

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H2/27/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1283

By: Representatives J. Mayberry, S. Meeks

By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION TO INCLUDE DIGITAL MEDIA
STANDARDS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE
LIBRARY MEDIA STANDARDS; AND FOR OTHER.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO INCLUDE
DIGITAL MEDIA STANDARDS IN KINDERGARTEN
THROUGH GRADE TWELVE LIBRARY MEDIA
STANDARDS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-16-163. Digital media standards – Required – Definitions.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) There is an urgent need to address the potentially harmful effects of social media on children and adults; and

(2) It is crucial that the General Assembly establish a means by which students in the State of Arkansas can learn to be digitally literate and responsible in order to protect against the potentially harmful effects of social media.

(b) As used in this section:

(1)(A) "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that can make decisions, recommendations, or predictions based on a set of



objectives.

(B) "Artificial intelligence" includes a machine-based system that uses human and machine inputs in order to perceive environments, analyze environments, and formulate opinions;

(2) "Digital citizenship" means the application of the standards of appropriate, responsible, and healthy online behavior, including the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act on all forms of digital communication;

(3) "Digital wellness" means the physical and emotional health impacts of media use, with attention to the development of conscious, balanced usage of media that aligns with an individual's goals for his or her health and well-being;

(4)(A) "Information literacy" means a subdomain of media literacy that ensures an individual is able to recognize when information is needed and locate, evaluate, and effectively utilize the needed information.

(B) "Information literacy" includes learning to ask questions regarding whether a source is legitimate and appropriate based on the information that is needed;

(5)(A) "Media literacy" means the ability to:

(i) Decode media messages, including the systems in which media messages exist;

(ii) Assess the influence of media messages on thoughts, feelings, behaviors, perceptions, beliefs, health, and society; and

(iii) Use and create media messages to provide information, send a message, or tell a story in a way that is thoughtful, conscientious, safe, and responsible.

(B) "Media literacy" includes digital citizenship, digital wellness, information literacy, news literacy, and social media literacy;

(6)(A) "News literacy" means a subdomain of media literacy that emphasizes knowledge of journalistic practices and the news media industry.

(B) "News literacy" includes the ability to determine the credibility and reliability of news and other information and to recognize the standards of fact-based journalism to know what to trust, share, and act on; and

(7) "Social media literacy" means the application of digital citizenship and digital wellness to address physical and mental health

implications of social media use, including positive and negative mental and emotional health implications of viewing certain social media content and all aspects of safety and wellness related to the use of social media.

(c) By the 2026-2027 school year, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall revise the kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) library media standards to include digital media standards.

(d) The digital media standards required under this section shall include instruction on:

(1) Digital citizenship, including media literacy instruction, internet safety instruction, and artificial intelligence usage instruction;

(2) Digital wellness, including without limitation information on the:

(A) Positive effects of social media, including communicating, researching, and collaborating with others and building businesses and relationships;

(B) Negative effects of social media on mental health, including without limitation addiction to social media;

(C) Potential of social media to manipulate behavior; and

(D) Permanency of sharing materials and information online;

(3) Internet safety, including best practices to:

(A) Maintain personal security; and

(B) Identify cyberbullying, predatory behavior, cybersecurity, and human trafficking on the internet;

(4) Social media literacy; and

(5) The proper use of artificial intelligence.

(e) The division shall:

(1) Identify and curate resources for parents and legal guardians, educators, and students that support the implementation of kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) digital media standards required under this section; and

(2) Ensure digital media standards required under this section are age-appropriate and progressively build on prior knowledge of digital media standards.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-25-103(a)(1), concerning the job duty of

a library media specialist to serve as an information specialist, is amended to read as follows:

(1) An information specialist whose primary job function is to:

(A) Provide resources available to patrons through a systematically developed collection within the school and through access to resources outside the school;

(B) Provide assistance to patrons in identifying, locating, and interpreting information housed in and outside the library media center;

(C) Provide learning opportunities related to new technologies, use, and production of a variety of media formats; and

(D)(i) Provide instruction in ~~the use of the~~ library media center standards, which shall include information literacy and digital media literacy as required under § 6-16-163.

(ii) ~~Elementary class~~ Class sessions for a library media specialist shall be limited as provided under subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

(iii) Library media standards shall be taught in collaboration with content-area and classroom teachers;

/s/J. Mayberry