

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: S3/18/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 266

By: Senator J. Dotson
By: Representative Breaux

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING *STUDENT MENTORS*; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

*TO AUTHORIZE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO ADOPT A
POLICY FOR ONE OR MORE STUDENT MENTORS.*

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-17-311. *Student mentor – Definitions.*

(a) A public school may adopt a policy for one (1) or more student mentors to provide support, services, and programs for enrolled students, staff employed by the public school, and parents of enrolled students as assigned by the public school.

(b) A policy adopted under subsection (a) of this section shall include the following without limitation:

(1) A description of the support, services, or programs to which a student mentor may be assigned;

(2) A requirement that a public school superintendent or director, as relevant, that has a student mentor or student mentors under this section inform all parents of the availability of the support, services, and programs provided by the student mentor or students mentors; and

(3)(A) A requirement that a public school receive parental consent before a student participates in or receives support, services, and programs provided by a student mentor.



(B) If a public school has more than one (1) student mentor, then a parental consent form required under subdivision (b)(3)(A) of this section shall allow a parent to select a student mentor from a list provided by a public school.

(c) A public school that adopts a policy under subsection (a) of this section shall publish a list of student mentors, which may include without limitation school chaplains, and any religious affiliation of the student mentor, if applicable, employed by or accepted as a volunteer at the public school under subsection (a) of this section on the website of the public school.

(d)(1) Before a student mentor under this section is permitted access to public school grounds when public school students are present and before he or she has direct contact with public school students, a public school shall pay the full cost of a:

(A) Statewide and nationwide criminal records check by the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police, which shall conform to the applicable federal standards and include the taking of the student mentor's fingerprints; and

(B) Child Maltreatment Central Registry check by the Department of Human Services.

(2) Upon completion of the statewide and nationwide criminal records checks and the Child Maltreatment Central Registry check, the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the department shall forward all releasable information to the public school and to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

(3) A public school shall not employ or accept as a volunteer a student mentor who has registered or is required to register as a sex offender under the Sex Offender Registration Act of 1997, § 12-12-901 et seq.

(e) As used in this section:

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

(2) "Public school" means:

(A) A school operated by a public school district; or

(B) An open-enrollment public charter school; and

(3) "School chaplain" means a member of the clergy who volunteers or is employed by a public school who:

(A) Functions in a pluralistic environment; and
(B) Directly and indirectly supports the free exercise of
religion by all individuals in a public school.

/s/J. Dotson