



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1327

alternative assessment advisory committee

Purpose

An emergency measure that directs the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to establish an Alternative Assessment Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) to consider any item relating to alternative assessments and special education and prescribes Advisory Committee membership.

Background

In 2021, the Legislature established the Alternative Assessment Study Committee (AASC), consisting of 13 members. The AASC was charged with discussing: 1) how the state can improve outreach and professional development to ensure support for parents and educators of special education students who are not eligible for the alternative assessment; 2) accommodations provided to special education students while taking assessments; 3) guidance on properly identifying students for the alternative assessment; 4) professional development opportunities for special education educators and school administrators; and 5) developing a parent guidebook on assessments for students with special needs. The AASC terminates on June 30, 2022 (Laws 2021, Ch. 57).

On November 22, 2021, the AASC adopted 15 recommendations, including establishing an ongoing working group to continue the work of the AASC ([AASC Final Report](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Directs ADE to establish an Advisory Committee to consider:
 - a) the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the AASC; and
 - b) any item relating to alternative assessments and special education as necessary.
2. Requires Advisory Committee membership to consist of the Superintendent of Public Instruction or their designee and at least the following ADE-appointed members:
 - a) a parent;
 - b) a special education director and special education teacher;
 - c) a school district superintendent and a representative of a charter school in Arizona;
 - d) a rural representative;
 - e) a tribal community representative;
 - f) a representative of the Special Education Advisory Committee; and
 - g) a representative of a nonprofit organization that strengthens families and systems of care to improve outcomes for children with disabilities and special health care needs.

FACT SHEET

S.B. 1327

Page 2

3. Requires ADE to appoint Advisory Committee members in coordination with the State Board of Education.
4. Requires the Advisory Committee to provide an update on the Advisory Committee's progress in a public hearing of:
 - a) the AASC by June 30, 2022; and
 - b) the Senate Education Committee or House of Representatives Education Committee, or the respective successor committee, annually.
5. Repeals the Advisory Committee on July 1, 2025.
6. Becomes effective on signature of the governor, retroactive to November 23, 2021.

Prepared by Senate Research

January 28, 2022

LB/slp