

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/18/25

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (e) As used in this section:

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

32 (2) "Public school" means:

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

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

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

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

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5 */s/J. Dotson*
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