

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40505-NG-104

Short Title: Social Media Literacy in Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Blackwell.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROMOTE INTERNET SAFETY AND TO PROVIDE SOCIAL MEDIA
3 LITERACY INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

6 "(70) To Adopt an Internet Safety Policy. – Local boards of education shall adopt
7 policies for student access to the internet provided by the school district. The
8 policies shall do at least the following:

- 9 a. Limit access by students to only age-appropriate subject matter and
10 materials.
11 b. Protect the safety and security of students when accessing email, chat
12 rooms, and other forms of electronic communication.
13 c. Prohibit access by students to data or information, including by
14 "hacking" and other unlawful online activities.
15 d. Prevent access to websites, web applications, or software that does not
16 protect against the disclosure, use, or dissemination of a student's
17 personal information.
18 e. Prohibit and prevent students from accessing social media platforms
19 through the use of internet access provided by the local school
20 administrative unit, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely
21 for educational purposes.
22 f. Prohibit the use of the TikTok platform or any successor platform on
23 devices owned or provided by the local school administrative unit,
24 through internet access provided by the unit, or as a platform to
25 communicate or promote any unit or school sponsored club,
26 extracurricular organization, or athletic team."

27 **SECTION 2.** Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended
28 by adding a new section to read:

29 **"§ 115C-81.26. Social media and mental health.**

30 Each local board of education shall provide instruction on social media and its effects on
31 health, including social, emotional, and physical effects. Instruction shall be provided once
32 during elementary school, once during middle school, and twice during high school. Instruction
33 may be included as part of the mental and emotional health instruction provided pursuant to
34 G.S. 115C-81.25. Instruction on this topic shall include at least the following:

- 35 (1) Negative effects of social media on mental health, including addiction.
36 (2) The distribution of misinformation on social media.



- 1 (3) Methods of manipulating behavior using social media.
- 2 (4) The permanency of information shared online.
- 3 (5) How to maintain personal security.
- 4 (6) How to identify cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and human trafficking on
5 the internet.
- 6 (7) How to report suspicious behavior encountered on the internet.
- 7 (8) Personal and interpersonal skills or character education that enhances
8 individual level protective factors and mitigates or reduces risk-taking or
9 harmful behavior."

10 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
11 the 2025-2026 school year.