



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 14, 2012

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State
Capitol Executive Tower, 7th Floor
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Senate Bill 1259 (digital learning; course choice)

Dear Secretary Bennett,

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1259, which would have created a new state system for online learning.

The bill creates a Master List of approved online courses for public school students in grades 7-12. I am concerned with the appropriateness of the State or an entity on behalf of the State approving online courses or curriculum.

The bill requires the Department of Education (ADE) to pay online providers the majority of a course's price after a student passes the course and shows mastery of the course's content. I strongly support moving towards funding outcomes; however, ADE may not be able to implement the system properly—at least as the bill is drafted.

Course choice takes school choice to the next level—students can choose courses from multiple providers in order to receive the best education possible. As long as parents and students have access to meaningful information on the quality of their options, course choice can improve the overall quality of education in Arizona.

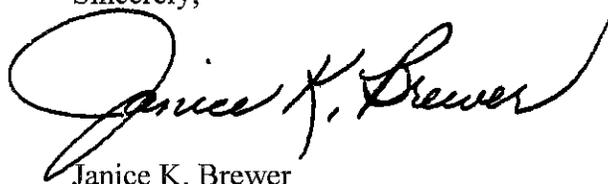
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Online learning will continue to become more commonplace. I look forward to collaborating with the sponsor as we find ways to improve Arizona high school students' access to quality online learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janice K. Brewer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Steve Pierce
The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Rich Crandall