

## Chapter 8

**(House Bill 1316 of the 2025 Regular Session)**

AN ACT concerning

**Primary and Secondary Education – ~~Student~~ Youth-Centric Technology and  
Social Media Resource Guide**

FOR the purpose of requiring the National Center for School Mental Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to develop and publish a ~~student youth-centric~~ technology and social media resource guide for public school students in a certain manner; requiring the guide to be distributed ~~for certain school years~~ beginning in a certain school year in a certain manner and updated ~~each year~~ periodically; and generally relating to a ~~student~~ youth-centric technology and social media resource guide for public school students.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section ~~7-2201 through 7-2205~~ 7-9B-01 through 7-9B-04 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle ~~22-Student~~ 9B. Youth-Centric Technology and Social Media Resource Guide”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education**

**SUBTITLE ~~22-Student~~ 9B. YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA  
RESOURCE GUIDE.**

**~~7-2201.~~ 7-9B-01.**

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “CENTER” MEANS THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

(C) “GUIDE” MEANS THE ~~STUDENT~~ YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCE GUIDE.

**(D) (1) “YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY” MEANS PRODUCTS, PLATFORMS, AND SOFTWARE THAT IS DESIGNED FOR USE BY CHILDREN OR THAT IS FREQUENTLY USED BY CHILDREN.**

**(2) “YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY” INCLUDES:**

**(I) SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS;**

**(II) ONLINE GAMES;**

**(III) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS;**

**(IV) NONALGORITHM-DRIVEN VIRTUAL COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS;**

**(V) E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS;**

**(VI) SMART PHONES;**

**(VII) LAPTOPS; AND**

**(VIII) ANY OTHER PRODUCT, SERVICE, OR DEVICE AN INDIVIDUAL CAN USE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS THROUGH THE INTERNET.**

**~~7-2202. 7-9B-02.~~**

**(A) (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR, THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH A ~~STUDENT~~ YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCE GUIDE THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER ~~SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION AND § 7-2203~~ § 7-9B-03 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

**(2) ~~FOR THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR, THE~~ THE GUIDE SHALL COVER COMMONLY USED ~~TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS~~ YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY ~~FOR PERSONAL~~:**

**(I) PERSONAL USE BY CHILDREN; AND**

**(II) DELIVERING EDUCATION TO CHILDREN.**

**(3) ~~FOR THE 2028-2029 SCHOOL YEAR, THE GUIDE SHALL COVER THE INFORMATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND COMMONLY USED TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS USED IN EDUCATION DELIVERY TO CHILDREN.~~**

~~(4) FOR THE 2029-2030 SCHOOL YEAR, THE GUIDE SHALL BE PUBLISHED INTO A MULTIMEDIA PRODUCT COVERING THE INFORMATION UNDER PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION. THE CENTER SHALL COMPLETE THE GUIDE BEFORE THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR.~~

(4) THE CENTER SHALL PERIODICALLY UPDATE THE GUIDE.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE IS TO PROVIDE:

(1) AGE-APPROPRIATE INFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES FOR YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY THAT:

(I) ENCOURAGES STUDENTS AND PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE USED AND MISUSED BY DEVELOPERS AND USERS; AND

(II) PROMOTES INFORMED DECISION MAKING WHEN USING YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY; AND

(2) INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON THE SAFE USE OF YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA BY STUDENTS IN PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12.

(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, THE CENTER SHALL COMPLETE A NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUIDE.

(2) THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT SHALL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF:

~~(1)~~ (I) EXISTING STATE AND FEDERAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING THE GUIDE FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUIDE;

~~(2)~~ (II) EXISTING EFFORTS TO EDUCATE FAMILIES ON THE IMPACT OF YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF YOUTH IN THE STATE; AND

~~(3)~~ (III) GAPS IN THE EXISTING RESOURCES AND EDUCATION EFFORTS.

