

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 9, 2024

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 ENGROSSED HOUSE

5 BILL NO. 3958

6 By: Conley and Banning of the
7 House

8 and

9 Pugh of the Senate

10 **[student communication - exception - training -
11 investigation - punishment - codification - effective
12 date -**

13 **emergency]**

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-401 of Title 70, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. As used in this section:

19 1. "Electronic or digital communication" includes, but is not
20 limited to, emails, text messages, instant messages, direct
21 messages, social media messages, messages sent through software
22 applications, and any other electronic digital means of
23 communication; and
24

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

4 B. School personnel engaging in electronic or digital
5 communication with a student shall include the student's parent or
6 guardian in any electronic or digital communication.

7 C. Exceptions to the requirement in subsection B of this
8 section may be made in case of an emergency, subject to subsequent
9 notification to the parent or guardian. School personnel shall make
10 reasonable efforts to use school-approved platforms, systems, or
11 applications that allow automatic inclusion of parents or guardians
12 in communications with students.

13 D. Schools shall provide training, developed by the State
14 Department of Education, for school personnel on the student
15 communication requirements of this section.

16 E. Any school personnel who is reported to be in violation of
17 subsection B of this section shall be put on administrative leave
18 while the school district investigates the incident and notifies the
19 board of education. If the investigation finds that no misconduct
20 occurred, the school personnel shall be reinstated and a written
21 warning of the incident shall be included in the school personnel's
22 employee file. If the investigation finds misconduct occurred, the
23 school personnel's employment shall be terminated, and the incident
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1 shall be reported to law enforcement pursuant to Section 1210.163 of
2 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

4 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
9 April 9, 2024 - DO PASS AS AMENDED

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