

SB 181 Information HCS Parents/Guardians & Students

This is a lengthy document, however, it is important that you read it all carefully.

KRS 160.145 (SB 181) is a new Kentucky law regarding traceable communication between students and teachers, school employees and school volunteers. We have compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions as a resource to help everyone as we comply with this new law.

Additional information is available on a page on our district website. Please visit the site to see the Hardin County Board of Education policy regarding KRS 160.145, the law itself, HCS Board approved traceable communications platforms and other important information.

The HCS Consent for Outside Traceable Communications form is referred to as “the waiver.” It exists as the documentation for parents/legal guardians to provide permission for other forms of communication between their student and teachers, school employees and/or school volunteers.

If an employee/volunteer should need to communicate electronically outside of the district-approved platforms, they will send you the waiver form.

If you have questions or concerns about the Traceable Communication system, please contact your child’s principal.

Frequently Asked Questions (for parents)

Q: What is a “traceable communications platform?”

A: A "traceable communication platform" is a digital platform designated by the local board of education as the exclusive means for teachers, school employees and volunteers to communicate electronically with students. The platform must allow parents/guardians to access and review all communications.

Q: What are the approved traceable communications platforms in Hardin County Schools?

A: Rooms from AppTegy, Gmail/Google Classroom/Google Workspace Tools (using hardin.kyschools.us domain) and Infinite Campus.

Q: What is Rooms from Apptegy?

A: Rooms is available in the new HCS app (now available for download from the Apple App Store or from Google Play). HCS will send further information about Rooms as we get closer to the start of the school year.

- Apple device users can find the HCS app here:
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/hardin-county-schools-ky/id6745903019>
- Android/Google device users can find the HCS app here:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.apptegy.hardincs>

Q: How do I log into Rooms when it is available?

A: Parents/guardians will receive login credentials when they are invited to join a Rooms “class” by an HCS staff member (teacher, coach, club sponsor, etc).

- IMPORTANT - As of July 9, 2025, this function does not work properly. If the staff member has built a “class” in Rooms from Apptegy and it includes you, you may be able to log in. However, the app is not sending credentials for some unknown reason. It will in the future. We are working with the app developer on this issue.

Q: Does this law apply to family members of teachers, school employees and school volunteers?

A: Yes, this law has a narrow definition of family members who have permission to contact students outside of an approved traceable communications platform. Approved family members are as follows:

- Parent/legal guardian
- Brother
- Sister
- Son
- Daughter
- Aunt
- Uncle
- Grandparent.

Employees and volunteers who are step-parents (who are **not** legal guardians of their step-child), step-siblings, cousins and any other familial relation that is not mentioned in the approved list must communicate with their family member who is a student by using an approved traceable communications platform unless the parent/legal guardian has signed a waiver.

Q: Where can I find the waiver?

A: If an employee/volunteer should need to communicate electronically outside of the district-approved platforms, they will send you the waiver form.

Q: Does the waiver provide blanket permission?

A: No. Each student must have a waiver for each adult who will be communicating with them outside of the approved traceable communications platform.

- EXAMPLE: If a student has multiple chaperones on a school trip, the parent/legal guardian of that student will need to submit a waiver for each chaperone to communicate with their student outside of an approved traceable communication platform.
- EXAMPLE: If a student has multiple coaches on their athletic team, the parent/legal guardian of that student will need to submit a waiver for each coach to communicate with their student outside of an approved traceable communications platform.
- EXAMPLE: If a HCS student is part of an organization or group that operates outside of school but involves an HCS employee or volunteer and that group uses electronic communication that involves an HCS employee or volunteer, the parent/legal guardians of all HCS students involved will need to submit waivers for each person to communicate with their student.

Q: Can the waiver be revoked?

A: Yes, the parent or legal guardian may revoke this permission at any time through written notification to their student's school.

Q: Am I required to complete the waiver in order for my student to participate in athletics and/or extracurricular activities?

A: No, completing the waiver is entirely your choice.

Q: I volunteer in my student's school. Does this law apply to me?

A: Yes, this law applies to school volunteers in all matters.

- If a volunteer needs to contact a student directly, he or she must have a waiver in place from the parent/legal guardian of the student.
- According to the law, there are strict consequences for school volunteers in violation of the law that include prohibition from future school and district volunteer opportunities.
- Please note that the law applies when communicating with students even about matters that do not relate to your school volunteering.