~~(C) THE GUIDE DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:~~

~~(1) AGE-APPROPRIATE INFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES THAT:~~

~~(I) ENCOURAGE STUDENTS AND CAREGIVERS TO UNDERSTAND HOW TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE USED AND MISUSED BY DEVELOPERS AND USERS; AND~~

~~(II) PROMOTE INFORMED DECISION MAKING WHEN USING TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND THE INTERNET;~~

~~(2) INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON SAFE INTERNET, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE BY STUDENTS IN PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12, INCLUDING:~~

~~(I) SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS;~~

~~(II) ONLINE GAMES;~~

~~(III) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS;~~

~~(IV) NON-ALGORITHM-DRIVEN VIRTUAL COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS;~~

~~(V) E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS;~~

~~(VI) SMART PHONES;~~

~~(VII) LAPTOPS; AND~~

~~(VIII) ANY OTHER PRODUCT, SERVICE, OR DEVICE AN INDIVIDUAL CAN USE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS THROUGH THE INTERNET; AND~~

~~(3) IF THE CENTER FINDS A GAP IN AVAILABLE INFORMATION RELATING TO A SPECIFIC CATEGORY OF TECHNOLOGY OR SOCIAL MEDIA, A REFERENCE TO THE LACK OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION.~~

~~(D) THE GUIDE MAY INCLUDE OTHER STATE, FEDERAL, NONPROFIT, OR PUBLIC RESOURCES.~~

~~7-2203.~~ 7-9B-03.

(A) (1) THE GUIDE DEVELOPED UNDER ~~§ 7-2202~~ § 7-9B-02 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL INCLUDE A SERVICE AND PRODUCT LANDSCAPE REVIEW OF YOUTH-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY THAT CONTAINS:

~~(1)~~ (I) THE NAME OF A SPECIFIC PRODUCT OR SERVICE;

~~(2)~~ (II) THE PURPORTED FUNCTION OF THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE;

~~(3)~~ (III) ANY PRIVACY, SAFETY, OR SECURITY CONCERNS WITH REGARD TO WHETHER AND HOW DATA IS CAPTURED, STORED, OR SHARED BY THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE;

~~(4)~~ (IV) WHETHER THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE AFFECTS ADDICTIVE QUALITIES IN A USER AND, IF SO, HOW;

~~(5)~~ (V) WAYS IN WHICH A STUDENT IN PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 COULD ACCESS A SPECIFIC PRODUCT OR SERVICE, INCLUDING WHETHER A SPECIFIC PRODUCT OR SERVICE IS AVAILABLE THROUGH A DEVICE PROVIDED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL;

~~(6)~~ (VI) ANY INFORMATION ON THE POTENTIAL HARMFUL IMPACT ON A USER, INCLUDING EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND PHYSICAL IMPACTS; AND

~~(7)~~ (VII) POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACT POTENTIAL ON ACADEMIC GROWTH AND LEARNING.

(2) IF THE CENTER FINDS A GAP IN AVAILABLE INFORMATION RELATING TO A SPECIFIC YOUTH-CENTERED TECHNOLOGY IN THE COURSE OF THE LANDSCAPE REVIEW, THE CENTER SHALL MAKE A REFERENCE TO THE LACK OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION IN THE GUIDE.

(B) THE GUIDE MAY INCLUDE OTHER STATE, FEDERAL, NONPROFIT, OR PUBLIC RESOURCES.

(C) (1) THE GUIDE SHALL BE WRITTEN IN PLAIN ENGLISH AND CLEARLY DISPLAY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE CENTER.

(2) ON REQUEST, THE CENTER SHALL PROVIDE TRANSLATED COPIES OF THE GUIDE.

~~7-2204.~~ 7-9B-04.

~~FOR THE 2027-2028, 2028-2029, AND 2029-2030 SCHOOL YEARS BEGINNING WITH THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR, ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR, THE GUIDE SHALL BE:~~

(1) POSTED ON THE WEBSITES OF THE DEPARTMENT AND EACH COUNTY BOARD; AND

~~(2) UPDATED EACH YEAR BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR; AND~~

~~(3) DISTRIBUTED TO:~~

~~(I) EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL; AND~~

~~(II) THE PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL.~~

~~7-2205.~~

~~(A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS TO THE CENTER TO FUND THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDENT TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCE GUIDE:~~

~~(1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027, \$100,000; AND~~

~~(2) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2028 AND 2029, \$125,000.~~

~~(B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE CENTER SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS USED TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON, DEVELOP, AND UPDATE THE STUDENT TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCE GUIDE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Gubernatorial Veto Override, December 16, 2025.