

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT

2 TO

2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 799

By: Pederson, Bergstrom, and
Hicks of the Senate

3 and

4 Pae of the House

5

6

7 An Act relating to students; amending Section 1,
8 Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section
9 6-401), which relates to electronic or digital
10 communications between students and school personnel;
providing for inclusion of alternate adult in
communications with certain students; providing
exception; updating statutory reference; providing an
effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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13 AUTHOR: Add the following House Coauthor: Moore

14 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause, and entire bill
15 and insert:

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17 "An Act relating to students; amending Section 1,
18 Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section
19 6-401), which relates to electronic or digital
communications between students and school personnel;
defining alternate adult; requiring written
verification; requiring notice of certain changes in
student circumstances; defining student; providing
for inclusion of alternate adult in certain
communications; and updating statutory reference.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L.

2 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-401), is amended to read as
3 follows:

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

5 1. "Alternate adult" means a case manager or designated
6 employee of a homeless shelter, transitional living program, or a
7 continuum of care lead agency assigned to a student who has been
8 verified by the alternate adult as provided in subparagraph a of
9 this paragraph to be a homeless child or youth as defined in Section
10 600 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes without objection from the
11 student's parent or legal guardian.

12 a. Before the school shall include an alternate adult in
13 any electronic or digital communications, the
14 alternate adult shall:

15 (1) send a letter by return receipt mail to the last-
16 known address of the parent or legal guardian of
17 the student informing the parent or legal
18 guardian that the student may be designated as a
19 homeless child or youth and that an alternate
20 adult may be assigned to the student in school-
21 related communications if no response or
22 objection is received,

1 (2) allow a period of no less than fifteen (15)
2 business days for the parent or legal guardian to
3 respond or object to such designation, and
4 (3) file written verification with the school that no
5 objection was received, reasonable efforts to
6 locate or contact the parent or legal guardian
7 have been unsuccessful, and that the student
8 shall be designated as a homeless child or youth
9 and the alternate adult shall be included in
10 student-related communications.

11 b. The alternate adult shall promptly notify the school
12 if the alternate adult is no longer assigned to the
13 student, the student no longer meets the definition of
14 a homeless child or youth, a parent or legal guardian
15 objects to the student's designation, or any other
16 significant change in the student's circumstances as a
17 homeless child or youth;

18 2. "Electronic or digital communication" includes, but is not
19 limited to, emails, text messages, instant messages, direct
20 messages, social media messages, messages sent through software
21 applications, and any other electronic or digital means of
22 communication; and

1 2. 3. "School personnel" means teachers, coaches,
2 administrators, school bus drivers, or any other persons employed
3 full-time or part-time by a public school or charter school; and

4 4. "Student" means a person enrolled in a public school or
5 charter school in this state receiving primary or secondary
6 education to obtain a standard high school diploma or high school
7 equivalency diploma. Student does not mean a person who holds a
8 standard high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma.

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, or alternate adult in any electronic or
12 digital communication, unless such communication is on a school-
13 approved platform and 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, or alternate adult.

17 D. School personnel shall make reasonable efforts to use
18 school-approved platforms, systems, or applications that allow
19 automatic inclusion of parents or, legal guardians, or alternate
20 adults in communications with students.

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

1 E. F. Any school personnel who is reported to be in violation
2 of subsection B of this section shall be put on administrative leave
3 while the school district investigates the incident and notifies the
4 board of education. If the investigation finds that no misconduct
5 occurred, the school personnel shall be reinstated and the incident
6 shall be noted in the school personnel's employee file. If the
7 investigation finds misconduct occurred, the school personnel shall
8 be disciplined according to the school district board of education's
9 policy, up to and including termination of employment, and the
10 incident shall be reported to law enforcement pursuant to Section
11 1210.163 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes this title."

12 Passed the House of Representatives the 1st day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the day of , 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 799

By: Pederson, Bergstrom, and
Hicks of the Senate

3 and

4 Pae of the House

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6 An Act relating to students; amending Section 1,
7 Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section
8 6-401), which relates to electronic or digital
9 communications between students and school personnel;
providing for inclusion of alternate adult in
communications with certain students; providing
exception; updating statutory reference; providing an
effective date; and declaring an emergency.

10
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

12 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L.

13 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-401), is amended to read as
14 follows:

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

16 1. "Electronic or digital communication" includes, but is not
17 limited to, emails, text messages, instant messages, direct
18 messages, social media messages, messages sent through software
19 applications, and any other electronic digital means of
20 communication; and

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

1 B. 1. School personnel engaging in electronic or digital
2 communication with an individual student shall include the student's
3 parent ~~or,~~ guardian, or alternate adult provided for in paragraph 2
4 of this subsection in any electronic or digital communication,
5 unless such communication is on a school-approved platform and
6 related to school and academic communications.

7 2. Students who are known to be homeless children and youth as
8 defined in Section 600 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall,
9 in lieu of a parent or guardian, have an alternate adult included in
10 the electronic or digital communication. The alternate adult shall
11 be:

- 12 a. the McKinney-Vento homeless liaison of a public
13 school, or
- 14 b. a case manager or designated employee of a homeless
15 shelter, transitional living program, or a continuum
16 of care lead agency.

17 C. Exceptions to the requirement in subsection B of this
18 section may be made in case of an emergency, subject to subsequent
19 notification to the parent ~~or,~~ guardian, or alternate adult provided
20 for in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section. The provisions
21 of subsection B of this section shall not apply to the alternate
22 adult provided for in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section.

23 D. School personnel shall make reasonable efforts to use
24 school-approved platforms, systems, or applications that allow

1 automatic inclusion of parents or, guardians, or alternate adults
2 provided for in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section in
3 communications with students.

4 **D. E.** Schools shall provide training, developed by the State
5 Department of Education, for school personnel on the student
6 communication requirements of this section.

7 **E. F.** Any school personnel who is reported to be in violation
8 of subsection B of this section shall be put on administrative leave
9 while the school district investigates the incident and notifies the
10 board of education. If the investigation finds that no misconduct
11 occurred, the school personnel shall be reinstated and the incident
12 shall be noted in the school personnel's employee file. If the
13 investigation finds misconduct occurred, the school personnel shall
14 be disciplined according to the school district board of education's
15 policy, up to and including termination of employment, and the
16 incident shall be reported to law enforcement pursuant to Section
17 1210.163 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

18 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

Passed the Senate the 12th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the _____ day of _____,
2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives