

PROPOSED
SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.B. 2233
(Reference to House engrossed bill)

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

2 "Section 1. Section 15-183, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-183. Charter schools; application; requirements; immunity;
5 exemptions; renewal of application; reprisal; fee;
6 funds; annual reports

7 A. An applicant seeking to establish a charter school shall apply in
8 writing to a proposed sponsor as prescribed in subsection C of this
9 section. The application, application process and application time frames
10 shall be posted on the sponsor's website and shall include the following,
11 as specified in the application adopted by the sponsor:

12 1. A detailed educational plan.
13 2. A detailed business plan.
14 3. A detailed operational plan.
15 4. Any other materials required by the sponsor.

16 B. The sponsor of a charter school may contract with a public body,
17 private person or private organization for the purpose of establishing a
18 charter school pursuant to this article.

19 C. The sponsor of a charter school may be either the state board of
20 education, the state board for charter schools, a university under the
21 jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, a community college district
22 or a group of community college districts, subject to the following
23 requirements:

24 1. An applicant may not apply for sponsorship to any person or
25 entity other than those prescribed in this subsection.

1 2. The applicant may apply to the state board of education or the
2 state board for charter schools. Notwithstanding any other law, neither
3 the state board for charter schools nor the state board of education shall
4 grant a charter to a school district governing board for a new charter
5 school or for the conversion of an existing district public school to a
6 charter school. The state board of education or the state board for
7 charter schools may approve the application if the application meets the
8 requirements of this article and may approve the charter if the proposed
9 sponsor determines, within its sole discretion, that the applicant is
10 sufficiently qualified to operate a charter school and that the applicant
11 is applying to operate as a separate charter holder by considering factors
12 such as whether:

13 (a) The schools have separate governing bodies, governing body
14 membership, staff, facilities and student population.

15 (b) Daily operations are carried out by different administrators.

16 (c) The applicant intends to have an affiliation agreement for the
17 purpose of providing enrollment preferences.

18 (d) The applicant's charter management organization has multiple
19 charter holders serving varied grade configurations on one physical site or
20 nearby sites serving one community.

21 (e) The applicant is reconstituting an existing school site
22 population at the same or new site.

23 (f) The applicant is reconstituting an existing grade configuration
24 from a prior charter holder with at least one grade remaining on the
25 original site with the other grade or grades moving to a new site. The
26 state board of education or the state board for charter schools may approve
27 any charter schools transferring charters. If the state board of education
28 or the state board for charter schools rejects the preliminary application,
29 the state board of education or the state board for charter schools shall
30 notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the rejection and of
31 suggestions for improving the application. An applicant may submit a
32 revised application for reconsideration by the state board of education or

1 the state board for charter schools. The applicant may request, and the
2 state board of education or the state board for charter schools may
3 provide, technical assistance to improve the application.

4 3. The applicant may submit the application to a university under
5 the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, a community college
6 district or a group of community college districts. A university, a
7 community college district or a group of community college districts shall
8 not grant a charter to a school district governing board for a new charter
9 school or for the conversion of an existing district public school to a
10 charter school. A university, a community college district or a group of
11 community college districts may approve the application if it meets the
12 requirements of this article and if the proposed sponsor determines, in its
13 sole discretion, that the applicant is sufficiently qualified to operate a
14 charter school.

15 4. Each applicant seeking to establish a charter school shall submit
16 a full set of fingerprints to the approving agency for the purpose of
17 obtaining a state and federal criminal records check pursuant to section
18 41-1750 and Public Law 92-544. If an applicant will have direct contact
19 with students, the applicant shall possess a valid fingerprint clearance
20 card that is issued pursuant to title 41, chapter 12, article 3.1. The
21 department of public safety may exchange this fingerprint data with the
22 federal bureau of investigation. The criminal records check shall be
23 completed before the issuance of a charter.

24 5. All persons engaged in instructional work directly as a
25 classroom, laboratory or other teacher or indirectly as a supervisory
26 teacher, speech therapist or principal shall have a valid fingerprint
27 clearance card that is issued pursuant to title 41, chapter 12,
28 article 3.1, unless the person is a volunteer or guest speaker who is
29 accompanied in the classroom by a person with a valid fingerprint clearance
30 card. A charter school shall not employ in any position that requires a
31 valid fingerprint clearance card a person against whom the state board of
32 education has taken disciplinary action as prescribed in section 15-505 or

whose certificate has been suspended, surrendered or revoked, unless the person's certificate has been subsequently reinstated by the state board of education. All other personnel shall be fingerprint checked pursuant to section 15-512, or the charter school may require those personnel to obtain a fingerprint clearance card issued pursuant to title 41, chapter 12, article 3.1. Before employment, the charter school shall make documented, good faith efforts to contact previous employers of a person to obtain information and recommendations that may be relevant to the person's fitness for employment as prescribed in section 15-512, subsection F, including checking the educator information system that is maintained by the department of education pursuant to section 15-505. The charter school shall notify the department of public safety if the charter school or sponsor receives credible evidence that a person who possesses a valid fingerprint clearance card is arrested for or is charged with an offense listed in section 41-1758.03, subsection B. A person who is employed at a charter school that has met the requirements of this paragraph is not required to meet any additional requirements that are established by the department of education or that may be established by rule by the state board of education. The state board of education may not adopt rules that exceed the requirements for persons who are qualified to teach in charter schools prescribed in title I of the every student succeeds act (P.L. 114-95) or the individuals with disabilities education improvement act of 2004 (P.L. 108-446). Charter schools may hire personnel who have not yet received a fingerprint clearance card if proof is provided of the submission of an application to the department of public safety for a fingerprint clearance card and if the charter school that is seeking to hire the applicant does all of the following:

(a) Documents in the applicant's file the necessity for hiring and placing the applicant before the applicant receives a fingerprint clearance card.

(b) Ensures that the department of public safety completes a statewide criminal records check on the applicant. A statewide criminal

1 records check shall be completed by the department of public safety every
2 one hundred twenty days until the date that the fingerprint check is
3 completed or the fingerprint clearance card is issued or denied.

4 (c) Obtains references from the applicant's current employer and the
5 two most recent previous employers except for applicants who have been
6 employed for at least five years by the applicant's most recent employer.

7 (d) Provides general supervision of the applicant until the date
8 that the fingerprint card is obtained.

9 (e) Completes a search of criminal records in all local
10 jurisdictions outside of this state in which the applicant has lived in the
11 previous five years.

12 (f) Verifies the fingerprint status of the applicant with the
13 department of public safety.

14 6. A charter school that complies with the fingerprinting
15 requirements of this section shall be deemed to have complied with section
16 15-512 and is entitled to the same rights and protections provided to
17 school districts by section 15-512.

18 7. If a charter school operator is not already subject to a public
19 meeting or hearing by the municipality in which the charter school is
20 located, the operator of a charter school shall conduct a public meeting at
21 least thirty days before the charter school operator opens a site or sites
22 for the charter school. The charter school operator shall post notices of
23 the public meeting in at least three different locations that are within
24 three hundred feet of the proposed charter school site.

25 8. A person who is employed by a charter school or who is an
26 applicant for employment with a charter school, who is arrested for or
27 charged with a nonappealable offense listed in section 41-1758.03,
28 subsection B and who does not immediately report the arrest or charge to
29 the person's supervisor or potential employer is guilty of unprofessional
30 conduct and the person shall be immediately dismissed from employment with
31 the charter school or immediately excluded from potential employment with
32 the charter school.

1 9. A person who is employed by a charter school and who is convicted
2 of any nonappealable offense listed in section 41-1758.03, subsection B or
3 is convicted of any nonappealable offense that amounts to unprofessional
4 conduct under section 15-550 shall immediately do all of the following:

5 (a) Surrender any certificates issued by the department of
6 education.

7 (b) Notify the person's employer or potential employer of the
8 conviction.

9 (c) Notify the department of public safety of the conviction.

10 (d) Surrender the person's fingerprint clearance card.

11 D. An entity that is authorized to sponsor charter schools pursuant
12 to this article has no legal authority over or responsibility for a charter
13 school sponsored by a different entity. This subsection does not apply to
14 the state board of education's duty to exercise general supervision over
15 the public school system pursuant to section 15-203, subsection A,
16 paragraph 1.

17 E. The charter of a charter school shall do all of the following:

18 1. Ensure compliance with federal, state and local rules,
19 regulations and statutes relating to health, safety, civil rights and
20 insurance. The department of education shall publish a list of relevant
21 rules, regulations and statutes to notify charter schools of their
22 responsibilities under this paragraph.

23 2. Ensure that it is nonsectarian in its programs, admission
24 policies and employment practices and all other operations.

25 3. Ensure that it provides a comprehensive program of instruction
26 for at least a kindergarten program or any grade between grades one and
27 twelve, except that a school may offer this curriculum with an emphasis on
28 a specific learning philosophy or style or certain subject areas such as
29 mathematics, science, fine arts, performance arts or foreign language.

30 4. Ensure that it designs a method to measure pupil progress toward
31 the pupil outcomes adopted by the state board of education pursuant to
32 section 15-741.01, including participation in the statewide assessment and

1 the nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement test as designated
2 by the state board and the completion and distribution of an annual report
3 card as prescribed in chapter 7, article 3 of this title.

4 5. Ensure that, except as provided in this article and in its
5 charter, it is exempt from all statutes and rules relating to schools,
6 governing boards and school districts.

7 6. Ensure that, except as provided in this article, it is subject to
8 the same financial and electronic data submission requirements as a school
9 district, including the uniform system of financial records as prescribed
10 in chapter 2, article 4 of this title, procurement rules as prescribed in
11 section 15-213 and audit requirements. The auditor general shall conduct a
12 comprehensive review and revision of the uniform system of financial
13 records to ensure that the provisions of the uniform system of financial
14 records that relate to charter schools are in accordance with commonly
15 accepted accounting principles used by private business. A school's
16 charter may include exceptions to the requirements of this paragraph that
17 are necessary as determined by the university, the community college
18 district, the group of community college districts, the state board of
19 education or the state board for charter schools. The department of
20 education or the office of the auditor general may conduct financial,
21 program or compliance audits.

22 7. Ensure compliance with all federal and state laws relating to the
23 education of children with disabilities in the same manner as a school
24 district.

25 8. Ensure that it provides for a governing body for the charter
26 school that is responsible for the policy decisions of the charter school.
27 Notwithstanding section 1-216, if there is a vacancy or vacancies on the
28 governing body, a majority of the remaining members of the governing body
29 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless that quorum is
30 prohibited by the charter school's operating agreement.

31 9. Ensure that it provides a minimum of one hundred eighty
32 instructional days before June 30 of each fiscal year unless it is

1 operating on an alternative calendar approved by its sponsor. The
2 superintendent of public instruction shall adjust the apportionment
3 schedule accordingly to accommodate a charter school utilizing an
4 alternative calendar.

5 F. A charter school shall keep in the personnel file of each current
6 employee who provides instruction to pupils at the charter school
7 information about the employee's educational and teaching background and
8 experience in a particular academic content subject area. A charter school
9 shall inform parents and guardians of the availability of the information
10 and shall make the information available for inspection on request of
11 parents and guardians of pupils enrolled at the charter school. This
12 subsection does not require any charter school to release personally
13 identifiable information in relation to any teacher or employee, including
14 the teacher's or employee's address, salary, social security number or
15 telephone number.

16 G. The charter of a charter school may be amended at the request of
17 the governing body of the charter school and on the approval of the
18 sponsor.

19 H. Charter schools may contract, sue and be sued.

20 I. The charter is effective for fifteen years from the first day of
21 the fiscal year as specified in the charter, subject to the following:

22 1. At least eighteen months before ~~the~~ the charter expires, the
23 sponsor shall notify the charter school that the charter school may apply
24 for renewal and shall make the renewal application available to the charter
25 school. A charter school that elects to apply for renewal shall file a
26 complete renewal application at least fifteen months before the charter
27 expires. A sponsor shall give written notice of its intent not to renew
28 the charter school's request for renewal to the charter school at least
29 twelve months before the expiration of the charter. The sponsor shall make
30 data used in making renewal decisions available to the school and the
31 public and shall provide a public report summarizing the evidence basis for

1 each decision. The sponsor may deny the request for renewal if, in its
2 judgment, the charter holder has failed to do any of the following:

3 (a) Meet or make sufficient progress toward the academic performance
4 expectations set forth in the performance framework.

5 (b) Meet the operational performance expectations set forth in the
6 performance framework or any improvement plans.

7 (c) Meet the financial performance expectations set forth in the
8 performance framework or any improvement plans.

9 (d) Complete the obligations of the contract.

10 (e) Comply with this article or any provision of law from which the
11 charter school is not exempt.

12 2. A charter operator may apply for early renewal. At least nine
13 months before the charter school's intended renewal consideration, the
14 operator of the charter school shall submit a letter of intent to the
15 sponsor to apply for early renewal. The sponsor shall review fiscal audits
16 and academic performance data for the charter school that are annually
17 collected by the sponsor, review the current contract between the sponsor
18 and the charter school and provide the qualifying charter school with a
19 renewal application. On submission of a complete application, the sponsor
20 shall give written notice of its consideration of the renewal application.
21 The sponsor may deny the request for early renewal if, in the sponsor's
22 judgment, the charter holder has failed to do any of the following:

23 (a) Meet or make sufficient progress toward the academic performance
24 expectations set forth in the performance framework.

25 (b) Meet the operational performance expectations set forth in the
26 performance framework or any improvement plans.

27 (c) Meet the financial performance expectations set forth in the
28 performance framework or any improvement plans.

29 (d) Complete the obligations of the contract.

30 (e) Comply with this article or any provision of law from which the
31 charter school is not exempt.

1 3. A sponsor shall review a charter at five-year intervals using a
2 performance framework adopted by the sponsor and may revoke a charter at
3 any time if the charter school breaches one or more provisions of its
4 charter or if the sponsor determines that the charter holder has failed to
5 do any of the following:

6 (a) Meet or make sufficient progress toward the academic performance
7 expectations set forth in the performance framework.

8 (b) Meet the operational performance expectations set forth in the
9 performance framework or any improvement plans.

10 (c) Meet the financial performance expectations set forth in the
11 performance framework or any improvement plans.

12 (d) Comply with this article or any provision of law from which the
13 charter school is not exempt.

14 4. In determining whether to renew or revoke a charter holder, the
15 sponsor must consider making sufficient progress toward the academic
16 performance expectations set forth in the sponsor's performance framework
17 as one of the most important factors.

18 5. At least sixty days before the effective date of the proposed
19 revocation, the sponsor shall give written notice to the operator of the
20 charter school of its intent to revoke the charter. Notice of the
21 sponsor's intent to revoke the charter shall be delivered personally to the
22 operator of the charter school or sent by certified mail, return receipt
23 requested, to the address of the charter school. The notice shall
24 incorporate a statement of reasons for the proposed revocation of the
25 charter. The sponsor shall allow the charter school at least sixty days to
26 correct the problems associated with the reasons for the proposed
27 revocation of the charter. The final determination of whether to revoke
28 the charter shall be made at a public hearing called for that purpose.

29 J. The charter may be renewed for successive periods of twenty
30 years.

31 K. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE ALLOWED AND REQUIRED UNDER LAW, A charter
32 school that is sponsored by the state board of education, the state board

1 for charter schools, a university, a community college district or a group
2 of community college districts may not be located on the property of a
3 school district unless the district governing board grants this authority.

