

By: Menéndez, et al.

S.B. No. 1447

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to standards adopted by the Texas Education Agency regarding the use of electronic devices and software applications by public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 32.1021, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 32.1021. STANDARDS. The agency shall adopt standards for permissible electronic devices and software applications used by a school district or open-enrollment charter school. In adopting the standards, the agency must:

(1) minimize data collection conducted on students through electronic devices and software applications;

(2) ensure direct and informed parental consent is required for a student's use of a software application, other than a software application necessary for the administration of:

(A) an assessment instrument under Subchapter B, Chapter 39; or

(B) an assessment relating to college, career, or military readiness for which student performance is considered in evaluating a school district's performance under Section 39.054;

(3) ensure software applications do not conduct mental health assessments or other assessments unrelated to educational curricula that are intended to collect information about students

without direct and informed parental consent;

(4) ensure that parents are provided the resources necessary to understand cybersecurity risks and online safety regarding their child's use of electronic devices before the child uses an electronic device at the child's school;

(5) specify periods of time during which an electronic device transferred to a student must be deactivated in the interest of student safety;

(6) consider necessary adjustments by age level to the use of electronic devices in the classroom to foster development of students' abilities regarding spending school time and completing assignments without the use of an electronic device;

(7) consider appropriate restrictions on student access to social media websites or applications with an electronic device transferred to a student by a district or school;

(8) provide for exceptions to the standards to allow a student with a disability, in accordance with an individualized education program developed by the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee under Section 29.005 or a plan developed by a team established for the student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794), to use as a reasonable accommodation or assistive technology electronic devices or software applications that otherwise might not be permissible under the standards;

(9) ~~[(8)]~~ require a district or school, before using a social media application for an educational purpose, to determine that an alternative application that is more secure and provides

1 the same educational functionality as the social media application
2 is unavailable for that educational purpose;

3 (10) [~~(9)~~] consider the required use of an Internet
4 filter capable of notifying appropriate school administrators, who
5 are then required to notify the student's parent, if a student
6 accesses inappropriate or concerning content or words, including
7 content related to:

8 (A) self-harm;

9 (B) suicide;

10 (C) violence to others; or

11 (D) illicit drugs;

12 (11) [~~(10)~~] assign to the appropriate officer of a
13 district or school the duty to receive complaints or concerns
14 regarding student use of electronic devices, including
15 cybersecurity and online safety concerns, from district or school
16 staff, other students, or parents; and

17 (12) [~~(11)~~] provide methods by which a district or
18 school may ensure an operator, as that term is defined by Section
19 [32.151](#), that contracts with the district or school to provide
20 software applications complies with Subchapter D.

21 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
22 school year.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.