

House Engrossed

suspended students; virtual education; support

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

HOUSE RESOLUTION 2004

A RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING VIRTUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN
SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, attending school is linked to children exhibiting stronger
2 social and behavioral skills and higher academic achievement; and
3 Whereas, according to the National Center for Education Statistics,
4 each year in Arizona nearly 57,000 students receive out-of-school
5 suspensions and 500 students are expelled; and
6 Whereas, students who are suspended are 32% less likely to complete
7 high school and are far less likely to attend a college or university,
8 leaving them unable to engage meaningfully in the workforce and more
9 likely to be reliant on government assistance; and
10 Whereas, students who are suspended or expelled from school are more
11 likely to possess mental or physical health concerns that, left
12 unaddressed, can lead to increased burdens on taxpayers; and
13 Whereas, during the COVID-19 pandemic, through professional
14 development, technology purchases, vetting online educational platforms
15 and other forms of engagement with families, schools have become more
16 proficient at providing distance learning opportunities for all students;
17 and
18 Whereas, these distance learning opportunities have allowed students
19 and families to feel connected to a school and to continue the learning
20 process at a time when students have been unable to attend school on a
21 regular basis; and
22 Whereas, if the decision is made to suspend or expel a student,
23 schools should use various distance learning tools, including online
24 instruction and other means, to keep students who have been suspended or
25 expelled engaged with the education system and on track to graduate high
26 school; and
27 Whereas, our state is only as strong as the future generation, and
28 we want our students to grow into engaged and contributing members of our
29 society and economy.
30 Therefore
31 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:
32 That the Members of the House of Representatives express their
33 strong support for all schools in this state to provide appropriate
34 interventions for students before resorting to suspensions and expulsion
35 and to provide suspended or expelled students with appropriate virtual or
36 other forms of distance education opportunities to keep them engaged with
37 the education system and their futures.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE FEBRUARY 23, 2021.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FEBRUARY 26, 2021.