



River Road High School
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River Road Middle School
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Dean Birkes
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Parents and Guardians,

River Road ISD's number one priority is the safety and security of our students. To ensure all of our parents and community are informed, River Road ISD is sharing the following information about Senate Bill 179, commonly known as "David's Law".

Effective September 1, 2017, Senate Bill 179, commonly known as "David's Law," makes it a Class A misdemeanor and allows a temporary injunction against social media accounts used to electronically harass or cyberbully someone under age 18 through text message or social media. Additionally, schools have the authority to investigate cyberbullying and to work with law enforcement on such investigations.

David's Law also expands the definition of bullying to a single, significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct. The law allows for more severe punishment of bullying offenses.

If a student believes they are a victim of cyberbullying/bullying or if a teacher or other school personnel have knowledge about an incident of cyberbullying/bullying, they should immediately report it to a campus administrator. Students and parents may also use RRISD's Stay Alert, our anonymous incident reporting system. Students or parents can submit reports such as bullying, cyberbullying, depression, dating violence, drug or alcohol use, threats against the school, weapons on campus and more. All messages submitted remain completely anonymous. Stay Alert ensure that we have a system for our students and community to report bullying and other student concerns without fear of being identified.

Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas, stated a disturbing new practice known as "sexting" has become increasingly common among teenage children. This term is used to describe sending or receiving sexually explicit images via mobile telephones. When sexting involves images of minor, it can become an issue for law enforcement because sending or receiving sexually explicit images of persons under the age of 17 can constitute the promotion of child pornography. Senate Bill 407 on June 17, 2011, addresses these issues. The Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC), in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, has been called to develop programs that address the dangers and consequences of sexting, as well as the related issues of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and sexting. These educational programs are now available online at <http://www.txssc.txstate.edu/k12/sexting>.

To view River Road ISD's Student Code of Conduct in regards to bullying, cyberbullying, and sexting, go to www.RRISD.net.

Please speak with your child about the seriousness of David's Law, and the legal implications of bullying, cyberbullying, and sexting on and off school campuses.

If you need help with David's law, or River Road policies regarding bullying, sexting, or cyberbullying, please contact an administrator at your child's school. We want to make sure that we provide a safe environment for your child at River Road.

Dean Birkes

Penny Rosson