

Student Chat Changes in Microsoft Teams and Google Chat

As part of our District's ongoing review of digital tools and software platforms, District IT staff have adjusted student chat features in Microsoft Teams and Google Workspace to better support instructional use and compliance with District expectations. PSD's Principal Advisory Group came to consensus on this change at their December meeting.

As of Monday, December 22, students will no longer be able to self-initiate direct chats or video conferences in these platforms. Students will continue to have access to use chat and collaboration features within teacher-managed and rostered course spaces in both platforms.

These changes do not impact staff-to-staff communications through MS Teams or Google chats.

What's changing:

- Microsoft Teams Chat will be disabled for all students.
- Google Chat and Spaces will be disabled for all students.

What remains available:

- Messaging within **Rostered Teams** (teacher managed).
- Communication features in **Google Classroom** including class comments/streams.

Timeline:

- **The changes began to go live on December 22.** Policies are applied district-wide, verified, and services will update automatically as policies and permissions propagate across platforms and devices.

What teachers should do:

- Use rostered Microsoft Teams or Google Classroom for student messaging.
- Continue to set, model, and communicate expectations to students on where and how to post, share work, and communicate.