

REFERENCE TITLE: **acceleration and support grant program**

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

HB 2887

Introduced by
Representative Udall

AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING THE STUDENT-FOCUSED ACCELERATION AND SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM;
APPROPRIATING MONIES.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Student-focused acceleration and support grant
3 program; requirements; reports; delayed repeal;
4 definitions

5 A. The student-focused acceleration and support grant program is
6 established to support the costs of high-impact intervention and
7 programming to mitigate the severe learning loss that has occurred as a
8 result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The state board of education shall
9 administer the program.

10 B. To receive a grant under this section, a local education agency
11 shall submit a teaching and learning plan to the state board of education
12 on behalf of each school within the local education agency that wishes to
13 participate in the student-focused acceleration and support grant program.
14 In developing the teaching and learning plan, the local education agency
15 shall consult and frequently engage with the school leaders who will be
16 executing the teaching and learning plan at the school. The teaching and
17 learning plan shall include all of the following:

18 1. The schedule for and location of the in-person one-on-one
19 intersession instruction and in-person small group intersession
20 instruction that the school will offer following the conclusion of the
21 2020-2021 school year until the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

22 2. A plan for using master teachers to provide the intersession
23 instruction prescribed in paragraph 1 of this subsection who have proven
24 track records of successfully remediating students in core academic
25 subjects. A school may leverage learning guides and community
26 partnerships, including any of the following:

27 (a) A national summer school initiative.

28 (b) A boys and girls club.

29 (c) A leading nonprofit organization that is committed to
30 strengthening the community by connecting all people to their potential
31 and purpose and to each other and that, working locally, focuses on
32 empowering young people, improving health and well-being and inspiring
33 action in and across communities.

34 (d) Any other aligned providers.

35 3. A plan to conduct benchmark examinations in English language
36 arts and mathematics at the beginning and end of the intersession to
37 capture student growth and progress and to provide data showing student
38 growth and progress over the course of the intersession, broken out
39 collectively by both grade level and all of the following groups and
40 categories:

41 (a) English language learner status.

42 (b) Students receiving exceptional student services.

43 (c) Race.

44 (d) Ethnicity.

45 (e) Gender.

1 (f) Students experiencing homelessness, if applicable.

2 (g) Students in foster care, if applicable.

3 4. The number of FRPL students and non-FRPL students that the
4 school will serve during the intersession.

5 5. How the school will prioritize students who are not at grade
6 level in one or more core academic subjects and prepare them for the
7 2021-2022 school year. The plan may also prioritize students who,
8 according to data, are at risk of not staying at grade level.

9 6. A description of the curriculum, interventions and structure of
10 instructional support and how that instructional support will meet the
11 academic acceleration needs of FRPL students in general and FRPL students
12 in the priority grade bands in particular.

13 7. A clear description of the actions that the school will take to
14 engage parents in intersession instruction, including the scheduling
15 options that the school will provide and the actions the school will take
16 to keep parents updated on their child's progress.

17 8. The signature of the school leader.

18 C. A local education agency that receives grant monies under this
19 section shall comply with all of the following requirements:

20 1. The local education agency shall use the grant monies to provide
21 in-person one-on-one intersession instruction and in-person small group
22 intersession instruction following the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school
23 year until the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

24 2. If a parent requests a remote-only or hybrid instruction option,
25 the local education agency may use the grant monies to provide students
26 with remote-only or hybrid intersession instruction options following the
27 conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year until the beginning of the
28 2021-2022 school year. These remote-only or hybrid intersession
29 instruction options shall be in addition to the in-person instruction
30 provided under paragraph 1 of this subsection.

31 3. If additional grant monies are available after providing the
32 intersession instruction as prescribed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this
33 subsection, the local education agency shall use the remaining grant
34 monies to extend remediation supports into the 2021-2022 school year. If
35 the local education agency uses remaining grant monies during the
36 2021-2022 school year, the local education agency shall submit to the
37 state board of education a quarterly report via an expenditure tracker
38 that details how each school within the local education agency that is
39 receiving grant monies during the 2021-2022 school year is using the grant
40 monies. The final report shall be submitted to the state board of
41 education on or before June 1, 2022.

42 4. The local education agency shall provide at least fifty hours of
43 additional, targeted intersession instruction for students outside the
44 priority grade bands and at least eighty hours of additional, targeted
45 intersession instruction for students in the priority grade bands. If the

1 amount calculated pursuant to section 2, subsection B of this act is
2 either ten percent more or less than \$389,000,000, the state board of
3 education may vote to alter the requirements prescribed in this paragraph.

4 5. The local education agency shall provide parents with various
5 intersession instruction scheduling options, including workday, evening
6 and weekend options, and allow parents to select the schedule that will
7 work best for their families. The local education agency shall keep
8 parents updated on their child's progress and provide the parents with
9 learning supports that they may offer at home, except that the local
10 education agency may not expect parents to deliver the instruction without
11 direct teaching and coaching from a master teacher or learning guide.

12 6. The local education agency shall separately account for any
13 grant monies received under this section in the local education agency's
14 annual financial report.

15 7. The local education agency may not use grant monies received
16 under this section to supplant monies budgeted or received from any other
17 source that are generally provided to the local education agency,
18 including title I monies eligible for summer school.

19 8. The local education agency shall demonstrate to the state board
20 of education that its teaching and learning plan submitted pursuant to
21 subsection B of this section prioritizes outreach to and prioritization in
22 serving low-income students. This paragraph does not prevent a local
23 education agency from serving additional students who are not low-income,
24 subject to capacity.

