

# Subject: Important - Update re: New Communication Law Effective July 1, 2024

MPS Staff

As we continue our summer programs, it is important to follow up on an email from the Executive Director of Human Resources, Chris Tobler, regarding the new state law that will impact how we communicate with our students. Effective July 1, 2024, all digital communication between school employees and students must include the student's parent or guardian unless using a school-approved platform for school-related purposes. This law is designed to ensure transparency and enhance communication between school staff and families.

**Approved Platforms:** Our district plans to approve the following platforms for communication at the special Board meeting on June 27, 2024:

- Google Education Suite (Gmail, Google Docs, Google Classroom, etc.)
- Canvas (Learning Management System)
- School Messenger (Automated Text, Voicemail, Email - sent through PowerSchool or SM website)
- Linewize (Technology monitoring/communication system)
- Eleyo (CommUNITY Education automated communications; similar to School Messenger)

These platforms are selected because they facilitate accessible communication with both students and their parents or guardians, and/or they are linked to an academic/school-related service/function as stipulated in the law. Please ensure that all your communications are conducted through these platforms or include the student's parent or guardian. We will be examining other platforms that may be approved at future meetings; if you have not already, please complete [this form](#) (sent previously by Ryan McKinney) to inform us of any communication platforms that you are using with your students.

## **Guidelines for Communication:**

### **5. Use Approved Platforms:**

- All communication with students should be through Google Education Suite, Canvas, Linewize, School Messenger, or Eleyo.
- These programs have been selected based on the ability to review sent messages at a supervisory level to ensure compliance with the new law.
- Other platforms are currently under review and may be included in the future; we will update you if/when that occurs.

### **6. Include Parents/Guardians:**

- If you need to communicate via email, text, social media, or any other digital method not on the approved list, ensure the student's parent or guardian is included in/on the communication.

### **7. Communication Content:**

- Ensure that all communications are related to academics or school activities. Personal messages are strictly prohibited.
- In emergencies, make a reasonable effort to use an approved platform or include a parent or guardian. If you must contact a student directly, notify their parent or guardian as soon as possible and inform your administrator/supervisor.

### **8. Training:**

- All employees must complete training regarding the new communication law.
- The law states that the Oklahoma State Department of Education will provide training on the approved platforms.
- We hope to receive the necessary materials from the OSDE soon so that we can include the training in our back-to-school meetings and provide further clarity.

**Consequences for Non-Compliance:** The law is clear on this point.

- Failure to comply with the new communication law can result in disciplinary action, including administrative leave and potential termination. It is crucial that all staff adhere to these guidelines to avoid any legal repercussions.

- If an employee is reported for not following the law, they will be placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation.
- The district may also be required to report the misconduct to law enforcement.

We understand that this change may require adjustments in your current communication practices. We are here to support you through this transition. If you have any questions or need assistance with the approved platforms, please contact your supervisor.

By following these guidelines, we can ensure that our communication practices comply with the new law, continue to build strong relationships with our students and their families and align with our [Core Values](#).

We will be in touch as we learn more; thank you for your cooperation and dedication to MPS.

Best regards,

Charles Bradley, Superintendent  
Mustang Public Schools