

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S3/6/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 303

By: Senator Dees

By: Representative Torres

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALLOW A RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PERMIT
A PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN
INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY AT THE RESIDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW A RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TO
PERMIT A PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENT TO
PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERSCHOLASTIC
ACTIVITY AT THE RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-18-237. Participation of private school students in interscholastic
activities at public schools – Definitions.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Athletic activity” means a varsity sport or another
competitive sports-related contest, game, event, or exhibition that involves
an individual student or teams of students either among schools within a
resident school district or between schools outside of the resident school
district;

(2) “Interscholastic activity” means an activity between schools
subject to rules of the Arkansas Activities Association that is:



(A) Outside the regular curriculum of a public school district, including without limitation an athletic activity, a fine arts program, or a special interest club or group; and

(B) Taught by an individual with a minimum of a high school diploma;

(3) "Parent" means a parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to a child;

(4) "Private school" means a nonpublic elementary or secondary school that is:

(A) A registered nonprofit; and

(B) Accredited or licensed by an accrediting association recognized by the State Board of Education;

(5) "Resident school" means:

(A) A public school to which a student would be assigned by the student's resident school district; or

(B) An open-enrollment public charter school with a campus located within the student's resident school district; and

(6) "Resident school district" means a public school district in which a private school student's parent resides as determined under § 6-18-202.

(b) A resident school district or an open-enrollment public charter school may permit a private school student to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity at the resident school if the private school in which the student is enrolled does not have the interscholastic activity in which the private school student seeks to participate approved by the Arkansas Activities Association.

(c) A private school student who participates in an interscholastic activity that does not occur during a designated class period at his or her resident school shall be enrolled in a nonacademic class period in his or her resident school that coincides with the interscholastic activity that does not occur during a designated class period in which the private school student participates in order for the resident school district to receive an amount equal to one-sixth (1/6) of the state foundation funding amount provided under § 6-20-2305 for the duration of the private school student's enrollment in the resident school district.

/s/Dees

APPROVED: 4/16/25