

SB 763
Frequently Asked Questions

Relating to allowing public schools to employ or accept as volunteers chaplains.

1. What actions must school boards take related to SB 763?

Each board of trustees of a school district and each governing body of an open enrollment charter school **must** take a record vote not later than **March 1, 2024** authorizing whether the schools going to employ or accept as a volunteer a chaplain. School districts have the authority to determine volunteer and/or employment roles of school chaplains.

2. What is the deadline by which school boards have to vote to be in compliance with the statute?

The effective date of SB 763 was September 1, 2023. Therefore, boards of trustees of a school district and each governing body of an open enrollment charter school must take a record vote on the employment and/or allowing for volunteer school chaplains **not later than March 1, 2024**. School boards may put this item on their agenda for a vote of reconsideration at any time.

3. What options for utilizing the services of chaplains are provided by the statute?

Per the statute, school districts and open enrollment charter schools may employ chaplains or accept chaplains as volunteers to provide support, services, and programs for [Students 115](#). [Students 115](#) lists the responsibilities that you may employ or contract with school chaplains for **what** they may provide to that school district.

4. Can charter schools utilize the services of chaplains?

Yes, the statute permits charter schools to employ chaplains or accept chaplains as volunteers. The statute also requires charter school governing boards to hold a record vote related to the statute by the deadline described above.

5. What source of district funds can be used to pay for chaplains?

Districts may use funds from their School Safety Allotment or eligible school safety grant funds to pay for chaplains. Districts may also use general fund revenue to pay for chaplains. Districts may use state special allotment funds to pay for chaplains **for both** the students being served and the services provided by the chaplain must meet the state program requirements.

6. Do chaplains have to be licensed or certified?

Statute does not contain any licensure requirements for chaplains expressly states that a chaplain employed, or volunteering is not required to be certified by the State Board for Educator Certification.

The federal government recognizes