

HB489 INTRODUCED



1 S3SY87-1
2 By Representative Robbins
3 RFD: Education Policy
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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, there is no required curriculum for students in grades nine through 12 relating to social media risks and safety.

This bill would require a local board of education to prohibit students from gaining access to social media platforms using Internet access provided through the local board of education to schools.

This bill would also require students in grades nine through 12 to receive age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate instruction on the risks of social media and how to use social media safely as a required course.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to require each local board of education to prohibit students from accessing social media platforms through Internet access provided through the schools under the jurisdiction of the local board; and to amend Section 16-6B-2, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide certain students with instruction on social media risks and



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29 safety as a required course; and to make nonsubstantive,
30 technical revisions to update the existing code language to
31 current style..

32 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

33 Section 1. A local board of education shall prohibit
34 and prevent students enrolled in and attending schools under
35 the jurisdiction of the board from accessing social media
36 platforms through the use of Internet access provided by the
37 local board of education through school.

38 Section 2. Section 16-6B-2, Code of Alabama 1975, is
39 amended to read as follows:

40 "§16-6B-2

41 Every Alabama student shall be given instruction in
42 grades kindergarten through ~~twelve~~12 to prepare him or her to
43 enter the world of work ~~and/or~~or to complete course work at
44 the postsecondary level, or both. In addition to a
45 comprehensive core curriculum of academics, each local board
46 of education shall offer a program of vocational~~+~~or technical
47 education.

48 (a) The following words and phrases used in this
49 section~~shall~~, in the absence of a clear implication
50 otherwise, shall be given the following respective
51 interpretations:

52 ~~(1)~~ (2) REQUIRED COURSES. Courses ~~which~~that are required
53 to be taken by every student enrolled in public schools in the
54 State of Alabama.

55 ~~(2)~~ (1) ELECTIVE COURSES. Courses ~~which~~that are neither
56 mandatory nor required to be taken by any student enrolled in



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57 public schools in the State of Alabama.

58 (b) The Legislature finds that students must become
59 more literate in the basic skills needed to earn a living or
60 to continue their education. The Legislature further finds
61 that the English language is a common bond that holds our
62 society together. It is necessary that the State Board of
63 Education adopt curriculum policies to ensure that Alabama
64 students have a command of the spoken and written English
65 language. The Legislature further finds that in Alabama
66 schools, students earning a standard high school diploma are
67 only required to earn two credits of mathematics after they
68 enter the ninth grade prior to graduation. The Legislature
69 further finds that special attention must be given to the
70 Alabama courses of study. The State Board of Education shall
71 establish a rigorous and meaningful core curriculum including,
72 but not limited to, all of the following courses for grades
73 nine through ~~twelve~~12 in public schools to be phased in
74 beginning with students entering ninth grade in the 1996-97
75 scholastic year:

76 (1) Four years (equivalent of four credit units) of
77 English.

78 (2) Four years (equivalent of four credit units) of
79 mathematics, including, but not limited to, material designed
80 to ensure that no high school student fails to learn basic
81 mathematical skills and computer literacy.

82 (3) Four years (equivalent of four credit units) of
83 science.

84 (4) Four years (equivalent of four credit units) of



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85 social studies with an emphasis on history, music history,
86 fine arts history, geography, economics, and political
87 science. History courses shall include material on the history
88 of the United States and the Constitution of the United
89 States. The Legislature further requires that the curriculum
90 content of American history shall include the teaching of
91 important historical documents including the Constitution of
92 the United States, The Declaration of Independence, The
93 Emancipation Proclamation, The Federalist Papers, and other
94 ~~such~~ documents important to the history and heritage of the
95 United States.

96 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that credit for
97 required basic core academic courses may be earned in
98 conjunction with vocational courses ~~and/or~~ or programs, or
99 both. It is the intent of the Legislature that local boards of
100 education offer and schedule students into vocational
101 programs.

102 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that, in
103 addition to the required courses, elective courses including,
104 but not limited to, foreign languages, fine arts, physical
105 education, wellness education, and vocational and technical
106 preparation be available to all students as determined by the
107 local board of education. For purposes of this section,
108 American Sign Language is a foreign language; a public school
109 may offer such a course; and a student who successfully
110 completes the course is entitled to receive credit for the
111 course toward satisfaction of a foreign language requirement,
112 pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the Alabama State



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113 Board of Education. Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year,
114 the preceding sentence shall apply to hearing-impaired
115 students; and beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, and
116 each school year thereafter, the preceding sentence shall
117 apply to all students. Nothing in this chapter shall be
118 construed to diminish the current requirements of the State
119 Board of Education with respect to health and physical
120 education instruction in grades K-12 or to reduce the effect
121 of Section 16-40-1 regarding health and physical education.

122 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt necessary
123 policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and standards to
124 require that:

125 (1) The required courses set forth in this section
126 shall be taken by every student enrolled in grades nine
127 through ~~twelve~~12 of public schools to be phased in beginning
128 with students entering the ninth grade in the 1996-97
129 scholastic year. The State Superintendent of Education after a
130 hearing in which he or she determines there exists just cause
131 may grant a one-time delay of one year for a school system
132 from implementation of any one of the required courses.

