

By: King

S.B. No. 1298

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to instruction in online safety for minors provided in public schools and by the Department of Public Safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c-6) to read as follows:

(a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

(1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A) English language arts;

(B) mathematics;

(C) science; and

(D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and

(2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A) to the extent possible, languages other than English;

(B) health, with emphasis on:

(i) physical health, including the importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

(ii) mental health, including instruction about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage

1 emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and  
2 responsible decision-making; and

3 (iii) suicide prevention, including  
4 recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;

5 (C) physical education;

6 (D) fine arts;

7 (E) career and technology education;

8 (F) technology applications;

9 (G) religious literature, including the Hebrew  
10 Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on  
11 history and literature; ~~and~~

12 (H) personal financial literacy; and

13 (I) online safety, including instruction about  
14 the potential dangers of using Internet websites, social media  
15 applications, and applications that use artificial intelligence.

16 (c-6) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the  
17 online safety curriculum required under Subsection (a)(2)(I), the  
18 State Board of Education shall adopt essential knowledge and skills  
19 that develop each student's understanding of:

20 (1) sharing information on social media;

21 (2) maintaining personal security;

22 (3) preventing oversharing of personal information;

23 (4) identifying cyberbullying, predatory behavior,  
24 and human trafficking on the Internet;

25 (5) the permanence of information shared online;

26 (6) how to report suspicious activity encountered on  
27 the Internet to appropriate authorities; and

1           (7) the topics described by Sections 37.218(b)(1),  
2 (2), and (3).

3           SECTION 2. Section 411.045(b), Government Code, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5           (b) The bureau of training shall:

6                 (1) establish and operate schools for training  
7 department personnel in their duties and functions;

8                 (2) establish and operate schools for training county  
9 and municipal police officers who are selected to attend the  
10 schools by the authorities of the law enforcement agencies that  
11 employ them; and

12                 (3) establish and carry out a comprehensive plan for  
13 the education of citizens of this state in matters of public safety  
14 and crime prevention and detection, including the education of  
15 citizens under the age of 18 concerning online safety when using  
16 Internet websites, social media applications, and applications  
17 that use artificial intelligence.

18           SECTION 3. Section 28.002, Education Code, as amended by  
19 this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

20           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.