

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1283

5 By: Representative J. Mayberry
6 By: Senator J. English
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND
10 SECONDARY EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH KINDERGARTEN THROUGH
11 GRADE TWELVE DIGITAL MEDIA STANDARDS; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
16 AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH
17 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE
18 DIGITAL MEDIA STANDARDS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended
24 to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 6-16-163. Digital media standards – Required – Definitions.

26 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

33 (b) As used in this section:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (7) "Social media literacy" means the application of digital
35 citizenship and digital wellness to address physical and mental health
36 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)(1) By the 2026-2027 school year, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) digital media standards.

(2)(A) Digital media standards shall be embedded into existing English language arts and library media standards.

(B) The division shall consider whether to embed digital media standards into other existing content 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 addiction;

(C) Distribution of misinformation on social media;

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

(E) Permanency of sharing materials and information online;

(3) Internet safety, including best practices to:

(A) Maintain personal security; and

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

(4) Social media literacy; and

(5) The proper use of artificial intelligence.

(e) The division shall:

(1) Create or endorse a curriculum to implement kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) digital media standards required under this section; and

(2) Establish or endorse parental resources that support the implementation of kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) digital media

1 standards required under this section.

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