

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 576

5 By: Senator A. Clark  
6 By: Representative Cozart  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO ADOPT ATTENDANCE  
10 POLICY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS  
11 ATTENDING SCHOOL VIRTUALLY OR REMOTELY; TO ALLOW  
12 COURTS TO INTERVENE IF A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT HAS  
13 VIOLATED ATTENDANCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS FOR VIRTUAL  
14 OR REMOTE ATTENDANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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18 TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO ADOPT  
19 ATTENDANCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS FOR  
20 VIRTUAL OR REMOTE ATTENDANCE; AND TO  
21 ALLOW COURTS TO INTERVENE IF A STUDENT  
22 HAS VIOLATED ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
23 VIRTUAL OR REMOTE ATTENDANCE.  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-209, concerning the adoption of  
29 student attendance policies, is amended to add an additional subsection to  
30 read as follows:

31 (d) An attendance policy as adopted under subsection (a) of this  
32 section shall include a requirement that a public school student who is  
33 attending a public school or open-enrollment public charter school through  
34 the following means provide a form of written or electronic documentation  
35 that he or she is in attendance during each class period of each day in which  
36 school is in session for:



1           (1) Virtual learning; or

2           (2) Remote learning.

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

6           6-18-234. Virtual or remote learning attendance – Penalty for  
7 unexcused absences.

8           (a) A public school or open-enrollment public charter school shall  
9 notify the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis of a public school  
10 student who is attending the public school or open-enrollment public charter  
11 school through virtual learning or remote learning if the public school  
12 student has:

13           (1) Accumulated absences equal to one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the total number  
14 of absences permitted per semester under the public school's or open-  
15 enrollment public charter school's student attendance policy as adopted under  
16 § 6-18-209; or

17           (2) Failed to provide a form of written or electronic  
18 documentation that he or she is in attendance during each class period of  
19 each day in which school is in session as required under § 6-18-209(d).

20           (b) If a public school or open-enrollment public charter school has  
21 exhausted all consequences available to address a public school student who  
22 is attending the public school or open-enrollment public charter school  
23 through virtual learning or remote learning and who is found to be in  
24 violation of the public school's or open-enrollment public charter school's  
25 student attendance policy as provided under subsection (a) of this section,  
26 the public school student may be subject to:

27           (1) Court intervention as a family in need of services under §  
28 9-27-332; and

29           (2) Any other resources developed by the public school, open-  
30 enrollment public charter school, or court system.