4 L. A governing board or a school district employee who has control
5 over personnel actions shall not take unlawful reprisal against another
6 employee of the school district because the employee is directly or
7 indirectly involved in an application to establish a charter school. A
8 governing board or a school district employee shall not take unlawful
9 reprisal against an educational program of the school or the school
10 district because an application to establish a charter school proposes to
11 convert all or a portion of the educational program to a charter school.
12 For the purposes of this subsection, "unlawful reprisal" means an action
13 that is taken by a governing board or a school district employee as a
14 direct result of a lawful application to establish a charter school and
15 that is adverse to another employee or an education program and:

16 1. With respect to a school district employee, results in one or
17 more of the following:

18 (a) Disciplinary or corrective action.
19 (b) Detail, transfer or reassignment.
20 (c) Suspension, demotion or dismissal.
21 (d) An unfavorable performance evaluation.
22 (e) A reduction in pay, benefits or awards.
23 (f) Elimination of the employee's position without a reduction in
24 force by reason of lack of monies or work.

25 (g) Other significant changes in duties or responsibilities that are
26 inconsistent with the employee's salary or employment classification.

27 2. With respect to an educational program, results in one or more of
28 the following:

29 (a) Suspension or termination of the program.
30 (b) Transfer or reassignment of the program to a less favorable
31 department.

(c) Relocation of the program to a less favorable site within the school or school district.

(d) Significant reduction or termination of funding for the program.

M. Charter schools shall secure insurance for liability and property loss. The governing body of a charter school that is sponsored by the state board of education or the state board for charter schools may enter into an intergovernmental agreement or otherwise contract to participate in an insurance program offered by a risk retention pool established pursuant to section 11-952.01 or 41-621.01 or the charter school may secure its own insurance coverage. The pool may charge the requesting charter school reasonable fees for any services it performs in connection with the insurance program.

N. Charter schools do not have the authority to acquire property by eminent domain.

0. A sponsor, including members, officers and employees of the sponsor, is immune from personal liability for all acts done and actions taken in good faith within the scope of its authority.

P. Charter school sponsors and this state are not liable for the debts or financial obligations of a charter school or persons who operate charter schools.

Q. The sponsor of a charter school shall establish procedures to conduct administrative hearings on determination by the sponsor that grounds exist to revoke a charter. Procedures for administrative hearings shall be similar to procedures prescribed for adjudicative proceedings in title 41, chapter 6, article 10. Except as provided in section 41-1092.08, subsection H, final decisions of the state board of education and the state board for charter schools from hearings conducted pursuant to this subsection are subject to judicial review pursuant to title 12, chapter 7, article 6.

R. The sponsoring entity of a charter school shall have oversight and administrative responsibility for the charter schools that it sponsors. In implementing its oversight and administrative

1 responsibilities, the sponsor shall ground its actions in evidence of the
2 charter holder's performance in accordance with the performance framework
3 adopted by the sponsor. The performance framework shall be publicly
4 available, shall be placed on the sponsoring entity's website and shall
5 include:

6 1. The academic performance expectations of the charter school and
7 the measurement of sufficient progress toward the academic performance
8 expectations.

9 2. The operational expectations of the charter school, including
10 adherence to all applicable laws and obligations of the charter contract.

11 3. The financial expectations of the charter school.

12 4. Intervention and improvement policies.

13 S. Charter schools may pledge, assign or encumber their assets to be
14 used as collateral for loans or extensions of credit.

15 T. All property accumulated by a charter school shall remain the
16 property of the charter school.

17 U. Charter schools may not locate a school on property that is less
18 than one-fourth mile from agricultural land regulated pursuant to section
19 3-365, except that the owner of the agricultural land may agree to comply
20 with the buffer zone requirements of section 3-365. If the owner agrees in
21 writing to comply with the buffer zone requirements and records the
22 agreement in the office of the county recorder as a restrictive covenant
23 running with the title to the land, the charter school may locate a school
24 within the affected buffer zone. The agreement may include any
25 stipulations regarding the charter school, including conditions for future
26 expansion of the school and changes in the operational status of the school
27 that will result in a breach of the agreement.

28 V. A transfer of a charter to another sponsor, a transfer of a
29 charter school site to another sponsor or a transfer of a charter school
30 site to a different charter shall be completed before the beginning of the
31 fiscal year that the transfer is scheduled to become effective. An entity
32 that sponsors charter schools may accept a transferring school after the

beginning of the fiscal year if the transfer is approved by the superintendent of public instruction. The superintendent of public instruction shall have the discretion to consider each transfer during the fiscal year on a case-by-case basis. A charter holder seeking to transfer sponsors shall comply with the current charter terms regarding assignment of the charter. A charter holder transferring sponsors shall notify the current sponsor that the transfer has been approved by the new sponsor.

W. Notwithstanding subsection V of this section, a charter holder on an improvement plan must notify parents or guardians of registered students of the intent to transfer the charter and the timing of the proposed transfer. On the approved transfer, the new sponsor shall enforce the improvement plan but may modify the plan based on performance.

X. Notwithstanding subsection Y of this section, the state board for charter schools shall charge a processing fee to any charter school that amends its contract to participate in Arizona online instruction pursuant to section 15-808. The charter Arizona online instruction processing fund is established consisting of fees collected and administered by the state board for charter schools. The state board for charter schools shall use monies in the fund only for processing contract amendments for charter schools participating in Arizona online instruction. Monies in the fund are continuously appropriated.

Y. The sponsoring entity may not charge any fees to a charter school that it sponsors unless the sponsor has provided services to the charter school and the fees represent the full value of those services provided by the sponsor. On request, the value of the services provided by the sponsor to the charter school shall be demonstrated to the department of education.

Z. Charter schools may enter into an intergovernmental agreement with a presiding judge of the juvenile court to implement a law-related education program as defined in section 15-154. The presiding judge of the juvenile court may assign juvenile probation officers to participate in a law-related education program in any charter school in the county. The cost

1 of juvenile probation officers who participate in the program implemented
2 pursuant to this subsection shall be funded by the charter school.

3 AA. The sponsor of a charter school shall modify previously approved
4 curriculum requirements for a charter school that wishes to participate in
5 the board examination system prescribed in chapter 7, article 6 of this
6 title.

7 BB. If a charter school decides not to participate in the board
8 examination system prescribed in chapter 7, article 6 of this title, pupils
9 enrolled at that charter school may earn a Grand Canyon diploma by
10 obtaining a passing score on the same board examinations.

11 CC. Notwithstanding subsection Y of this section, a sponsor of
12 charter schools may charge a new charter application processing fee to any
13 applicant. The application fee shall fully cover the cost of application
14 review and any needed technical assistance. Authorizers may approve
15 policies that allow a portion of the fee to be returned to the applicant
16 whose charter is approved.

17 DD. A charter school may choose to provide a preschool program for
18 children with disabilities pursuant to section 15-771.

19 EE. Pursuant to the prescribed graduation requirements adopted by
20 the state board of education, the governing body of a charter school
21 operating a high school may approve a rigorous computer science course that
22 would fulfill a mathematics course required for graduation from high
23 school. The governing body may approve a rigorous computer science course
24 only if the rigorous computer science course includes significant
25 mathematics content and the governing body determines the high school where
26 the rigorous computer science course is offered has sufficient capacity,
27 infrastructure and qualified staff, including competent teachers of
28 computer science.

29 FF. A charter school may ~~permit~~ ALLOW the use of school property,
30 including school buildings, grounds, buses and equipment, by any person,
31 group or organization for any lawful purpose, including a recreational,
32 educational, political, economic, artistic, moral, scientific, social,

1 religious or other civic or governmental purpose. The charter school may
2 charge a reasonable fee for the use of the school property.

3 GG. A charter school and its employees, including the governing
4 body, or chief administrative officer, are immune from civil liability with
5 respect to all decisions made and actions taken to allow the use of school
6 property, unless the charter school or its employees are guilty of gross
7 negligence or intentional misconduct. This subsection does not limit any
8 other immunity provisions that are prescribed by law.

