



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 2

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A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the department of education to distribute materials to students about the risks of social media

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Title 21-A of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new chapter 34 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 34

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS ON THE RISKS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

§ 21-1005 Distribution of materials on the risks of social media. a. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Social media. The term “social media” means any social networking website, program, or application that allows users to disseminate information to a network of users who are able to share, interact with, and comment on such information. Such dissemination of information to users is moderated by proprietary and often undisclosed algorithms that are often used to identify the user’s interest, and maximize their engagement.

b. No later than September 15, 2024, and annually thereafter, the department shall distribute to each middle and high school, to be shared with every student of such school, in writing, in hard copy, or electronically if availability of similar documents occurs electronically, using plain, simple, and age-appropriate language, the following information:

1. Information about the risks and dangers associated with using social media, particularly for young

people and youth, including, but not limited to, social media addiction, negative impacts on mental and physical health, and the dangers of engaging with strangers online;

2. Information about misinformation and the importance of independent research, primary sources, and the need for independent verification; and

3. Methods for mitigating the harm that social media may cause.

c. The department shall ensure that such materials are available on the department's website in English and each of the designated citywide languages as defined in section 23-1101 of the administrative code.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

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