



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

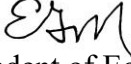


Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

July 1, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey   
State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** *FOCUS Act*

This year, the Alabama Legislature passed the *FOCUS Act*, Act 2025-386 (“the Act”), codified at § 16-6K and § 16-40-13 Ala. Code (1975), which prohibits the use and operation of wireless communication devices (WCDs) on public school property during the instructional day, mandates that local boards of education adopt policies and requires that students complete a social media safety course.

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, no student may possess a WCD in any public elementary or secondary school building or on the grounds thereof during the instructional day unless the device is 1) turned off and 2) stored off their person in a locker, car, or similar storage location.

Notwithstanding this prohibition, a student may use, operate, or possess a WCD during the instructional day if 1) it is pursuant to the student’s Individualized Education Program, Individualized Accommodation Plan, Section 504 Plan, or Individualized Health Plan; 2) it is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of local board of education personnel; or 3) it occurs during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person.

In accordance with the Act, by July 1, 2025, local boards of education must adopt a WCD policy that includes consequences for violations and an Internet safety policy that addresses student access to the Internet on district-owned devices. The WCD policy must be reasonably distributed to students, parents, faculty, staff, and the Alabama State Board of Education. To distribute the WCD policy to the Alabama State Board of Education, please email the policy to the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Office of General Counsel at [ogc@alsde.edu](mailto:ogc@alsde.edu). Each school’s principal will be responsible for ensuring that school personnel consistently comply with the policies. To measure uniform compliance within the school, each certificated staff member employed by the local board of education must complete an anonymous annual written survey regarding the implementation of the Act.

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July 1, 2025

Additionally, the ALSDE has developed an asynchronous, digitally delivered course that addresses the risks of using social media and demonstrates how to use social media safely. The course will be available online in Schoology, and instructions are attached. Local boards of education must reasonably notify parents of the course's availability and must deliver it to all 7th grade students before they enter the 8th grade. The course must also be available to students in Grades 8-12 who transfer to the school district or who otherwise have not completed the course; the course may be made available to other students in Grades 8-12 on a voluntary basis.

Each local education agency may determine how to implement the course, whether by offering it during advisory periods or by integrating it into existing coursework. A compliance checkbox will be added to each student's record in PowerSchool that must be checked after the student has completed the course.

On or before October 1, 2025, ALSDE will develop and distribute a survey to assess the levels of participation and compliance with the Act. On or before June 1 of each subsequent year, each principal shall submit the results of the annual survey to the local superintendent of education, local board of education, and the State Board of Education for publication on the ALSDE's website at [www.alabamaachieves.org](http://www.alabamaachieves.org)

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the *FOCUS Act*, please contact the ALSDE Office of General Counsel at [ogc@alsde.edu](mailto:ogc@alsde.edu).

EGM:TH

Attachment

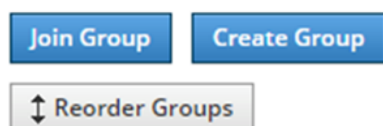
cc: Mr. J. Jason Swann  
Mrs. Angela Martin

**FY25-1010**

## Downloading Focus Act Course Content from the ALSDE Instance of Schoology

1. From your LEA instance of Schoology, click **Groups**.
2. In the upper right-hand corner, click **My Groups**.
3. To join this group, click **Join Group**.

### Manage Groups



4. Enter the Access Code for the Group - **PB2W-5KMX-BV5VP**
5. The group will be added to your account.
6. Click on **Groups**
7. Select **Focus Act Curriculum**
8. Click on **Resources**

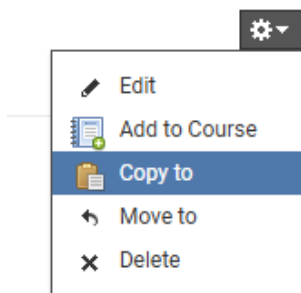


Please follow the directions below to copy the course.

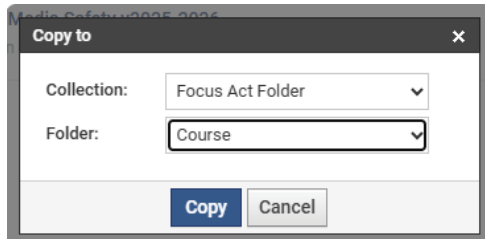
1. On the right, click on the gear, click **Copy to**.

**Note: Copy the entire course at folder level. You will not need to copy each individual folder inside the course.**

**ALSDE 16-40-13: Social Media Safety v2025-2026**



2. Select the destination group and folder on the LEA instance to copy the content.



3. Click **Copy**.
4. You will receive an email when it is complete, you can also view the transfer history.