law enforcement
24 or the State Department of Education.

1 D. In addition to the attestation required by Section 1210.163
2 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, every school employee shall
3 annually sign an attestation acknowledging his or her responsibility
4 to report suspected child abuse or neglect pursuant to this section.
5 Failure to sign an attestation shall not relieve school personnel
6 from the obligations created in this section or Section 1210.163 of
7 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, nor shall such failure constitute
8 a defense to criminal liability arising under Section 1-2-101 of
9 Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes.

10 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

11 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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