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## THE LINDALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATING EVERY CHILD EVERY DAY

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## DAVID'S LAW IMPLEMENTED AT LINDALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lindale ISD has implemented STOPit, a simple, fast and powerful solution to anonymously report inappropriate behaviors, deter unethical or illegal activity and bullying. This implementation comes after the state passed Senate Bill 179, or "David's Law."

"David's Law" makes it a Class A misdemeanor when someone harasses a student 18 or younger through text message, social media, websites or other electronic means. The law also allows courts to set a temporary injunction on social media accounts that may have been used in cyberbullying.

The suicide of 16-year-old, San Antonio high school student David Molak, spurred Texas senators to write the legislation. According to the <u>David's Legacy Foundation</u>, a nonprofit focused on ending cyberbullying, a group of students who harassed, humiliated and threatened Molak led him to take his own life.

Parents of Lindale ISD have been given a code from their student's campus principal to use to login to STOPit. Once a student sends in a concern, a school administrator will be able to quickly respond to them and talk about the issue. Bullying is not the only subject students can report. They can alert the administration on fighting, drugs and self-harm. This is just another layer of protection for Lindale students' well-being.

"We are pleased to offer the STOPit program to our students," said Lindale ISD Superintendent Stan Surratt. "Students are always able to report things to their principals, teachers and counselors but this STOPit program gives students another avenue, especially if they want to remain anonymous. Our main goal, as always, is to provide a safe environment for all students and staff members."