

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; distance learning courses; funding

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2021

## **HB 2421**

Introduced by  
Representatives Carroll: Blackman, Bolick, Chaplik, Cobb, Cook, Fillmore,  
Grantham, Griffin, Hoffman, Nguyen, Nutt, Pingerelli, Wilmeth

### **AN ACT**

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 15-809; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 9, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA  
REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-901.08; RELATING TO STUDENT  
INSTRUCTION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 8, article 1, Arizona Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-809, to read:

4 15-809. Distance learning courses; course catalog;  
5 application; definition

6 A. BEGINNING IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT OR  
7 CHARTER SCHOOL THAT COMPLIES WITH THIS SECTION MAY OFFER DISTANCE LEARNING  
8 COURSES TO ANY STUDENT IN THIS STATE WHETHER OR NOT THAT STUDENT IS  
9 ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL.

10 B. ANY STUDENT IN THIS STATE WHO IS IN ANY OF GRADES SIX THROUGH  
11 TWELVE MAY ENROLL IN UP TO TWO DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES EACH YEAR. A  
12 STUDENT MAY ENROLL IN ANY DISTANCE LEARNING CLASS OFFERED UNDER THIS  
13 SECTION WHETHER OR NOT THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR  
14 CHARTER SCHOOL THAT OFFERS THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE.

15 C. DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES MAY BE OFFERED EITHER ONLINE OR VIA  
16 ANY OTHER FORMAT.

17 D. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH A DISTANCE LEARNING  
18 COURSE CATALOG ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2022 AND SHALL UPDATE THE DISTANCE  
19 LEARNING COURSE CATALOG ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER. THE  
20 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL APPROVE THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE  
21 CATALOG. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL INDICATE IN THE DISTANCE  
22 LEARNING COURSE CATALOG EACH COURSE'S CLASSIFICATION, SUCH AS A CORE  
23 SUBJECT OR AN ELECTIVE SUBJECT. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL  
24 IN THIS STATE SHALL POST A LINK TO THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE CATALOG ON  
25 ITS WEBSITE.

26 E. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH APPLICATION  
27 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES UNDER THIS SECTION.  
28 A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL APPLY TO THE STATE BOARD OF  
29 EDUCATION TO OFFER A DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE AND SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST  
30 THE FOLLOWING IN ITS APPLICATION:

31 1. PROOF OF EXCELLENCE IN THE COURSE SUBJECT THE DISTRICT OR SCHOOL  
32 PROPOSES TO OFFER.

33 2. THE PROPOSED COURSE FORMAT.

34 3. THE PROPOSED ENROLLMENT CAPACITY.

35 4. THE PLAN FOR PROCTORING ANY TESTS IN THE COURSE.

36 5. ANY EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION  
37 IN THE COURSE.

38 6. A PLAN FOR STUDENT SUPPORT.

39 7. THE REIMBURSEMENT FEE.

40 F. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY PRIORITIZE THE APPROVAL OF  
41 DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES FOR THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

42 1. COURSES IN WHICH A SIGNIFICANT TEACHER SHORTAGE EXISTS.

43 2. FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES.

44 3. ELECTIVE COURSES, INCLUDING HIGH-LEVEL MATH AND SCIENCE COURSES.

1 G. IF A STUDENT COMPLETES AND RECEIVES CREDIT FOR A DISTANCE  
2 LEARNING COURSE THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE CATALOG  
3 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE SCHOOL IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS  
4 ENROLLED SHALL ACCEPT THE CREDIT AND SHALL CLASSIFY THE COURSE AS  
5 INDICATED IN THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE CATALOG.

6 H. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE"  
7 MEANS A COURSE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL PROVIDES IN AN  
8 ONLINE OR OTHER FORMAT.

9 Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 9, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
10 is amended by adding section 15-901.08, to read:

11 15-901.08. Distance learning courses; reimbursement fee;  
12 calculation of average daily membership;  
13 definition

14 A. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A CHARTER SCHOOL THAT OFFERS DISTANCE  
15 LEARNING COURSES UNDER SECTION 15-809 MAY CHARGE A REIMBURSEMENT FEE FOR  
16 THE COST OF THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE TO BE COLLECTED FROM THE SCHOOL  
17 DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL IN WHICH THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED. A SCHOOL  
18 DISTRICT OR A CHARTER SCHOOL THAT OFFERS A DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE UNDER  
19 SECTION 15-809 MAY NOT INCLUDE A STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE DISTANCE  
20 LEARNING COURSE BUT WHO DOES NOT ATTEND ANY OTHER COURSES AT THE SCHOOL  
21 DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE PURPOSES OF CALCULATING AVERAGE DAILY  
22 MEMBERSHIP.

23 B. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A CHARTER SCHOOL MAY INCLUDE A STUDENT WHO  
24 IS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL AND WHO IS ENROLLED  
25 IN A DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE UNDER SECTION 15-809 IN ANOTHER SCHOOL  
26 DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE PURPOSES OF CALCULATING AVERAGE DAILY  
27 MEMBERSHIP IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

28 1. THE STUDENT COMPLETES AND IS AWARDED ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR A  
29 DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE THAT IS IN THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE CATALOG  
30 ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 15-809 IN ANOTHER SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER  
31 SCHOOL THAT HAS RECEIVED APPROVAL TO OFFER THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE.

32 2. THE STUDENT ATTENDS AT LEAST ONE COURSE OFFERED AT THE SCHOOL  
33 DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL PER SEMESTER.

34 3. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL PAYS THE REIMBURSEMENT  
35 COST OF THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER  
36 SCHOOL THAT OFFERED THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE IN WHICH THE STUDENT  
37 ENROLLED.

38 C. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A CHARTER SCHOOL MAY INCLUDE A STUDENT WHO  
39 IS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL AND WHO IS ENROLLED  
40 IN A DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE UNDER SECTION 15-809 AT THAT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
41 OR CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE PURPOSES OF CALCULATING AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP  
42 IF THE STUDENT COMPLETES AND IS AWARDED ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE DISTANCE  
43 LEARNING COURSE.

1           D. INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PROVIDED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER  
2 SCHOOL THROUGH A DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE UNDER SECTION 15-809 TO A  
3 STUDENT IN THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE  
4 CALCULATION OF THE AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP FOR THAT STUDENT PURSUANT TO  
5 SECTION 15-901.

6           E. FOR EACH DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE UNDER SECTION 15-809 THAT A  
7 STUDENT COMPLETES AND FOR WHICH THE STUDENT EARNS ACADEMIC CREDIT,  
8 ONE-EIGHTH OF AN AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE GENERATED. EXCEPT AS  
9 OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, FOR A FULL-TIME HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO ATTENDS  
10 A DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE OR COURSES UNDER SECTION 15-809, THE AVERAGE  
11 DAILY MEMBERSHIP MAY NOT EXCEED 1.0.

12           F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE" HAS  
13 THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-809.