



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4337

Introduced 1/14/2026, by Rep. Curtis J. Tarver, II

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/34-21.11 new

Amends the Chicago School District Article of the School Code. Provides that the Chicago Board of Education shall designate a traceable communication system to be the exclusive means for a district employee or volunteer to communicate electronically with students. Requires the principal of each public school to provide parents written or electronic notification within the first 10 days of the school year of each electronic school notification and communication program designated within the traceable communication system. Prohibits, with exceptions, a district employee or volunteer from communicating electronically with a student: (1) outside of the traceable communication system designated by the Board; or (2) through an unauthorized electronic communication program or application. Sets forth disciplinary actions that may be taken for violating the provisions. Allows a parent to submit written consent to authorize a designated district employee or volunteer who is not a family member to communicate electronically with his or her child outside of the traceable communication system. Includes an exception for family members who are district employees or volunteers. Sets forth reporting requirements. Requires the State Board of Education to develop a complaint form for parents to submit to the Board, the district, or the State Board of Education if a district employee or volunteer violates the provisions. Makes other changes.

LRB104 17078 LNS 30495 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 34-21.11 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/34-21.11 new)

7 Sec. 34-21.11. Electronic communication between district
8 employees and students.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "District employee or volunteer" means a school
11 administrator, classified or licensed employee of the
12 district, school volunteer, nonfaculty coach or assistant
13 coach, student teacher, or sponsor of an extracurricular
14 program or activity.

15 "Family member" means a parent, brother, sister, son,
16 daughter, aunt, uncle, or grandparent.

17 "Parent" means a parent, legal guardian, or other person
18 or agency responsible for a student.

19 "Traceable communication system" means one or more
20 electronic school notification and communication programs or
21 applications that:

22 (1) are designated by the board;

23 (2) trace all communications sent to or by a student;

1 and

2 (3) provide parents an opportunity to access and
3 review those communications.

4 "Unauthorized electronic communication" means an
5 electronic communication with a student by a district employee
6 or volunteer who is not the student's family member that
7 occurs outside of a designated traceable communication system
8 and without prior written parental consent and includes any
9 personal email account, text messaging, social media, or other
10 electronic notification and communication programs outside of
11 the traceable communication system.

12 (b) The board shall designate a traceable communication
13 system to be the exclusive means for a district employee or
14 volunteer to communicate electronically with students. The
15 principal of each public school shall provide parents written
16 or electronic notification within the first 10 days of the
17 school year of each electronic school notification and
18 communication program designated within the traceable
19 communication system. The notification shall include
20 instructions for parents to access and review communications
21 sent through each electronic school notification and
22 communication program.

23 Every district employee or volunteer shall sign an
24 acknowledgment of the board's policy regarding the traceable
25 communication system designated under this subsection.

26 (c) Except as provided in subsections (e) and (f), a

1 district employee or volunteer may not communicate
2 electronically with a student:

3 (1) outside of the traceable communication system
4 designated by the board; or

5 (2) through an unauthorized electronic communication
6 program or application.

7 (d) A district employee who violates subsection (c) is
8 subject to disciplinary action as follows:

9 (1) For licensed employees, the district may note the
10 incident in their personnel file, issue a warning, or, if
11 appropriate, terminate employment or the State Board of
12 Education may revoke, suspend, or refuse to issue or renew
13 a license, impose probationary or supervisory conditions
14 upon a license, issue a written reprimand or admonishment,
15 or perform any combination of those actions regarding a
16 license.

17 (2) For nonlicensed employees, the district may note
18 the incident in their personnel file, issue a warning, or,
19 if appropriate, terminate employment.

20 A school volunteer who violates subsection (c) shall be
21 prohibited from participating in future school volunteer
22 opportunities.

23 (e) A parent may submit written consent to authorize a
24 designated district employee or volunteer who is not a family
25 member to communicate electronically with his or her child
26 outside of the traceable communication system. The written

1 consent:

2 (1) shall be filed in the administrative office of the
3 student's school prior to any electronic communication
4 being sent from a district employee or volunteer to a
5 student outside of the traceable communication system;

6 (2) shall designate a single, specific district
7 employee or volunteer, per each written consent, who may
8 communicate with the student outside of the traceable
9 communication system, which designation may not be
10 transferred to any other district employee or volunteer;

11 (3) may be revoked by a parent at any time;

12 (4) may establish terms limiting electronic
13 communication with a student, including a term requiring
14 that a parent be included as a direct party to all
15 electronic communications sent to the student outside of
16 the traceable communication system or establishing an
17 expiration for the term of the consent; and

18 (5) may not authorize a district employee or volunteer
19 to engage in inappropriate or sexual electronic
20 communication with a student or be used as the basis of a
21 defense for a district employee or volunteer who engages
22 in inappropriate or sexual electronic communication.