133 (2) The required courses set forth in this section
134 shall be successfully passed by a student enrolled in grades
135 nine through ~~twelve~~12 of public schools prior to such
136 student's graduation or receipt of a diploma, phased in
137 beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the
138 1996-97 scholastic year. Students identified as eligible for
139 special education services as provided by federal and state
140 law shall be required to meet the provisions set forth in the



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141 individual education plan prescribed to meet their individual
142 needs as required by law. The State Board of Education shall
143 continue to set graduation requirements; however, such
144 graduation requirements shall not provide less in the way of
145 requirements in the areas of English, math, science, and
146 social studies as provided in this chapter.

147 (3) In addition to the required courses, a number of
148 elective courses shall be successfully passed by a student
149 enrolled in grades nine through ~~twelve~~12 of public schools
150 prior to such student's graduation or receipt of a diploma,
151 phased in beginning with students entering the ninth grade in
152 the 1996-97 scholastic year. The State Board of Education
153 shall determine the number and classification of units of
154 credit required for high school graduation.

155 (f) The State Board of Education, on the recommendation
156 of the State Superintendent of Education, shall prescribe the
157 minimum contents of courses of study for all public elementary
158 and high schools in the state. In every elementary school
159 there shall be taught at least reading including phonics,
160 spelling, handwriting, arithmetic, oral and written English,
161 geography, history of the United States and Alabama,
162 elementary science, hygiene and sanitation, physical
163 education, the arts, including musical and visual arts,
164 environmental protection, and such other studies as may be
165 prescribed by the local board of education. Instruction in
166 handwriting shall include cursive writing so that students are
167 able to create readable documents through legible cursive
168 handwriting by the end of the third grade. Moreover, the State



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169 Board of Education shall require the following courses for
170 grades one through eight in all public schools to be phased in
171 beginning with students entering grades one through eight in
172 the 1995-96 scholastic year: English, social studies,
173 mathematics, and science shall be taught each year in grades
174 one through eight. English shall include, but not be limited
175 to, material designed to develop language arts, such as
176 reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Social
177 studies shall emphasize geography and history of the United
178 States and Alabama.

179 (g) The State Board of Education shall adopt necessary
180 policies, procedures, rules, regulations, ~~and/or~~and standards
181 to require college and university departments of education to
182 review their existing educational programs for all prospective
183 teachers in order to ensure that they are properly prepared to
184 teach the courses required by law.

185 (h) The State Board of Education and all local boards
186 shall develop and implement within ~~ninety~~(90)90 days of July
187 7, 1995, a comprehensive character education program for all
188 grades to consist of not less than ~~ten~~10 minutes instruction
189 per day focusing upon the students' development of the
190 following character traits: Courage, patriotism, citizenship,
191 honesty, fairness, respect for others, kindness, cooperation,
192 self-respect, self-control, courtesy, compassion, tolerance,
193 diligence, generosity, punctuality, cleanliness, cheerfulness,
194 school pride, respect for the environment, patience,
195 creativity, sportsmanship, loyalty, and perseverance. Each
196 plan of instruction shall include the Pledge of Allegiance to



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197 the American flag.

198 (i) The State Board of Education shall adopt necessary
199 policies, procedures, rules, regulations, ~~and/or~~and standards
200 to ensure quality ~~vocational/technical~~vocational and technical
201 education programs.

202 (j) Each local board of education shall certify on an
203 annual basis to the State Board of Education that the
204 applicable schools in the school district are meeting the
205 cursive writing requirements under subsection (f). The State
206 Board of Education may adopt rules to implement this
207 subsection.

208 (k) (1) Commencing with the 2024-2025 school year,
209 students entering the ninth grade shall complete one semester
210 (equivalent of a one-half credit unit) of age-appropriate,
211 developmentally appropriate instruction on the risks of social
212 media use and how to use social media safely. The curriculum
213 content shall include instructional materials published on the
214 website of the State Department of Education and on the
215 website of each local board of education. Each local board of
216 education shall notify parents of where to access the
217 instructional materials online.

218 (2) The curriculum content shall include all of the
219 following:

220 a. The advantages of social media use, which shall
221 include all of the following:

222 1. Career and resume building for future academic or
223 employment opportunities.

224 2. Sharing information with family and friends.



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225 3. Safely connecting with other users with similar
226 interests.

227 b. The risks of social media use including, but not
228 limited to, all of the following:

229 1. Social media addiction.

230 2. Exposure to various forms of misinformation.

231 3. Negative effects on mental health.

232 4. The permanent nature of content created on social
233 media.

234 c. How to safely use social media including, but not
235 limited to, all of the following:

236 1. Maintaining personal security and preventing
237 oversharing of personal information.

238 2. Identifying predatory behavior.

239 3. Reporting suspicious behavior.

240 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
241 providing for the implementation of this subsection."

242 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the first
243 day of the third month following its passage and approval by
244 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.