



March 9, 2021 Governing Board Meeting

Legislative Update

Federal COVID-19 Relief

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- \$2 trillion relief package that \$13.5 billion for K-12
- Arizona received \$626 million in Education Stabilization Funds (ESF)
- Arizona Governor issued CARES funds to Arizona school districts through an Enrollment Stability Grant
- Amphitheater Public Schools approx. \$5.6 million from AZ Enrollment Stability Grant
- Ability to use the funding extended to December 31, 2021 through Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund

Designed to help address local relief, prevention and preparation, and recovery efforts.

- ESSER 1 Funds (expires 9/30/22)
 - Amphitheater Public Schools received approx. \$3.1 million
 - Had to share funds with private schools
- ESSER 2 Funds (expires 9/30/23)
 - Amphitheater Public Schools received approx. \$13 million
 - No sharing requirement for school districts
- Possible ESSER 3 (TBD)



Arizona Governor's Executive Orders

Executive Order 2021-04

- School Districts shall return to teacher-led, in-person instruction on the Monday after spring break (or if no spring break, then by March 15)
- Develops criteria for type of in-person instruction based on transmission rates of low, moderate, substantial or high community transmission as determined by Arizona Department of Health Services

Executive Order 2021-05

- Ends the limitations on gatherings of more than 50 persons on businesses and public events



Arizona State Congress Session Statistics*

*As of Friday, March 5, 2021

- Total Days of Session: 54
- Bills Posted: 1708
- Bills Passed: 44
- Bills Vetoed: 120
- Bills Signed: 41
- Resolutions Posted: 115
- Resolutions Passed: 1



Deadlines

March 26: Last day for each house to consider bills passed from the other house

April 16: Last day for consideration of bills in conference committees

April 20: 100th day



Breakdown of Education Bills

100 House Bills

- Representative Udall (Dist. 25) sponsored 17 education bills

101 Senate Bills

- Senator Quezada (Dist. 29) sponsored 13 education bills



Bills Sponsored by State Legislators in Amphitheater District

District 3

Rep. Alma Hernandez

1. HB2241: Schools; Instruction; Holocaust; Genocides
2. HB2754: School Safety; School Resource Officers

District 9

Sen. Victoria Steele

1. SB1005: Schools; Child Abuse Prevention Education

Rep. Dr. Randy Friese

1. HB2146: STO Scholarships; Means Testing
2. HB2147: STO Scholarships; Beneficiary Recommendations
3. HB2148: STO Scholarships; Student Transfers
4. HB2149: Charter Schools; Sponsorship; State Board
5. HB2150: Charter Schools; Lunches; National Acts
6. HB2151: Experienced Teacher Retention; Pilot Program

Rep. Pamela Powers Hannley

1. HB2251: Sex Education; Comprehensive; Medically Accurate

District 11

Rep. Mark Finchem

1. HCR2030: Teachers; Ethics Standards; Rules



Signed by Governor



AMPHITHEATER
P u b l i c S c h o o l s



Signed by Governor

HB2018: Schools; Audits; Financial Records; Budgets

- School districts and charter schools must send a copy of audit reports to the county school superintendent and ADE, which ADE must publish, and governing boards must publicly accept by roll call vote

HB2023 Schools; Employees; Employment; Discipline

- Requires ADE to investigate complaints of immoral or unprofessional conduct by a noncertificated employee



Other Bills of Note



SB1139: Classroom Site Fund; Distribution

- Removes the requirement that school districts and charter schools spend CSF monies in the below manner:
 1. 40% for increased teacher compensation based on performance and employment related expenses
 2. 40% for maintenance and operation purposes
 3. 20% for teacher base salary increases and employment-related expenses
- ASBA supports



SB1452: Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts; Revisions

- Expands the definition of “qualified student” to allow a student eligible to receive an ESA who:
 1. Receives federal Title I services for low-income students
 2. Receives free or reduced-price lunch
 3. This includes a student attending a school that qualifies for school wide Title I funding and a student eligible to attend kindergarten who resides within the attendance boundary of a school that qualifies for school wide Title I funding
 4. This would include a family of 4 with an annual household income of less than \$48,740
- Reduces time students must attend public school to qualify for ESA from the “first 100 days” to “any 30 days”
- Expands eligibility for ESA to:
 1. Current fiscal year (rather than prior fiscal year)
 2. Students counted among public school ADM (including AOI) during prior fiscal year
 3. Allows 9-12 grade students to accept both an ESA and STO scholarship as long as combined total of awards per year is less than the total per pupil spending in the student’s home school district



SB1165: Schools; Performance Evaluations

- Exempts a school district governing board or charter school governing body from conducting performance evaluations of principals and certificated teachers in SY 20-21
- Specifies that absence of a performance evaluation does not disqualify a teacher from receiving performance pay from the Classroom Site Fund
- Prohibits the absence of an evaluation in the SY 20-21 from being used to enforce dismissal or nonrenewal procedures against a teacher designated in the lowest performance classification in SY 19-20



COVID-19 Liability Protections

HB2549

Probable Cause Hearing: Pandemic Liability

- Requires courts to conduct a probable cause hearing for tort claims related to contracting an illness that is a public health pandemic

SB1377

Civil Liability: Public Health Pandemic

- Provides liability protections for public school districts during pandemic
- Public school districts would not be liable for injury from the public health pandemic where it has acted in good faith to protect against the pandemic
- Places burden on the claimant to prove by clear and convincing evidence that the person or provider failed to act or acted with willful misconduct or gross negligence



Final Thoughts

- Next Update: April 13th
- Requests for Action

