

POLICY SERVICES *ALERTS*

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Summary

The following bills were approved by the governor and sent to the Office of the Secretary of State during April and June of 2026.

1. SB 1166 amended A.R.S. 15-305 to allow a county school superintendent to offer high school equivalency preparation instruction to enrolled accommodation school students in grades eleven or twelve who are at least sixteen years of age.
2. HB 2032 amended A.R.S. 15-741 and A.R.S. 15-743.

A.R.S. 15-741 changes the date a contractor for statewide assessment testing must submit unofficial test scores from “on or before May 25” to “on or before May 26” of each academic year.

A.R.S. 15-743 extends the testing window allowed for administering the statewide assessment from four to six consecutive school weeks, adds that any assessment given to students in grades three through eight may not begin before the second week of April, except for alternative assessments given pursuant to a student’s Section 504 Plan or Individualized Education Program (IEP), removes the Arizona Department of Education’s authority to adjust the statewide testing window.

3. HB 2203 directs the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to review public school reporting requirements and identify repetitive and expired or obsolete reporting requirements. ADE shall submit recommendations to the legislature before December 1, 2026, to repeal, consolidate or modify school reporting requirements.
4. HB 2395 added A.R.S. 15-249.20, establishing the Arizona School Fitness Program within the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). This program recognizes public schools that choose to participate in a nationally recognized physical fitness test or event. ADE will provide participating schools with guidelines, best practices and resources. Schools that choose to participate may include this program designation in the school report card required by A.R.S. 15-746.

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5. HB 2621 amended A.R.S. 15-823 and A.R.S. 15-825.

A.R.S. 15-823 adds new Subsection C which requires governing boards to admit students who are placed by a state placing agency or a court having jurisdiction within the boundaries of the District and who are in any of the following: 1) a state rehabilitation or correctional institution, 2) a foster home or child care agency or institution that is licensed by the Department of Child Safety or the Department of Health Services, 3) a residential facility that is operated or supported by the Department of Economic Security or the Department of Health Services, or 4) under the supervisor of the Department of Juvenile Corrections pursuant to the Interstate Compact on Juveniles.

A.R.S. 15-825 revises the process for students who reside in unorganized territory by allowing a parent to contact an adjoining school district directly to request enrollment, rather than first enrolling the student and then applying for a Certificate of Educational Convenience (CEC). If a school district receives such a request, it shall enroll the student and shall submit a completed CEC to the county school superintendent, following the guidelines in A.R.S. 15-825, and may not delay Child Find activities, parental consent for special education evaluation or required timelines while the application is processing.

6. HB 2764 added A.R.S. 15-262, which directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a State Seal of Computer Science Proficiency Program. Any school district or charter school may choose to participate in this program. A school district or charter school that participates in this program shall award a qualifying high school graduating student a Seal of Computer Science Proficiency on the high school diploma.

The State Board of Education will develop and adopt the minimum requirements for this program.

7. HB 4043 amended A.R.S. 15-120.07 to require, beginning August 1, 2027, each school district and charter school shall have on campus during school hours at least one employee who has successfully completed: 1) a nationally recognized course that follows cardiovascular care guidelines in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid and 2) a nationally recognized course that follows cardiovascular care guidelines in the use of automatic external defibrillators, if the school has at least one automated external defibrillator on campus.

8. HB 4163 amended Section 7 to establish a Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Pilot Program within the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for the 2027–2028 school year. This program requires ADE to: 1) select six public schools to participate in the pilot program and to consult with the Department of Child Safety (DCS) and survivor-led organizations in developing the program and curriculum; 2) provide evidence-based training for teachers and educational resources for parents addressing the prevention,

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recognition, and reporting of child sexual abuse, assault, exploitation, grooming, and technology-facilitated abuse; and 3) develop and post educational materials and a model response policy for participating schools and to report to the Governor and Legislature on the pilot program.

Participating schools in the pilot program may not require parent participation and must provide parents with access to the educational materials. On or before October 1, 2028, participating schools shall submit a report to the ADE and DCS.

Section 9 was amended to provide the intent of the governor and legislature that school districts increase classroom spending over the previous year's percentages in the combined categories of instruction, student support and instructional support as prescribed by the auditor general.

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