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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 social media 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.

This bill would also require each local board of education to adopt a cell phone policy for students.

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 social media platforms; to require instruction in grades six through 12 on the potential effects of social



29 media use; to require each local board of education to adopt a  
30 cell phone policy; and to repeal Section 16-1-27, Code of  
31 Alabama 1975, providing for the use of electronic  
32 communication devices on school property.

33 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

34 Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section,  
35 instructional hours include the school day and any after  
36 school hours during which a student is receiving instruction,  
37 in detention, and as otherwise provided in the policy of the  
38 local board of education.

39 (b) Each local board of education shall adopt an  
40 Internet safety policy for student access to the Internet  
41 provided in schools on district-owned devices by the local  
42 board of education during instructional hours.

43 (c) The policy shall do all of the following:

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

46 (2) Protect the safety and security of students when  
47 using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic  
48 communication.

49 (3) Prohibit access by students to data or information,  
50 including hacking, and other unlawful online activity by  
51 students.

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

55 (5) Prohibit and prevent students from accessing any  
56 and all social media platforms, except when expressly directed



57 by a teacher solely for educational purposes during  
58 instructional hours.

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

- 64 (1) The negative effects of social media on mental  
65 health, including addiction;
- 66 (2) The distribution of misinformation on social media;
- 67 (3) How social media manipulates behavior;
- 68 (4) The permanency of sharing materials online;
- 69 (5) How to maintain personal security and identify  
70 cyberbullying, phishing and scam communications, predatory  
71 behavior, and human trafficking on the Internet; and
- 72 (6) How to report suspicious behavior encountered on  
73 the Internet.

74 (e) Each local board of education shall develop and  
75 implement a cell phone policy for students during  
76 instructional hours. At a minimum, the policy shall prohibit  
77 student possession or use of cell phones during instructional  
78 hours.

79 Section 2. Section 16-1-27, Code of Alabama 1975,  
80 providing for the use of electronic communication devices on  
81 school property, is repealed.

82 Section 3. This act shall become effective on July 1,  
83 2024.