



Arizona Department of Education

State of Arizona – 2020 54th Second Regular Legislative Session Education Bills Signed by Governor Ducey

Created by ADE Policy and Government Relations Division

Below is a list of House and Senate education and education-related bills, monitored by the Arizona Department of Education Policy and Government Relations division, introduced during the 54th Legislature, Second Regular Session (2020), signed into law by Governor Ducey.

DISCLAIMER: The information provided here is for informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or legislative implementation guidance. We recommend educators, parents, and/or administrators consult with their Local Education Agency for any additional guidance.

Key of Terms

ADE – Arizona Department of Education (K-12)

ADM – Average Daily Membership (determines per pupil, state general funding for schools)

ASDB – Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind

ESA – Empowerment Scholarship Account

FY – Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30)

LEA – Local Education Agency (school districts and charter schools)

SBE – Arizona State Board of Education

SY – School Year (July 1 – June 30)



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Bill Number/Short Title	What New Law Does	Action Required of
<p align="center">Executive Session SB 1012 executive session; school safety plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allows public bodies to convene an executive session to discuss or consider matters relating to school safety operations, plans, or programs. 	<p>LEA: Permissive authorization</p>
<p align="center">Parental Rights SB 1061 schools; parental rights; posting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directs ADE to post a handbook of parental rights on its website. - Instructs LEAs to prominently post a link to the parental handbook on their website. 	<p>ADE: Develop and post a handbook of parental rights that consists of the text of specified state statutes.</p> <p>LEAs: Post a link to ADE’s parental rights handbook on a prominent portion of its website.</p>
<p align="center">Financial Literacy SB 1292 financial literacy; state treasurer; fund</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructs the State Treasurer to promote and raise awareness of financial literacy. - Establishes the State Treasurer’s Financial Literacy Fund. 	<p>State Treasurer: Promote and raise awareness of financial literacy. Create and administer the Financial Literacy Fund.</p>
<p align="center">Suicide Prevention Training SB 1445 suicide prevention training; school employees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expands the requirement for teacher training programs to provide evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention training to include school counselor and social worker training programs. 	<p>ADE: Communicate with educator preparation programs on the new requirements.</p> <p>Educator Preparation Programs: Provide evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention training to school counselors and social workers.</p>
<p>Student IDs – Suicide Prevention SB 1446 student identification cards; suicide prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructs higher education institutions and public high schools to include specified suicide prevention information on student ID cards, if issued, beginning July 1, 2021. 	<p>LEAs: Beginning in SY 2022, ensure that new student ID cards contain at least the phone number of a national suicide prevention line, national network of local crisis centers, or suicide prevention</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permits the information to be printed on the back of an ID card or affixed via a sticker. - Outlines which information satisfies this requirement. 	<p>hotline or a statement describing how to access a text-based emotional support service.</p>
<p align="center">Teacher’s Academy SB 1492 Arizona teachers academy; program pathways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allows Teacher’s Academy participants to commit to teach in schools that primarily serve students with disabilities. - Permits prioritization of senior and junior students and prevents institutions from excluding sophomore and freshman students. - Permits accelerated models for teachers teaching dual enrollment courses and students in non-education programs that want to complete teacher preparation courses to receive a teaching certificate following graduation. - Allows tribal colleges to participate in the program. 	<p><u>AZ Teacher’s Academy (participating institutions):</u> Implement the new accelerated models that focus on critical need areas, including schools serving students with disabilities.</p>
<p align="center">ESA Third-Party SB 1036 empowerment scholarships; third-party administrator; repeal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removes the requirement for ADE to contract with a third-party administrator to provide financial management of the ESA program. 	<p>* No action required</p>
<p align="center">ESA Administration SB 1224 empowerment scholarships; qualifications; administration; appropriations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modifies eligible expenses for the ESA program, the administrative funding mechanism for ADE, and the Treasurer’s Office and appropriates additional funds for program administration. 	<p><u>ADE:</u> Allow supplemental materials recommended by a curriculum as an eligible expense and no longer require curriculum to be a complete course of study. Remove the ability to use funds for contributions to a Coverdell savings</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transfers appeals to SBE and requires SBE to adopt rules for the ESA program by November 1, 2020.- Directs the Attorney General to provide ADE with guidance by August 1 on the types of information that are subject to public records requests.	<p>account. Establish a process to close accounts and revert monies to the State after three years of non-renewal. Permit ESA students who reside within the boundaries of an Indian reservation to use ESA monies at a private school located up to two miles over the border of an adjacent state and include stepparents in the definition of <i>parent</i>. Establish a dedicated ESA call center and annually publish an ESA parent handbook by July 1, 2020</p> <p><u>SBE:</u> Adopt policies for the administration of the ESA program through the rule-making process. Create a process for parents to appeal administrative decisions and evaluate the appeals. Refer cases of misuse to the Attorney General when there is evidence of fraud.</p> <p><u>Attorney General:</u> Evaluate cases of misuse and the evidence provided by SBE. Create guidance for ADE and SBE on the type of information collected through the ESA program that is subject to public record requests in accordance to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.</p>
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<p align="center">Unification/Consolidation Elections HB 2109 unification; consolidation; notice; ballot language</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modifies timelines and notice posting requirements for district unification and consolidation elections. 	<p>LEAs: Ensure when a governing board is voting on a resolution to unify that notice of the proposed vote is posted in at least three public places at least 90 days before the proposed vote.</p>
<p align="center">Civics Education Day HB 2625 civics education day; civics education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designates September 25th as Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day and requires schools to dedicate most of the school day to civics education. - Directs SBE to develop a list of resources for civics education that are aligned to the academic standards. 	<p>LEAs: Ensure the school is providing civics education for most of the school day on September 25, or if that date falls on a weekend, the preceding or following school day.</p> <p>SBE: Develop a list of civics education resources and establish a process for LEAs to add resources to the list.</p>
<p align="center">Crisis Management Team HB 2684 crisis management team; underperforming districts</p> <p align="center"><i>Emergency Clause</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructs ADE to establish a crisis management team to provide assistance and long-term recommendations for underperforming school districts that meet specified academic criteria. - Requires school districts that meet the eligibility criteria to comply with all requests for information within two weeks. - Establishes a process for the crisis management team to provide recommendations for implementation. - Outlines preliminary and final report deadlines and repeals the statute on April 1, 2021. 	<p>ADE: Establish the crisis management team and create a work plan to determine the five items outlined for schools that meet the eligibility criteria. Provide a preliminary report on July 1, 2020 and a final report by December 31, 2020.</p>