- EXAMPLE: If you take a student, who is not your own, to practice and you are running late, you would need a waiver in place from their parent/legal guardian in order to text that student that you are running late.
- EXAMPLE: If you work with students in a faith-based organization away from school, you must have a waiver in place for their legal/parent guardian in order to text or communicate with those students outside of the forms of HCS traceable communication.

Q: Does this law impact how I communicate with teachers, school employees and school volunteers?

A: No, this law is about student-to-adult communication. It is not about adult-to-adult communication.

Information for Students

Perhaps you have heard that a new Kentucky law in Kentucky is now in effect about the communication that teachers, school employees and school volunteers (i.e. coaches, club sponsors and more) have with students.

Here's what you need to know:

- The law requires teachers, school employees and school volunteers to communicate with students through a "traceable form of communication." It's all about making sure that all electronic messages between you and your teachers, coaches or other school staff/volunteers are safe, clear and can be reviewed by your parents. It means there are specific ways you should communicate with school staff digitally.
- Teachers, school employees, and school volunteers will use Rooms from Aptegey, Gmail/Google Classroom/Google Workspace Tools (using hardin.kyschools.us domain) and Infinite Campus to communicate with you unless your parent or legal guardian has provided permission for a teacher, school employee and/or school volunteer to communicate with you using a different platform.
 - Your parents/guardians are informed about this option. If they choose to allow you to have permission to communicate with teachers, school employees and/or school volunteers outside of the approved platforms, they will complete the official waiver.

- You will need a waiver for each teacher, school staff or school volunteer who communicates with you on a non-approved platform. It is not a blanket permission for all of your teachers, coaches, group leaders, etc.
- We hope you keep following your school, HCS, your sports teams, your clubs and extracurricular activities on social media! However, please know that if you direct message these accounts, you will not receive an answer since social media is not a traceable form of communication.
 - If you have questions or concerns about something on social media, you will need to email or send a message in Rooms to message school administration, coach or club sponsor of the page.
- If you have any types of questions or concerns about any of this information, please contact your principal.

Here is information for students and parents regarding the use of Rooms from Apptegy in the new HCS app:

Your teachers and/or coaches may choose to send classroom updates & one-on-one conversations using the district's new communication tool, Rooms by Apptegy.

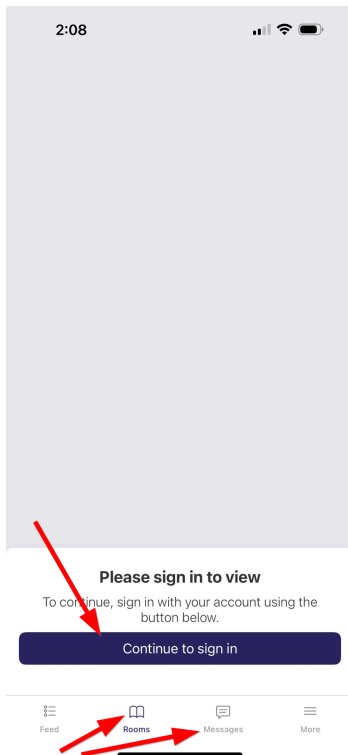
You (and your parents) can receive these messages and announcements through the new Hardin County Schools app on your personal phone if you have one.



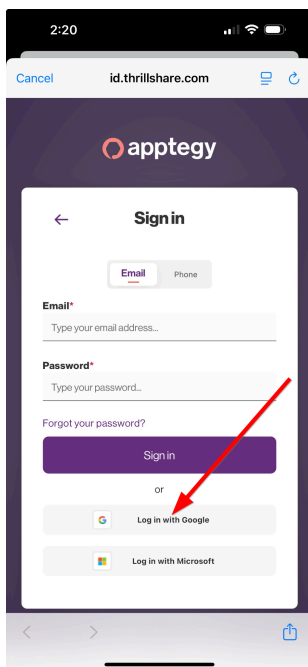
[Google Play HCS](#)

[Apple App HCS](#)

Once you have downloaded the app, click on the "Rooms" or "Messages" icon at the bottom of the app. Then, find & click on the "Continue to sign in" button



You will then choose the button to "Log in with Google". There, you will enter your HCS email and password



Once logged in, you will see your classes in the Rooms icon and see any messages in the Messages icon.

Parents can also use the HCS app to receive messages. When they log in, they will choose the "Phone" option and enter their cell phone number that they entered in Infinite Campus during registration.

