

REAL DEAL

Respect. Empowerment. Awareness. Life.

Launching Summer 2026

What is REAL DEAL?

REAL DEAL is a youth relationship education initiative led by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in partnership with the Little Rock School District (LRSD) and the City of Little Rock.

Serving 9th - 12th graders in LRSD's Alternative Learning Environment and the City's Summer Youth Program, REAL DEAL delivers evidence-informed, interactive workshops facilitated by UAMS social workers.

Supported by a \$3.18 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, the program builds healthy relationships, emotional regulation, conflict resolution, and financial literacy while providing individualized wraparound supports and pathways to postsecondary success.

Why it matters?



Reduces violence and risky behavior



Boosts school engagement and graduation



Builds relationships, communication, and financial skills



Connects students to trauma-informed supports

What's Coming to Our Schools



Healthy Relationship Development

Love Notes 4.1 teaches teens to recognize healthy vs. unhealthy relationships and builds skills in communication, boundaries, conflict resolution, breakup navigation, parenting basics, and financial habits.

Financial Literacy Education

Educational modules equipping students with age-appropriate skills in budgeting, saving, goal setting, and responsible money decisions for independent living.

Emotional Regulation/Conflict Resolution

Live sessions that build emotional control and de-escalation skills for constructive conflict resolution.

Professional Development for Staff

Provides Love Notes facilitation, trauma-informed and mandatory reporting training, nFORM/data skills, clinical consultation, and CQI coaching.

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Led by UAMS Institute for Digital Health & Innovation in partnership with LRSD and the City of Little Rock.

For additional information, please email REALDEAL@uams.edu.