9 HH. Sponsors authorized pursuant to this section shall submit an
10 annual report to the auditor general on or before October 1. The report
11 shall include:

12 1. The current number of charters authorized and the number of
13 schools operated by authorized charter holders.

14 2. The academic, operational and financial performance of the
15 sponsor's charter portfolio as measured by the sponsor's adopted
16 performance framework.

17 3. For the prior year, the number of new charters approved, the
18 number of charter schools closed and the reason for the closure.

19 4. The sponsor's application, amendment, renewal and revocation
20 processes, charter contract template and current performance framework as
21 required by this section.

22 II. The auditor general shall prescribe the format for the annual
23 report required by subsection HH of this section and may require that the
24 annual report be submitted electronically. The auditor general shall
25 review the submitted annual reports to ensure that the reports include the
26 required items in subsection HH of this section and shall make the annual
27 reports available on request. If the auditor general finds significant
28 noncompliance or if a sponsor fails to submit the annual report required by
29 subsection HH of this section, on or before December 31 of each year the
30 auditor general shall report to the governor, the president of the senate,
31 the speaker of the house of representatives and the chairs of the senate
32 and house education committees or their successor committees, and the

1 legislature shall consider revoking the sponsor's authority to sponsor
2 charter schools.

3 JJ. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A CHARTER SCHOOL THAT HAS BEEN
4 APPROVED AS AN ACHIEVEMENT DISTRICT SCHOOL UNDER SECTION 41-5841 MAY EXPAND
5 TO SERVE MORE STUDENTS THROUGH EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

6 1. AN ENROLLMENT CAP INCREASE. THE CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL APPLY TO
7 THE CHARTER SPONSOR FOR APPROVAL OF AN ENROLLMENT CAP INCREASE PURSUANT TO
8 THIS SUBSECTION THROUGH AN EXPEDITED PROCESS THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE
9 CHARTER SPONSOR.

10 2. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHOOL. THE CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL
11 APPLY TO THE CHARTER SPONSOR FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW SCHOOL PURSUANT TO THIS
12 SUBSECTION THROUGH AN EXPEDITED PROCESS THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE CHARTER
13 SPONSOR.

14 KK. THE EXPEDITED PROCESS PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION JJ OF THIS
15 SECTION ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS SHALL:

16 1. REQUIRE THAT AN APPLICATION FOR AN ENROLLMENT CAP INCREASE OR
17 ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHOOL PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION JJ OF THIS SECTION BE
18 REVIEWED AND ACTED ON WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER SUBMISSION.

19 2. REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD
20 FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS ONLY, EXCEPT THAT IF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DENIES THE
21 APPLICATION, THE APPLICATION SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD FOR
22 CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR A FINAL DETERMINATION.

23 3. REDUCE UNNECESSARY AND DUPLICATIVE PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS. A
24 CHARTER SCHOOL APPLYING UNDER SUBSECTION JJ OF THIS SECTION TO THE STATE
25 BOARD FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS:

26 (a) IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT MORE THAN A ONE FULL PAGE NARRATIVE
27 EXPLAINING THE RATIONALE FOR GROWTH.

28 (b) IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN ENROLLMENT MATRIX AND STAFFING
29 CHART.

1 Sec. 2. Section 15-241, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
2 read:

3 15-241. School, charter school and school district
4 accountability; annual achievement profiles;
5 classification; letter grade system; profiles;
6 appeals process; failing schools tutoring fund;
7 definition

8 A. On or before November 1 of each year, the department of education
9 shall compile for each public school and local education agency, and shall
10 recommend to the state board of education, an annual achievement profile
11 that consists of an educational dashboard that reflects the achievement for
12 each public school and local education agency on the academic and
13 educational performance indicators prescribed in subsection D of this
14 section, except that a career technical education district may not be
15 assigned a letter grade pursuant to this section. The department shall
16 provide any technical assistance needed by the state board to make final
17 adoption of the annual achievement profile.

18 B. Each school, charter holder and school district shall submit to
19 the department of education any data that is required and requested and
20 that is necessary to compile the achievement profile. A school or local
21 education agency that fails to submit the information that is necessary is
22 not eligible to receive monies from the classroom site fund established by
23 section 15-977.

24 C. The annual achievement profile compiled by the department of
25 education and recommended to the state board of education shall be used to
26 determine a standard measurement of acceptable academic progress for each
27 school and local education agency and a school and local education agency
28 classification pursuant to subsection G of this section. Any disclosure of
29 educational records compiled by the department pursuant to this section
30 shall comply with the family educational rights and privacy act of 1974 (20
31 United States Code section 1232g).

1 D. The annual achievement profile for schools and local education
2 agencies shall include, at a minimum, the following academic and
3 educational performance indicators:

4 1. Multiple measures of **STUDENT** academic performance or other
5 academically relevant indicators of school quality that are appropriate to
6 assess the educational impact of a school during the academic year as
7 determined by the state board of education.

8 2. **STUDENT** academic progress on assessments adopted pursuant to
9 sections 15-741 and 15-741.02 in English language arts and mathematics.

10 3. **STUDENT** academic progress on the English language learner
11 assessments administered pursuant to section 15-756, subsection B and
12 section 15-756.05.

13 4. **STUDENT** progress toward college and career readiness for all
14 schools and local education agencies that offer instruction in any of
15 grades nine through twelve.

16 5. **STUDENT** academic progress on assessments administered pursuant to
17 section 15-741.02.

18 6. Multiple measures of educational performance or other relevant
19 indicators of school quality that assess a school's educational impact,
20 such as graduation rates and attendance rates.

21 E. If neither the school nor the school district meets the minimum
22 student count as recommended by the department of education and approved by
23 the state board of education for any of the performance indicators
24 prescribed in subsection D of this section, the performance indicator shall
25 not be factored into the letter grade assigned pursuant to this section.

26 F. Subject to final adoption by the state board of education, the
27 department of education shall determine the criteria for each school and
28 local education agency classification on each performance indicator of the
29 annual achievement profile prescribed in subsection D of this section using
30 a ~~researched-based~~ **RESEARCH-BASED** methodology and shall recommend to the
31 state board for final adoption the criteria for each school and local
32 education agency classification. The department shall develop the

1 methodology in collaboration with a coalition of qualified technical and
2 policy stakeholders appointed by the state board. The department shall
3 provide technical assistance and, on request, student or statewide
4 performance indicator data needed to determine and calculate the
5 methodology and final letter grades. At a minimum, the methodology shall
6 include the performance of pupils at all achievement levels, account for
7 pupil mobility, account for the distribution of pupil achievement at each
8 school and local education agency and include longitudinal indicators of
9 academic performance. For the purposes of this subsection,
10 "researched-based RESEARCH-BASED methodology" means the systematic and
11 objective application of statistical and quantitative research principles
12 to calculate the indicators used to determine A through F letter grades.

13 G. The annual achievement profile shall use classifications based on
14 an A through F letter grade system adopted by the state board of education
15 in which a letter grade of A reflects an excellent level of performance and
16 a letter grade of F reflects a failing level of performance. The A through
17 F letter grade system shall be applied to each performance indicator of the
18 annual achievement profile prescribed in subsection D of this section, and
19 the state board shall assign an overall letter grade for the public school
20 or local education agency. The A through F letter grade system shall
21 indicate expected standards of performance for all schools on each
22 performance indicator of the annual achievement profile prescribed in
23 subsection D of this section and the manner in which schools may rise above
24 or fall below those expected standards of performance. The state board may
25 also assign a school a letter grade of F on each performance indicator of
26 the annual achievement profile prescribed in subsection D of this section
27 if the state board determines that the school is among the persistently
28 lowest-achieving schools in the state on the majority of the performance
29 indicators of the annual achievement profile under the federal school
30 accountability requirements pursuant to section 1003(g) of the elementary
31 and secondary education act (20 United States Code section 6303).

