

EDUCATION BILLS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR TO DATE

HOUSE BILLS

HB2018:

SCHOOLS; AUDITS; FINANCIAL RECORDS; BUDGETS

School districts and charter schools are required to send a copy of audit reports to the county school superintendent and the Department of Education. The Dept. is required to make the audit reports available on its website. School district and charter school governing boards are required to publicly accept all audits and compliance questionnaires by roll call vote. If a school district fails to establish and maintain the uniform system of financial records, the Auditor General is required to report that district to the State Board of Education, in addition to the Dept., and is required to detail the deficiencies in writing in the report.

Status: 2/12 signed by Governor.

HB2020:

SCHOOLS; CHILD CARE; REDUCED FEES

A public school that provides or contracts for childcare services is permitted to reduce the fee a public school employee pays for the childcare services if the cost the public school pays for those services is not grossly disproportionate to the total consideration received from the employee.

Status: 3/24 signed by Governor.

HB2023:

SCHOOLS; EMPLOYEES; EMPLOYMENT; DISCIPLINE

The Department of Education is required to investigate written complaints alleging that a "noncertificated person" (defined as a school district or charter school employee who does not possess a teaching certificate and meets other specified requirements) has engaged in immoral or unprofessional conduct. The State Board of Education is authorized to review a complaint to determine whether to take disciplinary action against a noncertificated person who has engaged in immoral or unprofessional conduct, including prohibiting the person's employment at a school district or charter school for up to five years. Before employing a certificated or noncertificated person, school districts and charter schools are required to conduct a search of the educator information system that is maintained by the Dept. on the prospective employee. School districts and charter schools are prohibited from employing in a position that requires a valid fingerprint clearance card either a certificated person whose certificate has been suspended, surrendered or revoked and not subsequently reinstated, or a noncertificated person who has been prohibited from employment at a school district or charter school by the Board under this legislation.

Status: 2/5 signed by Governor.

HB2055:

CAREER, TECHNICAL EDUCATION; PROJECTS FUND

The list of authorized uses of monies in a school district's permanent career and technical education projects fund is expanded to include expenses related to an approved Department of Education career and technical student organization, including costs associated with events, conferences or competitions. All purchases made from career and technical education projects funds are required to comply with State Board of Education regulations, including provisions relating to procurement practices.

Status: 3/24 signed by Governor.

HB2135:

EDUCATION BOARD; RULES; LEARNING OUTCOMES

State Board of Education (SBE) rules to define competency-based educational pathways for college and career readiness are no longer required to include a process and criteria by which assessments may be identified or established to determine whether students have reached the desired competencies. SBE rules establishing a mechanism to allow students in grades 7 through 12 who have demonstrated competency in a subject to obtain credit for the mastery of that subject must be adopted by December 31, 2022. Before adopting competency-based educational pathways rules, SBE is required to review research and examples from across the country, and consult with experts in education. By December 1, 2022, SBE is required to create subject competencies for algebra 1, algebra 2 and geometry. AS PASSED SENATE

Status: 4/28 signed by Governor.

HB2268:

SCHOOLS; TOTAL COMPENSATION STATEMENTS

School district governing boards and charter school governing bodies are required to annually provide a total compensation statement to each employee that includes a list of specified pay and benefits.

Status: 4/20 signed by Governor.

HB2301:

CTEDS; LETTER GRADES; EXCLUSION

Career Technical Education Districts are prohibited from being assigned a letter grade as part of the annual achievement profile compiled by the Department of Education.

Status: 2/18 signed by Governor.

HB2439:

DCS; MISSING CHILDREN; REQUIRED REPORTING

The Department of Child Safety (DCS) is required to make a list of specified information relating to runaway children and abducted children available for each six-month period beginning on January 1, or July 1. DCS is required to make the information available within 90 days after the end of the reporting period, and to notify the Governor and the Legislature each time the information is made available. Session law specifies the first reporting period is January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. Self-repeals January 1, 2027. AS PASSED SENATE

Status: 4/28 signed by Governor.

HB2705:

SCHOOLS; DRESS CODE; GRADUATION CEREMONIES

School district governing boards and charter school governing bodies cannot prohibit a student who is a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe or who is eligible to be enrolled as a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe from wearing traditional tribe regalia or objects of cultural significance at a graduation ceremony. Emergency clause. AS HOUSE PASSED

Status: 4/20 signed by Governor.

SENATE BILLS

SB1028:

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT; SPECIAL EDUCATION

The State Board of Education is required to adopt rules that allow a student to participate in alternative testing instead of the required statewide testing if the student is enrolled in a special education program and meets criteria specified by the Board. Establishes a 13-member Alternative Assessment Study Committee to discuss alternative assessments and related issues. The Committee is required to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2021, and self-repeals July 1, 2022.

Status: 3/18 signed by Governor.

