



THOMAS | GREENBRIER | IVY HILL | OLIVE | PATTON
SOUTH | DRYDEN | WESTGATE | WINDSOR

RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN THE SCHOOL SETTING ACT

September 25th, 2015

Dear AHSD 25 Families,

Last year in the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, Illinois K-12 school officials were authorized to demand a student's password to a social media website, provided prior notice of the school's right to do so was given to students and their parents/guardians through the school's disciplinary rules, policies, handbook or similar means. However, on August 25th, Governor Rauner signed into law Public Act 99-0460 amending the Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, immediately prohibiting school districts from requesting or requiring students to disclose social media passwords as part of a disciplinary investigation.

This serves as a notice to our students/parents that the school may not request or require a student to provide a social media password or other related account information as part of an investigation. The school may, however, require a student to cooperate in an investigation concerning activity on the student's social media account that violates a school rule or policy. While K-12 school districts may no longer demand access to student social media passwords under the new law, they are not prohibited from using student social media activity as part of a disciplinary investigation. Districts may still request students to share the content of the social media page.

Thank you for your time,

Adam Harris
Head of Communications & Storytelling