

House Bill 1269

By: Representatives Wade of the 9th, Dubnik of the 29th, Jones of the 25th, Paris of the 142nd, Fleming of the 114th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education
3 Act," so as to provide for content standards for digital literacy instruction; to require students
4 in kindergarten through twelfth grade to receive grade level appropriate instruction in digital
5 literacy; to require the Department of Education to develop and publish model programs; to
6 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
10 relating to competencies and core curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is
11 amended by revising Code Section 20-2-149, relating to programs for educating students
12 regarding online internet safety, as follows:

13 "20-2-149.

14 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt grade level appropriate content standards for
15 instruction in digital literacy to support digital citizenship competencies through critical
16 thinking, responsible technology use, and independent learning across academic subjects

17 for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Such content standards shall address, at a
 18 minimum:

- 19 (1) Online safety and digital citizenship;
 20 (2) Responsible and effective internet use;
 21 (3) Evaluation of digital information and sources;
 22 (4) Digital communication and collaboration;
 23 (5) Foundational computer and device skills;
 24 (6) Productivity and organizational tools; and
 25 (7) Basic data and information management skills.

26 (b) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year and each school year thereafter, each local
 27 board of education and other public school governing body shall provide grade level
 28 appropriate instruction in digital literacy to students in kindergarten through grade 12.
 29 Such instruction shall be based on the content standards prescribed pursuant to subsection
 30 (a) of this Code section and may utilize the model programs developed by the Department
 31 of Education pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section. Such instruction may be
 32 provided within the framework of existing coursework offered by a local school system.

33 ~~(a)~~(c)(1) The Department of Education shall develop model programs for educating
 34 students regarding digital literacy and online safety while using the internet, taking into
 35 consideration educational materials on this topic developed by other states as well as any
 36 other materials suggested by education experts, child psychologists, and technology
 37 companies that promote child digital literacy and online safety ~~issues~~.

38 (2) The model programs provided for in this subsection shall include one or more model
 39 programs for students in ~~grades six through~~ kindergarten through grade 12 which:

- 40 (A) Shall include instruction regarding:
- 41 (i) The social, emotional, and physical effects of social media on users;
 42 (ii) The effects of social media on the mental health of users, particularly teenagers;
 43 (iii) The distribution of disinformation and misinformation on social media;

44 (iv) How social media influences thoughts and behaviors;
 45 (v) The permanency and risks of sharing materials online;
 46 (vi) How to maintain personal security and identify cyberbullying, predatory
 47 behavior, and human trafficking on the internet and social media; ~~and~~
 48 (vii) How to report suspicious behavior encountered on the internet and social media
 49 to appropriate persons and authorities; and
 50 (viii) How to be a competent digital citizen; and
 51 (B) May include information regarding the benefits of social media use, such as
 52 supporting career readiness for future academic or employment opportunities, sharing
 53 information with familiar family and friends, and safely connecting with other users
 54 with similar interests.

55 (3) The Department of Education shall periodically update the model programs provided
 56 for in this subsection to reflect changes in internet and social media use, emergent
 57 technologies, social and psychological research, and information concerning new threats
 58 to teenagers and young adults using social media platforms and other online
 59 communication technologies.

60 ~~(4)(d)~~ (d) The Department of Education shall publish on its website information relating to the
 61 digital literacy content standards and digital literacy and online safety model programs
 62 provided for in this Code section, including recommended curricula and instructional
 63 materials as updated periodically as provided in this ~~subsection~~ Code section. The
 64 Department of Education shall provide technical assistance in addition to such model
 65 programs and recommended curricula and instructional materials to aid any local board of
 66 education that ~~may elect to incorporate~~ incorporates one or more components of ~~internet~~
 67 ~~and social media~~ digital literacy and online safety into its instructional program.

68 ~~(b)(e)~~ (e) Each local board of education may incorporate into its instructional program a
 69 component on online ~~internet~~ safety, including social media safety, to be taught on a
 70 schedule as determined by the local board of education."

71

SECTION 2.

72 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.