

Arkansas Act 400 – In Plain Language

Link to Arkansas Act

400: <https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FACTS%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FACT400.pdf>

What it is:

Arkansas Act 400 confirms and clarifies students' and staff's rights to freely express and practice their religious beliefs in public schools.

Who must see it:

At the start of each school year, every student, staff member, and family will receive a copy—either electronically or in handbooks—so everyone knows their rights at school.



Your Rights Under This Law

Students and employees are allowed to:

- **Pray alone or with friends** during any free or open times, and even out loud if speaking is allowed.
 - **Gather to pray or talk about religion** anywhere students are allowed to gather for other purposes .
 - **Share religious beliefs or texts** (like giving a Bible to someone), whenever other non-religious materials can be shared.
 - **Display religious images, quotes, or symbols**, and talk or write about them in class if the topic is student-chosen.
 - **Start and join religious clubs** and activities under the same rules as other student groups.
 - **Invite faith leaders** to speak at school events, just like other guest speakers.
 - **Stay silent and pray during moments of silence**, without interference.
 - **Study religious and historical religious documents**, or show religious mottos like “In God We Trust” in class.
 - **Take part in academic Bible courses**, if those are offered by the school.
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Why This Matters

- The act supports **First Amendment** rights, meaning the government (including schools) can't stop you from practicing your religion freely.
 - It brings Arkansas in line with existing federal and state protections, making sure **religious freedoms in public schools are clear and respected**.
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For Families and Staff

- You're free to **express your faith respectfully** using the same rules that apply to everyone.
 - This protection is **not optional or secret**—it applies from the first day of school and must be shared with all families and staff.
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Bottom line: Arkansas Act 400 ensures that students and employees in public schools can **pray, share, practice, display, and discuss their religious beliefs openly and respectfully**, under the same rules as any other kind of expression.