

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: S3/6/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 303

5 By: Senator Dees
6 By: Representative Torres
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

17 TO ALLOW A RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TO
18 PERMIT A PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENT TO
19 PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERSCHOLASTIC
20 ACTIVITY AT THE RESIDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
21 UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

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

27 6-18-237. Participation of private school students in interscholastic
28 activities at public schools – Definitions.

29 (a) As used in this section:

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

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



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

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

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

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

10 (A) A registered nonprofit; and

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

13 (5) "Resident school" means:

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

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

18 (6) "Resident school district" means a public school district in
19 which a private school student's parent resides as determined under § 6-18-
20 202.

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

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

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/s/Dees