SB1056:

ENERGY; WATER; SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

The maximum length of a contract between a county or municipality and an energy or water services company to pay for the incremental cost of energy or water savings measures in facilities owned by the county or municipality is increased to 25 years, from 15 years. Other costs and revenue are included in the estimated impact to be achieved by a county or municipality through energy or water savings measures or services. Reports on school district contracts for guaranteed energy cost savings must be filed with the Department of Administration, instead of the Governor's Office of Energy Policy.

Status: 2/26 signed by Governor.

SB1097:

PUPILS; EXCUSED ABSENCES; MENTAL HEALTH

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is required to identify an absence due to the mental or behavioral health of a pupil as an excused absence. ADE is authorized to adopt guidelines and rules for determining what constitutes an absence due to the mental or behavioral health of a pupil.

Status: 3/18 signed by Governor.

SB1114:

SCHOOLS; REQUIRED POSTING; ABUSE HOTLINE

School district schools and charter schools are required to post in a clearly visible location in a public area of the school that is readily accessible to students a sign that contains the telephone number of the centralized intake hotline concerning suspected abuse and neglect of children, instructions to call 911 for emergencies, and directions for accessing the website of the Department of Child Safety for more information.

Status: 3/24 signed by Governor.

SB1139:

CLASSROOM SITE FUND; DISTRIBUTION

Modifies the purposes for which monies from the Classroom Site Fund must be spent to remove teacher liability insurance premiums and to add educational interventions, voluntary full-day kindergarten, student support services, tutoring, character education, school safety, career and technical education, school improvement, and transportation. Deletes the requirement for school districts and charter schools to allocate 40 percent of the monies received from the Classroom Site Fund for teacher compensation increases based on performance and employment related expenses, 20 percent of the monies for teacher base salary increases and employment related expenses, and 40 percent of the monies for maintenance and operation purposes. The performance based compensation system adopted by school district governing boards is no longer required to have individual teacher performance account for 33 percent of the 40 percent allocation for teacher compensation.

Status: 3/18 signed by Governor.

SB1165:**SCHOOLS; PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS**

Charter school governing bodies and school district governing boards are not required to conduct principal or teacher performance evaluations in the 2020-21 school year. For a teacher who was designated in the lowest performance classification for the 2019-2020 school year, the absence of an evaluation in the 2020-2021 school year cannot be used to enforce dismissal or nonrenewal procedures. A teacher evaluation in the 2020-21 school year is not required to a teacher to be eligible to receive performance pay from the Classroom Site Fund. These provisions self-repeal January 1, 2023. Retroactive to July 1, 2020. Emergency clause.

Status: 3/18 signed by Governor.

SB1349:**PROCUREMENT; FINAL LIST; NUMBER**

For the purpose of the procurement code, a request for qualifications is required to state that in a procurement of multiple contracts for professional services to be awarded to a single person or firm, that there will be a single final list of no more than ten persons or firms, instead of at least three and not more than five persons or firms. The maximum number of persons or firms on the single final list for a procurement for multiple contracts that are awarded to separate persons or firms is increased to ten, from five. If the purchasing agency will hold interviews as part of the selection process, the maximum number of interviews held is increased to ten. AS PASSED SENATE

Status: 5/5 signed by Governor.

SB1404:**STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY; ASSESSMENT**

Modifies the requirements for a student to obtain a state seal of biliteracy on their high school diploma to require the student to pass an examination in English language arts, instead of pass the standardized end-of-course examinations in English language arts. Retroactive to July 1, 2020. AS PASSED SENATE

Status: 3/26 signed by Governor.

SB1449:**SCHOOLS; STATE AID; ADJUSTMENT**

Subject to the review by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to adjust state aid for a school district in the current year if the governing board of a school district requests the recalculation of state aid for a prior year due to a change in assessed valuation that occurred as the result of a decision by a county board of equalization or the State Board of Equalization. Retroactive to July 1, 2019.

Status: 3/30 signed by Governor.

SB1453:**COMMUNITY COLLEGES; FOUR-YEAR DEGREES**

Community colleges in counties with a population of 750,000 or less (all but Maricopa and Pima) are authorized to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees that are accredited by a regional accreditation agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Community colleges in counties with a population of more than 750,000 (Maricopa and Pima) are authorized to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees that are accredited by a regional accreditation agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education, except that for the first four years baccalaureate degrees are offered those degrees cannot exceed 5 percent of the total number of degrees offered by the college, and for the fifth and subsequent years baccalaureate degrees cannot exceed 10 percent of the total number of degrees offered. In counties with a population of more than 750,000

(Maricopa and Pima), tuition per credit hour for the third and fourth years of a four-year baccalaureate program cannot exceed 150 percent of the tuition per credit hour of any other community college district program. Establishes criteria that a community college district must consider when determining whether to offer baccalaureate degree programs. Each community college offering a baccalaureate degree program is required to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by October 1 of the fifth year after offering baccalaureate degree programs, and information that must be included in the report is specified. Contains legislative findings. AS PASSED HOUSE
Status: 5/4 signed by Governor.