1 H. The classification on each performance indicator of the annual
2 achievement profile for each school and the criteria used to determine
3 classification pursuant to subsections F and G of this section shall be
4 included on the school report card prescribed in section 15-746.

5 I. Subject to final adoption by the state board of education, the
6 department of education shall use achievement profiles appropriately to
7 assess the educational impact of accommodation schools, alternative schools
8 and extremely small schools, may develop profiles for schools that
9 participate in the board examination system prescribed in chapter 7,
10 article 6 of this title and schools that participate in Arizona online
11 instruction pursuant to section 15-808 and may develop other exceptions as
12 prescribed by the state board for the purposes of this section.

13 J. The department of education shall establish a process, including
14 a deadline for when requests must be submitted, for a school or local
15 education agency to correct student data used to determine the school's or
16 local education agency's annual achievement profile. If a correction to
17 student data is required, the department shall notify the school or local
18 education agency of the data correction process and shall annually process
19 student data correction requests. The state board of education shall
20 establish an appeals process to allow a school or local education agency to
21 appeal the school's or local education agency's final letter grade, or a
22 letter grade applied to a performance indicator prescribed in subsection D
23 of this section, based on mitigating factors, including achievement profile
24 designations based on incorrect data, identified by the department.

25 K. The failing schools tutoring fund is established consisting of
26 monies collected pursuant to section 42-5029, subsection E and section
27 42-5029.02, subsection A, paragraph 8 as designated for this purpose. The
28 department of education shall administer the fund. The department may use
29 monies from the fund to purchase materials designed to assist students to
30 meet the Arizona academic standards and to achieve a passing score on
31 assessments adopted by the state board of education.

1 L. For the purposes of this section, "academic progress" means
2 measures of both proficiency and academic gain.

3 Sec. 3. Section 15-241.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
4 read:

5 15-241.01. School accountability; alternative operation plans

6 A. If a school district has six or more schools and at least
7 one-half of the schools in the district are assigned a letter grade of D or
8 F pursuant to this section and at least one school is assigned a letter
9 grade of F, the department of education may submit to the state board of
10 education a recommendation for a public hearing to determine ~~TF~~ WHETHER the
11 school district should be subject to an alternative operation plan and the
12 reasons for that recommendation. When considering whether to recommend a
13 public hearing pursuant to this subsection, the department shall consider
14 at least the following:

15 1. The likelihood that continued school-based interventions will be
16 successful.

17 2. The extent to which the school district administrators and the
18 school district governing board impacted the assignment of the letter
19 grades of D and F to the district's schools.

20 3. Whether those schools assigned a letter grade of D or F have
21 demonstrated reasonable academic growth as determined by the measure of
22 academic progress established pursuant to this section.

23 B. If the department of education recommends a public hearing
24 pursuant to subsection A of this section, the state board of education
25 shall meet and may provide by a majority vote of the entire board for the
26 development and implementation of an alternative operation plan as allowed
27 by this section. When determining whether to place a school district under
28 an alternative operation plan, the state board shall consider at least the
29 following:

30 1. The likelihood that continued school-based interventions will be
31 successful.

1 2. The extent to which the school district administrators and the
2 school district governing board impacted the assignment of the letter
3 grades D and F to the district's schools.

4 3. Whether those schools assigned a letter grade of D or F have
5 demonstrated reasonable academic growth as determined by the measure of
6 academic progress established pursuant to this section.

7 C. Before a **PUBLIC** hearing is held pursuant to subsection B of this
8 section, the department of education shall recommend to the state board of
9 education at least three governmental, nonprofit or private organizations
10 or persons to manage the school district's affairs. If the state board
11 approves the implementation of an alternative operation plan, it shall make
12 an appointment from the list provided by the department of education. On
13 making this appointment the state board shall immediately determine which
14 powers enumerated in subsection D of this section ~~shall~~ **WILL** be temporarily
15 granted to the appointed organization or person. The authority granted
16 pursuant to this subsection ~~shall~~ **be** **IS** effective until the state board
17 reviews the alternative operation plan as described in subsection E of this
18 section.

19 D. An organization or person appointed pursuant to subsection C of
20 this section shall begin a full review and investigation of the school
21 district's educational affairs and shall submit to the state board of
22 education a detailed report listing the findings of that investigation.
23 This report shall include an alternative operation plan that details how
24 the school district will raise the level of academic achievement so that
25 all of the schools in the school district are assigned ~~grade~~ **letters** **LETTER**
26 **GRADES** of A, B or C pursuant to this section. The plan shall include a
27 proposed timeline for improving academic achievement. The alternative
28 operation plan shall also include a timeline and details concerning how the
29 organization or person will transition the administration of the school
30 district back to the locally elected governing board. The organization or
31 person shall submit the report within one hundred twenty days ~~from~~ **AFTER**
32 the date the organization or person was appointed by the state board. If

1 approved by the state board, the alternative operation plan may authorize
2 the appointed organization or person to do any of the following:

3 1. Override any decisions of the school district governing board or
4 the school district superintendent, or both, concerning the management and
5 operation of the school district, and initiate and make decisions
6 concerning the management and operation of the school district, including
7 reopening the school as a charter school.

8 2. Hire personnel, terminate personnel and cancel existing
9 employment contracts, including the district superintendent, to the extent
10 permitted by law. The appointed organization or person may refuse to
11 reemploy any certificated teacher who has not been employed by the school
12 district for more than the major portion of three consecutive school years
13 as provided in section 15-536.

14 3. Attend any meetings of the school district governing board and
15 administrative staff.

16 4. Supervise the activities of the school district's staff,
17 including reassigning the duties and responsibilities of personnel in a
18 manner that, as determined by the appointed organization or person, best
19 suits the needs of the school district.

20 5. To the extent permitted by law, cancel or renegotiate any
21 contract, other than contracts of certificated teachers who have been
22 employed by the school district in the capacity of a certificated teacher
23 for more than one year, to which the governing board or the school district
24 is a party if the cancellation or renegotiation of the contract will
25 produce needed economies in the operation of the district's schools.

26 E. The state board of education shall periodically review the status
27 of a school district that is operating under an alternative operation plan
28 pursuant to this section to determine whether the operations of the school
29 district should be returned to the school district governing board. Before
30 the state board makes a determination to terminate an alternative operation
31 plan, the state board or its designee shall meet with the school district
32 governing board or its designee to establish an appropriate time frame and

1 address any additional operational considerations that are necessary to
2 ensure a smooth transition of authority from the appointed organization or
3 person back to the school district governing board. When determining
4 whether to terminate an alternative operation plan, the state board shall
5 consider whether the district's schools have made significant academic
6 gains as determined by individual school achievement profiles established
7 pursuant to this section.

8 F. If at any time the state board determines that the progress of an
9 organization or person who is appointed pursuant to this subsection or
10 subsection C of this section is insufficient, the state board may remove
11 that organization or person and make an alternative appointment. All
12 authority granted pursuant to the approved alternative operation plan shall
13 be transferred to the newly appointed organization or person. The state
14 board may require the newly appointed organization or person to prepare a
15 revised alternative operation plan as described in subsection D of this
16 section.

17 G. All expenses and costs of an organization or person appointed by
18 the state board pursuant to subsection C or F of this section shall be paid
19 by the school district. The state board of education shall review the
20 expenses and costs at least twice each calendar year to ensure that the
21 fees are reasonable and appropriate.

22 H. The operation of a school district by an organization or person
23 appointed pursuant to this section shall not interfere with the election of
24 school district governing board members.

25 I. The school district shall indemnify the organization or person
26 appointed pursuant to subsection C or F of this section if that
27 organization or person is made or threatened to be made a party to any
28 litigation by reason of the organization's or person's status under this
29 section **AND** if the organization or person acted in good faith and in a
30 manner the organization or person believed to be lawful and in the best
31 interest of the school district.

