

School Chaplain Legislation Facts Sheet

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School chaplain legislation

is a critical and bipartisan measure to introduce school chaplains into our public schools. This initiative seeks to address the urgent challenges facing students, teachers, and schools across our state, including escalating mental health concerns, rising violence, and increasing teacher burnout.

For over 250 years, chaplains have played a vital role in shaping our nation's moral and spiritual foundation. Their ability to [provide care to individuals](#) from all walks of life—regardless of race, belief, culture, or orientation—has made them invaluable in institutions such as the military, hospitals, prisons, and corporations. Today, their unique skills are critically needed in our schools.

The Challenges We Face

- **Teacher Stress and Burnout:** According to the [National Education Association](#), teachers are experiencing unprecedented levels of stress and burnout, with many considering early retirement.
- **Mental Health Crisis:** [Violence in schools](#) continues to rise while children face record levels of [mental health](#) challenges and [hopelessness](#).
- **Shortage of Support:** Public schools lack sufficient [licensed professional counselors](#), leaving students and teachers without essential emotional and spiritual care.

The Evidence: Dr. Lisa Miller's Research

Dr. Lisa Miller, a leading researcher and clinical psychologist at Columbia University, has demonstrated through groundbreaking studies that spiritual development significantly reduces the [likelihood of mental illness](#) and destructive behavior in young people. Her research reveals that children and adolescents with a strong spiritual foundation are:

- **40% less likely to abuse substances.**
- **60% less likely to suffer from depression.**
- **80% more likely to have high resilience and emotional well-being levels.**

Chaplains trained to provide spiritual and emotional care are uniquely positioned to apply these findings in schools, fostering healthier, more resilient students and reducing destructive behaviors.

The Solution: School Chaplains

Chaplains are uniquely equipped to bridge critical gaps, offering:

- **Trauma Care and Crisis Intervention:** [Immediate support during and after critical incidents.](#)
- **Confidential, Safe Spaces:** [For students, teachers, and staff](#) to address personal challenges.
- **Enhanced School Security:** They are also trained as resource officers and possess [ancillary safety certifications](#) (Active Shooter, Stop the Bleed, Behavioral Threat Assessment) that greatly improve situational awareness and risk assessment.
- **Student Support:** Fostering better relationships, goal setting, and confidence building.

Proven Impact

As the world's largest provider of certified school chaplains, the National School Chaplain Association (NSCA) has [documented remarkable outcomes](#) in schools where chaplains are present:

- Reductions in violence, bullying, and disciplinary actions.
- Improvements in academic performance and student-teacher relationships.
- Enhanced overall school safety.

Backed by Science and Research

The benefits of chaplaincy are not anecdotal—they are supported by rigorous research. In addition to Dr. Miller's findings, a [peer-reviewed study by the U.S. Army](#) revealed that individuals receiving spiritual care demonstrated greater resilience and productivity. These findings align with the NSCA's data, highlighting chaplaincy's transformative impact on mental and emotional well-being.

A Call to Action

School chaplain legislation allows us to bring meaningful change to our schools, equipping students and teachers with the needed resources. Chaplains represent a cost-effective, impactful solution to some of the most pressing issues in education today.

Thank you for considering this vital measure.

Sincerely,



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SB763 – June 18th, 2023
Signed by Texas Gov. Abbott



HB931 – April 18th, 2024
Signed by Florida Gov. DeSantis



HB334 – June 19th, 2024
Signed by Louisiana Gov. Landry

STATES WITH SCHOOL CHAPLAINS



PO Box 720746, Norman, OK 73070-4574
www.NationalSchoolChaplainAssociation.org – 405.831.3299

These organizations support school chaplains.

Improved: Teacher Retention, School Safety, Graduation Rates, Grades
Decreased: Teen Pregnancies, Dropouts, Bullying, Substance Abuse
Zero: Suicides Reported after two years or more in the program



School Chaplain Facts

State School Chaplain Bills permit the option of a full-time campus chaplain.

What are the Unique Qualifications of NSCA School Chaplains?

- Trained in situational awareness and risk assessment
- Provide religious/non-religious holistic care
- Provide another layer of school security
- Safe space for teachers and students
- Liaison between staff and parents
- Acquainted with referral agencies
- Crisis intervention and support
- Represent God *not a church*
- Trained in trauma care

[Click to view 2022 Poll](#)

GALLUP 

“...people who have interacted with a Champlain almost universally ascribe positive characteristics to that person, with **95% calling them compassionate and roughly nine in 10** recalling them being good listeners, spiritual, helpful, trustworthy, and knowledgeable.”

Key words for talking points.

DO SAY:

Chaplains are

- Certified
- Paraprofessionals
- Trained
- Qualified
- Vetted
- Cyber Secured
- Helper
- Facilitator
- Care Provider
- Trustworthy
- Confidant
- Safety Officer
- Parent Advocate
- Teacher’s Friend
- Conflict Resolution
- Motivator
- Peace Maker
- Community Builder
- Advocate
- Teammate
- Skilled Responder
- Mental Health

DON'T SAY:

- Counselor
- Religious
- Pastor
- Preacher
- Priest
- Denomination
- Seminary
- Christian
- Therapist
- Theologian
- Youth Pastor
- Prayer Partner
- Church
- Elder
- Ministry
- Bible

Are Chaplains legal in public schools?

YES

The U.S. federal government employs more than 6,000 chaplains.

Will funding School Chaplains open Pandora’s Box flooding our school with woke clergy?

NO

According to U.S. Labor Statistics, 91% of Chaplains are Protestant, 7% are Catholic, and 2% are everything else.



Want more info?

[Click to view legal precedent](#)