




TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

MEMORANDUM

December 12, 2022

TO: Chancellor & Component University Presidents, Texas Tech University System
Chancellor Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., Texas Tech University System
President Ronnie D. Hawkins Jr., Angelo State University
President Richard Lange, M.D., Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso
President JuliAnn Mazachek, Ph.D., Midwestern State University
President Lawrence Schovanec, Ph.D., Texas Tech University
President Lori Rice-Spearman, Ph.D., Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

FROM: Vice Chancellor & General Counsel Eric D. Bentley 

RE: Governor Abbott's Directive to State Agencies – Banning TikTok

On Dec. 7, 2022, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a directive to legislative leadership and state agency leaders across the state, banning the use of TikTok on any government-issued devices as, “the threat of the Chinese Communist Party gaining access to critical U.S. information and infrastructure continues to grow,” the Governor’s letter stated.

The Governor’s directive, effective immediately, states;

“Because of these threats, effective immediately, every state agency in Texas shall ban its officers and employees from downloading or using TikTok on any of its government-issued devices. This TikTok ban extends to all state-issued cell phones, laptops, tablets, desktop computers, and other devices capable of internet connectivity, and it must be strictly enforced by your agency’s IT department.”

A full version of the Governor’s letter can be found here — [Governor Greg Abbott Letter \(Dec. 7, 2022\)](#)

In accordance with the Governor’s directive to state agencies, employees of the Texas Tech University System and its component institutions should discontinue use of and deactivate TikTok accounts from any government-issued devices.

Additionally, the Office of the Governor directed the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) “... to develop a model plan [by January 15, 2023] that other state agencies can deploy with respect to the use of TikTok on personal devices” of state employees if the personal device is used to conduct state business.

Leadership should work to identify established accounts officially managed by our universities and remove existing content. At this time, it is also suggested to remove content, but to not delete or relinquish the account handle/name. This will prevent these accounts from being taken over by unintended parties.

More information and guidance will be shared from Information Technology leadership after full review of the directive, consideration of best security practices, as well as the model plan developed by DPS and DIR. Please share this information with employees at your institution, as you feel appropriate.

cc: Dailey Fuller, TTU System
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