1 J. All information received and records or reports kept by the state
2 board of education during an investigation resulting from a complaint
3 against an organization or person appointed pursuant to subsection C or F
4 of this section are confidential and are not public records.

5 K. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW AND BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2029, THE
6 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL REQUIRE ANY SCHOOL THAT IS OPERATED BY A
7 SCHOOL DISTRICT, THAT IS ASSIGNED A LETTER GRADE OF F PURSUANT TO SECTION
8 15-241 FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS AND THAT HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED STUDENT
9 GROWTH AT A RATE HIGHER THAN THIS STATE TO SELECT TO EITHER INITIATE A
10 COLLABORATIVE OPERATIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL PARTNERSHIP AS PRESCRIBED IN
11 PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION OR BE ASSIGNED A SOLUTIONS TEAM AND AN
12 ALTERNATIVE OPERATION PLAN AS PRESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION.
13 DEPENDING ON THE SCHOOL'S SELECTION, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL
14 EITHER:

15 1. REQUIRE THE SCHOOL TO INITIATE A COLLABORATIVE OPERATIONAL AND
16 INSTRUCTIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH A SCHOOL THAT IS ASSIGNED A LETTER GRADE OF
17 A PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-241 OR AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS DEMONSTRATED
18 INCREASING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT WITH STUDENTS SIMILAR TO THE STUDENT
19 DEMOGRAPHIC POPULATION OF THE SCHOOL. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL
20 ALLOW FOR A VARIETY OF OPTIONS IN THE SELECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
21 COLLABORATIVE OPERATIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND MAY NOT
22 PRESCRIBE THE SCOPE OF THE PARTNERSHIP. IF A SCHOOL SELECTS THIS OPTION,
23 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL REVIEW AND APPROVE THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN.
24 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ESTABLISH A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE BOARD THAT
25 INCLUDES STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL
26 COMMUNITY, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE COUNTY
27 SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT FROM THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE SCHOOL IS LOCATED OR
28 OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
29 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING THE COLLABORATIVE OPERATIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL
30 PARTNERSHIP. A COLLABORATIVE OPERATIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL
31 PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MUST ADDRESS ALL OF THE
32 FOLLOWING:

(a) A SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK THAT HAS DEMONSTRATED SUCCESS IN LIKE POPULATIONS.

(b) IDENTIFIED FOCUS ON GUARANTEED AND VIABLE CURRICULUM.

(c) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT IN PEDAGOGY AND
CONTENT.

(d) EVIDENCE OF A FOCUS ON DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS.

(e) IDENTIFIED FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT OF SITE LEADERS.

2. DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND THE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY TO COLLABORATE TO ASSIGN A SOLUTIONS TEAM UNDER SECTION 15-241.02, SUBSECTION E AND HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE OPERATION PLAN FOR THE SCHOOL PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-241.02, SUBSECTION K.

L. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION K OF THIS SECTION FOR ONE YEAR IF THE SCHOOL IN THE MOST RECENT SCHOOL YEAR FOR WHICH DATA IS AVAILABLE HAS ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC GROWTH WITH STUDENTS, AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Sec. 4. Section 15-241.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-241.02. School improvement plans: solutions teams: withholding of state monies

A. If a school is assigned a letter grade of D pursuant to section 15-241, within ninety days after receiving notice of the classification, the school district governing board shall develop an improvement plan for the school, submit a copy of the plan to the superintendent of public instruction and the county educational service agency and supervise the implementation of the plan. The governing board shall include in the plan necessary components as identified by the state board of education. Within thirty days after submitting the improvement plan to the superintendent of public instruction and the county educational service agency, the governing board shall hold a public meeting in each school that has been assigned a letter grade of D and shall present the respective improvement plans that have been developed for each school. The governing board, within thirty

1 days after receiving notice of the classification, shall provide written
2 notification of the classification to each residence within the attendance
3 area of the school. The notice shall explain the improvement plan process
4 and provide information regarding the public meeting required by this
5 subsection.

6 B. A school that has not submitted an improvement plan pursuant to
7 subsection A of this section is not eligible to receive monies from the
8 classroom site fund established by section 15-977 for every day that a plan
9 has not been received by the superintendent of public instruction within
10 the time specified in subsection A of this section plus an additional
11 ninety days. The state board of education shall require the superintendent
12 of the school district to testify before the board and explain the reasons
13 that an improvement plan for that school has not been submitted.

14 C. If a charter school is assigned a letter grade of D pursuant to
15 section 15-241, within thirty days the school shall notify the parents of
16 the students attending the school of the classification. The notice shall
17 explain the improvement plan process and provide information regarding the
18 public meeting required by this subsection. Within ninety days after
19 receiving the classification, the charter holder shall present an
20 improvement plan to the charter sponsor at a public meeting and submit a
21 copy of the plan to the sponsor of the charter school. The charter holder
22 shall include in the improvement plan necessary components as identified by
23 the state board of education. The school is not eligible to receive monies
24 from the classroom site fund established by section 15-977 for every day
25 that an improvement plan has not been received by the sponsor of the
26 charter school within the time specified in this subsection plus an
27 additional ninety days. The charter holder shall appear before the
28 sponsoring board and explain why the improvement plan has not been
29 submitted.

30 D. If a school is assigned a letter grade of D pursuant to section
31 15-241 for a third consecutive year, the department of education shall
32 visit the school site to confirm the classification data and to review the

1 implementation of the school's improvement plan. The school shall be
2 assigned a letter grade of F unless an alternate letter grade is assigned
3 after an appeal pursuant to section 15-241, subsection J. A school that is
4 assigned a letter grade of D for fewer than three consecutive years may
5 also be assigned a letter grade of F if the state board of education
6 determines that there is no reasonable likelihood that the school will
7 achieve an average level of performance within the next two years.

8 E. The superintendent of public instruction and the county
9 educational service agency shall collaborate to assign a solutions team to
10 a school assigned a letter grade of D pursuant to section 15-241, ~~or~~ a
11 school assigned a letter grade of F pursuant to section 15-241 **OR A SCHOOL**
THAT HAS SELECTED THE OPTION PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-241.01, SUBSECTION K,
PARAGRAPH 2 based on academic need and available resources. County
14 educational service agencies may enter into agreements to provide services
15 to schools from other counties. Any other school, subject to available
16 resources, may be assigned a solutions team pursuant to a mutual agreement
17 between the department of education or the county education service agency,
18 or both, and the school. The solutions team shall be composed of master
19 teachers, fiscal analysts and curriculum assessment experts who are
20 certified by the state board of education as Arizona academic standards
21 technicians. The department of education or the county educational service
22 agency may hire or contract with administrators, principals and teachers
23 who have demonstrated experience in improving academic outcomes and may use
24 these personnel as part of the solutions team. The department of education
25 shall work with staff at the school to assist in curricula alignment and
26 shall instruct teachers on how to increase pupil academic progress,
27 considering the school's annual achievement profile. The solutions team
28 shall consider the existing improvement plan to assess the need for changes
29 to curricula, professional development and resource allocation and shall
30 present a statement of its findings to the school administrator and
31 district superintendent. Within forty-five days after the presentation of
32 the solutions team's statement of findings, the school district governing

1 board, in cooperation with each school within the school district that is
2 assigned a letter grade of D and its assigned solutions team
3 representative, shall develop and submit to the department of education and
4 the county educational service agency an action plan that details the
5 manner in which the school district will assist the school as the school
6 incorporates the findings of the solutions team into the improvement plan.
7 The department of education shall review the action plan and shall either
8 accept the action plan or return the action plan to the school district for
9 modification. If the school district does not submit an approved action
10 plan within forty-five days, the state board of education may direct the
11 superintendent of public instruction to withhold up to ten percent of state
12 monies that the school district would otherwise be entitled to receive each
13 month until the plan is submitted to the department of education and the
14 county educational service agency, at which time those monies shall be
15 returned to the school district.

