

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 2787

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to digital citizenship and media literacy instruction in public schools and a public school policy regarding Internet safety.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.00215 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.00215. DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND MEDIA LITERACY. (a)

In this section:

(1) "Cyberbullying" has the meaning assigned by Section 37.0832.

(2) "Curriculum materials" includes the curriculum, teacher training materials, and any other materials used in providing instruction.

(3) "Digital citizenship" means the standards of appropriate, responsible, and healthy online behavior, including the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act on all forms of digital communication.

(b) The State Board of Education by rule shall require each school district to incorporate instruction in digital citizenship into the district's curriculum, including information regarding the potential criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and require students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 to complete instruction in media literacy as part of the district's foundation curriculum

1 under Section 28.002(a)(1).

2 (c) The State Board of Education shall adopt essential  
3 knowledge and skills for the instruction in digital citizenship  
4 that include instruction regarding the social, emotional, and  
5 physical effects of social media, including:

6 (1) the negative effects of social media on mental  
7 health, including addiction;

8 (2) the distribution of misinformation online;

9 (3) the ways in which social media can manipulate  
10 behavior;

11 (4) the permanency of material shared online;

12 (5) how to maintain online personal security;

13 (6) how to identify and report suspicious online  
14 behavior, including cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and human  
15 trafficking;

16 (7) how to identify credible sources of information,  
17 including by analyzing content created or modified by generative  
18 artificial intelligence technology; and

19 (8) how to engage in respectful discourse with people  
20 who have differing opinions.

21 (d) Before each school year, a school district shall:

22 (1) make all curriculum materials used in the  
23 district's digital citizenship and media literacy instruction  
24 available by posting the curriculum materials on the district's  
25 Internet website, if the district has an Internet website; and

26 (2) provide notice to a parent of each student  
27 enrolled in the district of the availability of the curriculum

1 materials on the district's Internet website, if the district has  
2 an Internet website.

3 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is  
4 amended by adding Section 38.0233 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 38.0233. INTERNET SAFETY POLICY. (a) The board of  
6 trustees of a school district or the governing body of an  
7 open-enrollment charter school shall adopt an Internet safety  
8 policy to protect a student accessing the Internet:

9 (1) on a district or school Internet network; or  
10 (2) on a digital device provided to the student by the  
11 district or school.

12 (b) A policy adopted under this section must:

13 (1) limit student Internet access to age-appropriate  
14 materials;

15 (2) include measures to protect a student using  
16 e-mail, chat rooms, or other direct electronic communication;

17 (3) prohibit student access to information about  
18 illegal activities, including hacking;

19 (4) prohibit student access to websites, web  
20 applications, or software that collects, disseminates, or uses the  
21 student's personal information, including social media services,  
22 other than as directed by a teacher for instructional purposes; and

23 (5) provide an exception for a digital device, a web  
24 application, or software used as a reasonable accommodation or  
25 assistive technology in accordance with a student's individualized  
26 education program or plan created under Section 504, Rehabilitation  
27 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794).

1        (c) The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this  
2 section, including rules regarding additional requirements for a  
3 policy adopted under this section.

4        SECTION 3. Section 28.002(z), Education Code, is repealed.

5        SECTION 4. (a) Section 28.00215, Education Code, as added  
6 by this Act, applies beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

7        (b) Section 38.0233, Education Code, as added by this Act,  
8 applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

9        SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.