

HB364 INTRODUCED



1 HB364
2 YS9UNNN-1
3 By Representatives Hulsey, Collins, Baker
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 21-Mar-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require each local board of education to adopt an Internet safety policy for student access to the Internet provided in school on district-owned devices by the local board of education.

This bill would provide requirements for the policy and would prohibit the use of certain platforms.

This bill would require each local board of education to provide instruction in grades six through 12 on the social, emotional, and physical effects of social media and would require the State Department of Education to make any instructional material used available online to parents.

This bill would also require the State Board of Education to adopt rules.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to require each local board of education to adopt an Internet safety policy for district-owned devices used in schools; to prohibit the use of certain platforms; to require instruction in grades six



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29 through 12 on the potential effects of social media use; to
30 require the State Department of Education to publish
31 instructional material used online; and to require the State
32 Board of Education to adopt rules.

33 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

34 Section 1. (a) Each local board of education shall
35 adopt an Internet safety policy for student access to the
36 Internet provided in schools on district-owned devices by the
37 local board of education.

38 (b) The policy shall do all of the following:

39 (1) Limit access by students to only age-appropriate
40 subject matter and materials.

41 (2) Protect the safety and security of students when
42 using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic
43 communication.

44 (3) Prohibit access by students to data or information,
45 including hacking, and other unlawful online activity by
46 students.

47 (4) Prevent access to websites, web applications, or
48 software that does not protect against the disclosure, use, or
49 dissemination of the personal information of the student.

50 (5) Prohibit and prevent students from accessing social
51 media platforms, except when expressly directed by a teacher
52 solely for educational purposes.

53 (6) Prohibit the use of the TikTok platform or any
54 successor platform, to communicate or promote any district
55 school, school-sponsored club, extracurricular organization,
56 or athletic team.



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57 (c) (1) In addition to the policy, each local board of
58 education shall provide instruction on the social, emotional,
59 and physical effects of social media for students in grades 6
60 through 12. The instruction shall include, but not be limited
61 to:

62 a. The negative effects of social media on mental
63 health, including addiction;

64 b. The distribution of misinformation on social media;

65 c. How social media manipulates behavior;

66 d. The permanency of sharing materials online;

67 e. How to maintain personal security and identify
68 cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and human trafficking on
69 the Internet; and

70 f. How to report suspicious behavior encountered on the
71 Internet.

72 (2) The State Department of Education shall make
73 available on the department's website the instructional
74 material used pursuant to this subsection, and each local
75 board of education shall notify parents of that availability.

76 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
77 administer this section.

78 Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1,
79 2024.