June 28, 2022

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: H.B. 2866 K-12 education; 2022-2023

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

Today, I signed H.B. 2866. This legislation, in conjunction with the historic investments made in the General Appropriations Act (H.B. 2862), provides major increases and improvements to Arizona’s K-12 education system.

In total, this year’s education budget includes an estimated per pupil funding increase of just over $704 of ongoing resources for schools. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average Arizona classroom has 23.5 students — this means that average classroom will see an influx of an additional $16,550 per year.

And to be clear, the classroom is exactly where this new funding should be directed by each school’s governing board. The top priority should be to increase teacher pay, especially for entry level teachers so that Arizona can attract and retain high quality professionals dedicated to serving our students. To that end, Section 24 of H.B. 2866 contains language stating that the governor and the legislature intend that school districts increase the total percentage of classroom spending over the previous year’s percentages. Arizona schools must ensure they allocate funds in this manner, and parents and the public should hold them accountable to this expectation.

Lastly, and very importantly, the FY23 budget makes a significant investment in school safety. H.B. 2862 appropriates $50 million to the School Safety Program, allowing schools to access grants to hire school resource officers.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann
    The Honorable Rusty Bowers
    The Honorable Regina Cobb
    The Senate Secretary
    The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
    Arizona News Service
State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2022  

HOUSE BILL 2866  

AN ACT  

AMENDING SECTION 15-185, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, 
CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTIONS 15-217, 
15-217.01, 15-217.02 AND 15-217.03; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 
2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTIONS 15-249.17 AND 15-249.18; 
AMENDING SECTION 15-393, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 
2022, CHAPTER 136, SECTION 1; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-901, 15-910, 15-913.01, 
15-943 AND 15-945, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; REPEALING SECTION 15-952, 
ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-953, 15-961 AND 15-971, 
ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; REPEALING SECTION 15-994, ARIZONA REVISED 
STATUTES; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-1371 AND 15-1372, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; 
AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 19, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY 
ADDING SECTION 15-2405; AMENDING SECTION 37-521, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; 
AMENDING SECTION 41-1276, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 
2022, CHAPTER 171, SECTION 1; AMENDING SECTIONS 41-5731 AND 42-17051, 
ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO KINDERGARTEN 
THROUGH GRADE TWELVE.  

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)  

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Passed the House June 23, 2022
by the following vote: 48 Ayes,
10 Nays, 2 Not Voting

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate June 23, 2022
by the following vote: 21 Ayes,
7 Nays, 2 Not Voting

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill received by the Governor this
23 day of June, 2022
at 2:15 o’clock P.M.

Secretary to the Governor

Approved this 28 day of

June

at 9:43 o’clock A.M.

Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill received by the Secretary of State
this _______ day of ____________, 20___

H.B. 2866

at ____________ o’clock ___________ M.

Secretary of State