16 F. The parent or guardian of a pupil may apply to the department of
17 education, in a manner determined by the department of education, for a
18 certificate of supplemental instruction from the failing schools tutoring
19 fund established by section 15-241. Pupils attending a school assigned a
20 letter grade of D or F may select an alternative tutoring program in
21 academic standards from a provider that is certified by the state board of
22 education. To qualify, the provider must state in writing a level of
23 academic improvement for the pupil that includes a timeline for improvement
24 that is agreed to by the parent or guardian of the pupil. The state board
25 of education shall annually review academic performance levels for
26 certified providers and may remove a provider at a public hearing from an
27 approved list of providers if that provider fails to meet its stated level
28 of academic improvement. The state board of education shall determine the
29 application guidelines and the maximum value for each certificate of
30 supplemental instruction. The state board of education shall annually
31 complete a market survey in order to determine the maximum value for each
32 certificate of supplemental instruction. This subsection does not require

1 this state to provide additional monies beyond the monies provided pursuant
2 to section 42-5029, subsection E, paragraph 7 or section 42-5029.02,
3 subsection A, paragraph 7.

4 G. Within sixty days after receiving notification of a school being
5 assigned a letter grade of F pursuant to section 15-241, the school
6 district governing board shall evaluate needed changes to the existing
7 school improvement plan, consider recommendations from the solutions team,
8 submit a copy of the plan to the superintendent of public instruction and
9 the county educational service agency and supervise the implementation of
10 the plan. Within thirty days after submitting the improvement plan to the
11 superintendent of public instruction and the county educational service
12 agency, the governing board shall hold a public meeting in each school that
13 has been assigned a letter grade of F and shall present the respective
14 improvement plans that have been developed for each school. The governing
15 board, within thirty days after receiving notice of the classification,
16 shall provide written notification of the classification to each residence
17 in the attendance area of the school. The notice shall explain the
18 improvement plan process and provide information regarding the public
19 meeting required by this subsection.

20 H. A school that has not submitted an improvement plan pursuant to
21 subsection G of this section is not eligible to receive monies from the
22 classroom site fund established by section 15-977 for every day that a plan
23 has not been received by the superintendent of public instruction within
24 the time specified in subsection G of this section plus an additional
25 ninety days. The state board of education shall require the superintendent
26 of the school district to testify before the board and explain the reasons
27 that an improvement plan for that school has not been submitted.

28 I. If a charter school is assigned a letter grade of F pursuant to
29 section 15-241, the department of education shall immediately notify the
30 charter school's sponsor. The charter school's sponsor shall either take
31 action to restore the charter school to acceptable performance **PURSUANT TO**
32 **A PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY THE CHARTER SPONSOR** or revoke the charter school's

1 charter. Within thirty days, the charter school shall notify the parents
2 of the students attending the school of the classification and of any
3 pending public meetings to review the issue.

4 J. The department of education shall evaluate a school that has been
5 assigned a letter grade of F pursuant to section 15-241 to determine
6 whether the school, charter holder or school district failed to properly
7 implement its school improvement plan, align the curricula with academic
8 standards, provide teacher training, prioritize the budget or implement
9 other proven strategies to improve academic performance. After visiting
10 the school site pursuant to subsection D of this section, the department of
11 education shall submit to the state board of education a recommendation
12 either to proceed pursuant to subsections E, F and G of this section or
13 that the school be subject to a public hearing to determine whether the
14 school failed to properly implement its improvement plan and the reasons
15 for the department's recommendation. If the school is a charter school,
16 the department shall submit a report to the sponsor of the charter school.
17 The sponsor shall make a determination pursuant to subsection N of this
18 section.

19 K. If the department recommends a public hearing **OR IF A SCHOOL**
20 **SELECTS THE OPTION PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-241.01, SUBSECTION K, PARAGRAPH**
21 **2**, the state board of education shall meet and may provide by a majority
22 vote at the public hearing for the continued operation of the school as
23 allowed by this subsection. The state board of education shall determine
24 whether governmental, nonprofit and private organizations may submit
25 applications to the state board to fully or partially manage the
26 school. The state board's determination shall include:

- 27 1. Whether and to what extent the local governing board may
28 participate in the operation of the school, including personnel matters.
- 29 2. Whether and to what extent the state board will participate in
30 the operation of the school.
- 31 3. Resource allocation pursuant to subsection M of this section.

1 4. Provisions for the development and submittal of a school
2 improvement plan to be presented in a public meeting at the school.

3 5. A suggested time frame for the alternative operation of the
4 school.

5 L. The state board of education shall periodically review the status
6 of a school that is operated by an organization other than the school
7 district governing board to determine whether the operation of the school
8 should be returned to the school district governing board. Before the
9 state board makes a determination, the state board or its designee shall
10 meet with the school district governing board or its designee to determine
11 the time frame, operational considerations and appropriate continuation of
12 existing improvements that are necessary to ensure a smooth transition of
13 authority from the other organization back to the school district governing
14 board.

15 M. If an alternative operation plan is provided pursuant to
16 subsection K of this section, the state board of education shall pay for
17 the operation of the school and shall adjust the school district's district
18 additional assistance pursuant to section 15-961, base support level
19 pursuant to section 15-943, monies distributed from the classroom site fund
20 established by section 15-977 and transportation support level pursuant to
21 section 15-945 to accurately reflect any reduction in district services
22 that are no longer provided to that school by the district. The state
23 board may modify the school district's revenue control limit, the district
24 support level and the general budget limit calculated pursuant to section
25 15-947 by an amount that corresponds to this reduction in services. The
26 state board shall retain the portion of state aid that would otherwise be
27 due the school district for the school and shall distribute that portion of
28 state aid directly to the organization that contracts with the state board
29 to operate the school.

30 N. If the sponsor of a charter school determines that a charter
31 holder failed to properly implement its improvement plan, the sponsor of
32 the charter school shall revoke the charter school's charter.

1 0. If there are more than two schools in a district and more than
2 one-half, or in any case more than five, of the schools in the district are
3 assigned a letter grade of F pursuant to section 15-241 for more than two
4 consecutive years, in the next election of governing board members the
5 election ballot shall contain the following statement immediately above the
6 listing of governing board candidates:

7 Within the last five years, (number of schools) schools
8 in the _____ school district have been assigned a letter
9 grade of D or F.

10 P. At least twice each year the department of education shall
11 publish in a newspaper of general circulation in each county of this state
12 a list of schools that are assigned a letter grade of F pursuant to section
13 15-241.

14 Q. The state board of education shall adopt guidelines to include
15 supplementary training in reading instruction for teachers who provide
16 instruction to pupils in a kindergarten program or grade one, two or three
17 in an improvement plan pursuant to subsection A of this section.

18 R. In addition to any other corrective procedures prescribed in this
19 section and sections 15-241 and 15-241.01, a school that has been assigned
20 a letter grade of D or F for two consecutive years shall implement a
21 science, technology, engineering and mathematics intervention strategy
22 under the supervision of the state board of education.

23 S. In addition to any other corrective procedures prescribed in this
24 section, a school district that has been assigned a letter grade of D or F
25 pursuant to section 15-241 for two consecutive years shall implement a
26 parent involvement strategy. The parent involvement strategy shall be
27 included in the school improvement plan for each applicable school within
28 the district, as prescribed in subsection A or G of this section, as
29 applicable.

30 T. The department of education shall publish criteria for a school's
31 or school district's exit status from a previous assignment of a letter
32 grade of F in accordance with this section. The criteria shall prescribe

1 the actions and results necessary to be deemed to have complied with this
2 section regarding school improvement, including the proper implementation
3 of a school improvement plan pursuant to subsection J of this section.
4 These criteria shall be provided to a school or school district if it is
5 assigned a letter grade of F pursuant to section 15-241.

