

Subject: Important Update on Communication Law Effective July 1, 2024

Mustang Families,

We hope you are enjoying these hot Summer days! We are writing to inform you about a new state law that will impact how school employees communicate with students. Effective July 1, 2024, all digital communication between school employees and students must include the student's parent or guardian unless it is conducted through a school-approved platform for school-related purposes.

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 have been 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.

What This Means for You:

- **Inclusion in Communication:** If a school employee needs to communicate with your child via email, text, social media, or any other digital method not on the approved list, you should be included in the communication.
- **Platform Use:** Communications related to academics or school activities will be conducted through the approved platforms listed above. Other platforms are currently under review and may be included in the future; we will update you if/when that occurs.
- **Emergency Situations:** In emergencies, school employees will make every effort to use an approved platform or include you in the communication. If direct communication with your child is necessary, you will be informed as soon as possible.

Training and Implementation:

- All school employees will receive training on the new law and the approved communication platforms. The Oklahoma State Department of Education will provide this training, which we hope will be provided in time to be included in our back-to-school meetings.

We understand that this change may require adjustments. Our team is committed to making this transition smooth and ensuring that our communication practices enhance the relationship between school staff and families. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your child's school administrator or email MERCcontact@mustangps.org.

By working together, we can ensure that our communication practices comply with the new law while continuing to effectively support and engage our students and align with our [Core Values](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We are excitedly planning for our first day of school on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, and will be in touch with more updates on that as the time draws closer. In the meantime, enjoy your Summer!

Best regards,

Charles Bradley
Superintendent
Mustang Public Schools