



The Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) Guidance on Teacher and Principal Evaluations

Updated April 15, 2021

Background

Each year, Arizona public schools are required to evaluate principals and certified teachers per state statute. These evaluations fulfill several purposes as required by the state per Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 15-189.06, ARS 15-341, ARS 15-537, and ARS 15-977.

On March 18, 2021, Governor Ducey signed SB 1165 relating to performance evaluations during the 2020-2021 school year.

Guidance

SB 1165 waives requirements under ARS 15-189.06, 15-341, and 15-537, 15-977 with the following:

- Exempts charter governing bodies and district governing boards from the requirements to conduct teacher and principal evaluations in SY 2020-2021.
- Prohibits school districts from using the absence of an evaluation in SY 2020-2021 to enforce dismissal or nonrenewal of contract of teachers who were designated in the lowest performance classification for SY 2019-2020.
- States that a regular evaluation for effectiveness is not required for a teacher to be eligible to receive performance pay from the Classroom Site Fund in SY 2020-2021.

While SB 1165 is effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns (date is tentative), it does apply **retroactively** to from and after June 30, 2020.

Recommendations

ADE suggests transitioning the evaluative/conferencing conversations you have had or will have to low-risk, collaborative, reflective conversations where teachers may have the opportunity to share successes and challenges this year.