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<p>School Closures - Coronavirus HB 2910 public school closures; coronavirus disease <i>Emergency Clause</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishes funding and operational processes for the remainder of SY 2020 due to the statewide closure of schools as a result of COVID-19. - Determines LEAs to have met the instructional hour and school day requirements for the year if the LEA offers general educational opportunities for the duration of the closure or until the end of the school's posted calendar. - Allows schools to either resume operations or continue to offer general educational opportunities if the closure is lifted. - Determines the LEAs daily route mileage in FY 2021 to be the daily route mileage from FY 2019 if the statewide closure of schools causes the LEA's FY 2020 daily route mileage to be lower than FY 2019. - Instructs LEAs to continue to pay employees, subject to outlined requirements. - Permits LEAs to deviate from statutory requirements related to special education programs in SY 2020. - Allows LEAs to use any FY 2020 monies to provide summer school. - Cancels the statewide assessment and directs letter grades to be the same as SY 2019. 	<p><u>LEAs:</u> Determine methods for offering general educational opportunities for the duration of the SY during the statewide school closure. Ensure employees continue to be paid if the requirements in this legislation are met. Submit attestation form that outlines the general educational opportunities provided during the school closure.</p> <p><u>Auditor General:</u> Coordinate with LEAs to modify financial reporting and performance data reporting.</p> <p><u>ADE:</u> Apply for available federal waivers with the approval of SBE. Analyze the need for school finance waivers and coordinate with SBE on approving the necessary waivers.</p> <p><u>SBE:</u> Adopt new high school graduation rules for SY 2020.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exempts students from Move on When Reading requirements for SY 2020 and directs SBE to adopt high school graduation rules for SY 2020. - Allows students who take an online course in June or July 2020 to generate up to 1.25 ADM for FY 2021 and instructs the Auditor General to work with schools to modify financial reporting and performance data reporting. - Directs ADE to apply for federal waivers for food and nutrition, assessment, and accountability. - Allows ADE to waive school finance requirements for SY 2020 with SBE approval. - Includes ASDB, accommodation schools, CTEDs, and county jails/juvenile detention centers in eligibility for this legislation. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">K-12 Budget HB 2902 K-12 education; budget reconciliation; 2020-2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increases Charter Additional Assistance, transportation funding and the Base Level by 1.74% for inflation. - Modifies the qualifying tax rate and state equalization tax rate for truth-in-taxation. Transfers the first \$64 million Prop 301 payment into Basic State Aid rather than the Classroom Site Fund for FY 2022. - Accelerates the Additional Assistance suspension phase-out schedule by one year. 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continues to calculate results-based funding based on AzMERIT scores in the same manner as last year rather than the statutory method of using A-F letter grades. 	
<p align="center">Budget SB 1692 general appropriations act: 2020-2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the 2020 Legislative Session, the legislature enacted a “skinny budget” primarily consisting of baseline appropriations due to the coronavirus. Baseline appropriations are dollars considered “ongoing” and not “one-time.” 	

The Arizona Legislature adjourned Sine Die on May 26, 2020. The General Effective Date for the bills signed during this legislative session is August 25, 2020. The bills with an emergency clause went into effect the day they were signed by Governor Ducey.