

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona national rankings; ranked states

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SB 1329

Introduced by
Senator Boyer

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-248, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-248, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-248. Arizona national rankings; annual report

5 A. The department of education shall collect, evaluate and assess
6 existing studies and findings conducted by any public or private entity on
7 the national rankings and overall quality of schools in this state based
8 on the following:

9 1. Academic productivity as measured by academic progress
10 indicators. The academic productivity measures shall include the areas of
11 reading, writing and mathematics and other academic categories determined
12 by the department.

13 2. Ratings of school quality by parents.

14 B. The department may further evaluate, but is not limited to, the
15 following school funding issues:

16 1. The average salaries of teachers who provide instruction in
17 school districts in this state compared to the average salaries of
18 teachers with similar levels of experience and education in other states.

19 2. Other funding categories determined by the department.

20 C. For the purposes of this section, studies and findings that are
21 evaluated by the department may be conducted by any public or private
22 entity, except that the department shall rely only on research it
23 determines is scientifically reliable. The department may request that
24 additional specialized research be conducted by public or private entities
25 selected by the department.

26 D. The department shall search scientific literature and select a
27 national ranking study of the performance of each state's schools that
28 used the most scientifically sound methodology in the ranking process.
29 The department shall identify all the data elements used in the study and
30 shall duplicate those data elements using the most recent available data.
31 The department shall attempt to identify the characteristics of the top
32 ~~ten~~ FIFTEEN ranked states and the bottom ~~ten~~ FIFTEEN ranked states in all
33 areas that impact the quality of education.

34 E. The department shall submit electronically an annual report on
35 or before December 1 regarding its findings to the governor, the speaker
36 of the house of representatives and the president of the senate. The
37 department shall provide copies of this report to the secretary of state
38 ~~and the director of the Arizona state library, archives and public~~
39 ~~records~~. The department shall present its findings at a public meeting
40 for discussion and analysis.