25 9. Before the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, the local
26 education agency shall submit to the state board of education a report on
27 the effectiveness of the strategies that the schools within the local
28 education agency that received grant monies used during intersession and
29 which strategies, if any, the schools will continue to use in the
30 2021-2022 school year and beyond. This report shall include all of the
31 following:

32 (a) The final expenditure tracker of each school within the local
33 education agency that received grant monies that details how each school
34 used the grant monies.

35 (b) The amount of remaining grant monies, if any, that the local
36 education agency plans to use during the 2021-2022 school year.

37 (c) The results of the benchmark examinations as outlined in the
38 teaching and learning plan.

39 D. Except as prescribed in subsection F of this section:

40 1. On receiving a teaching and learning plan for a school that
41 received a letter grade of A or B pursuant to section 15-241, Arizona
42 Revised Statutes, for the most recent year in which letter grades were
43 issued, the state board of education shall immediately remit to the local
44 education agency the amount of grant monies calculated pursuant to
45 subsection E of this section.

1 2. On receiving a teaching and learning plan for any other school,
2 the state board of education, in conjunction with the department of
3 education and the state board for charter schools, shall evaluate and
4 approve these plans before disbursing grant monies.

5 E. The state board of education shall distribute grant monies to
6 local education agencies as follows:

7 1. For each school within a local education agency on behalf of
8 which the local education agency submits a teaching and learning plan, the
9 state board of education shall distribute to the local education agency
10 \$500 per FRPL student who was enrolled in the school during the 2019-2020
11 school year. The local education agency shall use these monies for the
12 purposes prescribed in the school's teaching and learning plan.

13 2. After the distributions made under paragraph 1 of this
14 subsection, for each school within a local education agency on behalf of
15 which the local education agency submits a teaching and learning plan, the
16 state board of education shall distribute to the local education agency an
17 additional \$327 per FRPL student who was enrolled in the school during the
18 2019-2020 school year and who is in a priority grade band during the
19 2020-2021 school year. The local education agency shall use these monies
20 for the purposes prescribed in the school's teaching and learning plan.

21 F. If the amount calculated pursuant to section 2, subsection B of
22 this act is:

23 1. Greater than \$389,000,000, the state board of education shall
24 increase the per-pupil distribution prescribed in subsection E, paragraph
25 1 of this section accordingly.

26 2. Less than \$389,000,000, the state board of education shall
27 decrease the per-pupil distribution prescribed in subsection E, paragraph
28 1 of this section for students who are not in priority grade bands only
29 and shall ensure that the per-pupil distribution for students in priority
30 grade bands is not affected.

31 G. The state board of education may not approve teaching and
32 learning plans or distribute grant monies until on or after May 1, 2021.
33 This paragraph does not prohibit the state board of education, the
34 department of education or the state board for charter schools from
35 accepting teaching and learning plans or providing guidance to local
36 education agencies regarding the program before May 1, 2021.

37 H. On or before September 30, 2021, the state board of education,
38 with assistance as needed from the department of education, shall compile
39 the reports submitted under subsection C, paragraph 9 of this section and
40 provide them as a comprehensive report to the governor, the president of
41 the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the
42 chairpersons of both the senate and house of representatives education
43 committees. The state board of education shall also provide a copy of
44 this report to the secretary of state.

1 I. The state board of education shall convene a panel of community
2 members, educators, policy experts and advocates of achievement for
3 low-income students to review results of the student-focused acceleration
4 and support grant program. On or before November 1, 2021, the panel shall
5 submit a report to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker
6 of the house of representatives and the chairpersons of both the senate
7 and house of representatives education committees that details the lessons
8 learned that could be scaled. The panel shall also submit a copy of this
9 report to the secretary of state.

10 J. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2022.

11 K. For the purposes of this section:

12 1. "FRPL students" means students who meet the economic eligibility
13 requirements established under the national school lunch and child
14 nutrition acts (42 United States Code sections 1751 through 1793) for free
15 or reduced-price lunches.

16 2. "Local education agency" means a school district or charter
17 school.

18 3. "Priority grade bands" means students who are in kindergarten
19 programs, grade one, grade two, grade three, grade eight or grade eleven
20 during the 2020-2021 school year.

21 4. "Title I monies" means monies received under title I of the
22 elementary and secondary education act of 1965 (P.L. 89-10; 79 Stat. 27),
23 as reauthorized.

24 Sec. 2. Appropriation; student-focused acceleration and
25 support grant program; exemption

26 A. The sum of \$389,000,000 is appropriated from the state general
27 fund in fiscal year 2020-2021 to the state board of education for the
28 purposes of administering the student-focused acceleration and support
29 grant program, except that:

30 1. If the sum calculated pursuant to subsection B of this section
31 is greater than \$389,000,000, the appropriation is increased by the amount
32 that the sum calculated pursuant to subsection B is in excess of
33 \$389,000,000.

34 2. If the sum calculated pursuant to subsection B of this section
35 is less than \$389,000,000, the appropriation is decreased by the amount
36 that the sum calculated pursuant to subsection B is less than
37 \$389,000,000.

38 B. On or before April 30, 2021, the department of education shall
39 calculate the total estimated school expenditure reductions resulting from
40 equalization formula decreases during fiscal year 2020-2021. The
41 department of education shall calculate this amount using the third
42 quarter estimate and using a methodology that budgets for potential
43 discrepancies between the third quarter estimate and the final total.

1 C. The appropriation made in this section is exempt from the
2 provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating to
3 lapsing of appropriations, except that any monies remaining unexpended and
4 unencumbered on January 1, 2023 revert to the state general fund.

5 Sec. 3. Emergency

6 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
7 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
8 law.