23 Any electronic communication with a student outside of the
24 traceable communication system shall comply with all terms of
25 the written consent under paragraph (4).

26 (f) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c), this Section

1 does not restrict any electronic communications between a
2 student and his or her family member who is a district employee
3 or volunteer.

4 (g) A district employee or volunteer who receives a report
5 alleging that another district employee or volunteer
6 participated in an unauthorized electronic communication shall
7 immediately notify the supervising principal. If the subject
8 of the report is the principal, the district employee or
9 volunteer shall immediately notify the general superintendent
10 of schools. If the subject of the report is the general
11 superintendent of schools, the district employee or volunteer
12 shall immediately notify the State Superintendent of Education
13 and the chairperson of the board.

14 A district employee who violates this subsection is
15 subject to disciplinary action as follows:

16 (1) For licensed employees, the district may note the
17 incident in their personnel file, issue a warning, or, if
18 appropriate, terminate employment or the State Board of
19 Education may revoke, suspend, or refuse to issue or renew
20 a license, impose probationary or supervisory conditions
21 upon a license, issue a written reprimand or admonishment,
22 or perform any combination of those actions regarding a
23 license.

24 (2) For nonlicensed employees, the district may note
25 the incident in the personnel file, issue a warning, or,
26 if appropriate, terminate employment.

1 (h) Upon receipt of a report alleging that a district
2 employee or volunteer participated in an unauthorized
3 electronic communication, the State Superintendent of
4 Education, a principal, or the general superintendent of
5 schools shall immediately:

6 (1) notify the parent of each student who is an
7 alleged party to the unauthorized electronic
8 communication;

9 (2) if the individual who is the subject of the report
10 is a licensed employee:

11 (A) notify the State Board of Education, who shall
12 promptly investigate all allegations received under
13 this subsection and proceed with appropriate
14 disciplinary actions, including noting the incident in
15 the individual's personnel file, revoking, suspending,
16 or refusing to issue or renew a license, imposing
17 probationary or supervisory conditions upon a license,
18 issuing a written reprimand or admonishment, or
19 performing any combination of those actions regarding
20 a license; and

21 (B) investigate the underlying allegations and
22 proceed with appropriate disciplinary actions,
23 including noting the incident in the individual's
24 personnel file, issuing a warning, or terminating
25 employment;

26 (3) if the individual who is the subject of the report

1 is a nonlicensed employee, investigate the underlying
2 allegations and proceed with appropriate disciplinary
3 actions, including noting the incident in the individual's
4 personnel file, issuing a warning, or terminating
5 employment; and

6 (4) if the individual who is the subject of the report
7 is a school volunteer, investigate the underlying
8 allegations and, if substantiated, prohibit the volunteer
9 from participating in future school volunteer
10 opportunities.

11 If a principal or the general superintendent of schools
12 violates this subsection, he or she is subject to disciplinary
13 action, including the revocation or suspension of or refusal
14 to issue or renew a license, the imposition of probationary or
15 supervisory conditions upon a license, the issuance of a
16 written reprimand or admonishment, any combination of those
17 actions regarding a license, or termination of employment.

18 (i) The State Board of Education shall develop a complaint
19 form for parents to submit to the board, the district, or the
20 State Board of Education if a district employee or volunteer
21 violates this Section.

22 If a complaint alleges an unauthorized electronic
23 communication, sexual contact, or other sexual misconduct, the
24 identity of a complainant who is not the general
25 superintendent of schools and any identifying information of a
26 minor involved in the complaint shall remain confidential.

1 If a complaint alleges an unauthorized electronic
2 communication, sexual contact, or other sexual misconduct, the
3 board, the district, or the State Board of Education shall
4 have 120 days after the complaint is filed to conduct an
5 initial review.