6 Sec. 5. Section 41-5702, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
7 read:

8 41-5702. Powers and duties; staffing; reporting requirements
9 A. The division shall:
10 1. Assess school facilities and equipment deficiencies and approve
11 the distribution of grants as appropriate.
12 2. Maintain a database of school facilities to allow for the
13 administration of the new school facilities formula and the building
14 renewal grant fund. The facilities listed in the database must include all
15 buildings that are owned by school districts. The division shall ensure
16 that the database is updated on at least an annual basis. Each school
17 district shall report to the division not later than September 1 of each
18 year information as required by the division to administer the building
19 renewal grant fund and by the school facilities oversight board to compute
20 new school facilities formula distributions, including the nature and cost
21 of major repairs, renovations or physical improvements to or replacement of
22 building systems or equipment that were made in the previous year and that
23 were paid for either with local monies or monies provided from the building
24 renewal grant fund. Each school district shall report any school or school
25 buildings that have been closed, that are vacant or partially used pursuant
26 to section 15-119 and that have been leased to another entity or that
27 operate as a charter school. The division shall develop guidelines and
28 definitions for the reporting prescribed in this paragraph and ~~may~~ SHALL
29 review or audit the information, or both, to confirm the information
30 submitted by a school district. Notwithstanding any other provision of
31 this chapter, if a school district converts space that is listed in the
32 database maintained pursuant to this paragraph to space that will be used

1 for administrative purposes, the school district is responsible for any
2 costs associated with converting, maintaining and replacing that space. If
3 a building is significantly upgraded or remodeled, the division shall
4 adjust the age of that school facility in the database as follows:

5 (a) Determine the building capacity value as follows:
6 (i) Multiply the student capacity of the building by the per pupil
7 square foot capacity established by section 41-5741.

8 (ii) Multiply the product determined in item (i) of this subdivision
9 by the cost per square foot established by section 41-5741.

10 (b) Divide the cost of the renovation by the building capacity value
11 determined in subdivision (a) of this paragraph.

12 (c) Multiply the quotient determined in subdivision (b) of this
13 paragraph by the currently listed age of the building in the database.

14 (d) Subtract the product determined in subdivision (c) of this
15 paragraph from the currently listed age of the building in the database,
16 rounded to the nearest whole number. If the result is a negative number,
17 use zero.

18 3. Inspect, contract with a third party to inspect or certify school
19 district self-inspections of school buildings at least once every five
20 years to ensure compliance with the building adequacy standards prescribed
21 in section 41-5711, the accuracy of the reporting of vacant and partially
22 used buildings pursuant to this subsection and routine preventive
23 maintenance guidelines as prescribed in this section with respect to
24 constructing new buildings and maintaining existing buildings. The
25 division shall randomly select twenty school districts every thirty months
26 and provide for them to be inspected pursuant to this paragraph.

27 4. Develop prototypical elementary and high school designs. The
28 division shall review the design differences between the schools with the
29 highest academic productivity scores and the schools with the lowest
30 academic productivity scores. The division shall also review the results
31 of a valid and reliable survey of parent quality rating in the highest
32 performing schools and the lowest performing schools in this state. The

1 survey of parent quality rating shall be administered by the department of
2 education. The division shall consider the design elements of the schools
3 with the highest academic productivity scores and parent quality ratings in
4 the development of elementary and high school designs. The division shall
5 develop separate school designs for elementary, middle and high schools
6 with varying pupil capacities.

7 5. Develop application forms, reporting forms and procedures to
8 carry out the requirements of this article, including developing and
9 implementing policies and procedures to:

10 (a) Ensure that the division and the school facilities oversight
11 board, as applicable, notify school districts in a uniform manner of the
12 services and funding available for school districts from the board or the
13 division for facility construction, renovation and repair projects. The
14 policies and procedures shall require the division and the board to provide
15 at least one annual communication to school districts in a manner
16 prescribed by the division and shall require each school district to
17 develop and maintain a list of persons who are responsible for facilities
18 management at that school district.

19 (b) Establish a project eligibility assessment for all projects
20 submitted for building renewal grant funding or emergency deficiencies
21 correction funding, including establishing standardized criteria for
22 project eligibility. Before the division formally approves a project, the
23 staff of the division may review the costs and scope of the proposed
24 project with persons and entities that have submitted bids on the project.

25 (c) Ensure that the division and the school facilities oversight
26 board maintain standardized documentation of all projects submitted to the
27 board and the division for consideration to receive services or a financial
28 award from the board or the division. The board and the division shall
29 maintain standardized documentation of any project awarded monies by the
30 board or the division, including records of payments to school districts in
31 a manner prescribed by the division. The standardized documentation shall
32 include the following as part of the eligibility determination criteria:

(i) Whether the problem that the proposed project intends to address caused the building or facility to fall below the minimum school facility adequacy guidelines prescribed in section 41-5711.

(ii) Whether the school district performed the routine preventive maintenance required by section 41-5731 on the building or facility.

(d) Require a school district to submit contact information for each proposed project, including the name, email address and telephone number of persons who are responsible for facilities management at the school district.

(e) Require a school district to provide justification for each proposed project, including all of the following:

(i) The school district's use or planned use of the facility.

(ii) A detailed description of the problem and the school district's recommended solution.

(iii) Any completed professional study regarding the proposed project.

(iv) Any citation or report from government entities.

(v) The estimated cost of the proposed project, with documentation.

(vi) The project category.

(vii) A description of any local funding that will be used for the proposed project.

(viii) Documentation on associated insurance coverage, if applicable.

(f) Require that an initial application not be considered complete until all necessary information is submitted.

(g) Allow a school district to submit an incomplete application and request technical assistance from the staff of the board if the school district is unable to provide sufficient information in the initial application.

(h) If applicable, require that a complete application be received by the board at least fifteen business days before the next regularly scheduled board meeting in order for the application to be considered at that meeting. An incomplete application may be considered at that meeting if both the staff of the board and the superintendent of the school district deem the project critical.

(i) Allow the staff of the board or the division, as applicable, to notify a school district in writing before review by the board or division that the proposed project does not meet eligibility criteria prescribed in this chapter. The written notification shall include documentation to support the determination that the proposed project does not meet the eligibility criteria prescribed in this chapter. The school district may directly appeal the determination of ineligibility to the director of the division. The school district may directly appeal the director's determination of ineligibility to the board.

(j) Prohibit the staff of the board or division from requesting that a school district withdraw a project application from review by the board or division if the initial review determines that the proposed project may be ineligible for monies pursuant to this chapter.

6. Submit electronically an annual report on or before December 15 to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the superintendent of public instruction, the secretary of state and the governor that includes the following information:

(a) A detailed description of the amount of monies distributed by the division under this chapter in the previous fiscal year.

(b) A list of each capital project that received monies from the division under this chapter during the previous fiscal year, a brief description of each project that was funded and a summary of the division's reasons for distributing monies for the project.

(c) A summary of the findings and conclusions of the building maintenance inspections conducted pursuant to this article during the previous fiscal year.

(d) A summary of the findings of common design elements and characteristics of the highest performing schools and the lowest performing schools based on academic productivity, including the results of the parent quality rating survey. For the purposes of this subdivision, "academic productivity" means academic year advancement per calendar year as measured with student-level data using the statewide nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement test.

7. On or before December 1 of each year, report electronically to the joint committee on capital review the amounts necessary to fulfill the requirements of section 41-5721 for the following three fiscal years. In developing the amounts necessary for this report, the division shall use the most recent average daily membership data available. On request from the division, the department of education shall make available the most recent average daily membership data for use in calculating the amounts necessary to fulfill the requirements of section 41-5721 for the following three fiscal years. The division shall provide copies of the report to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the governor.

8. On or before June 15 of each year, submit electronically detailed information regarding demographic assumptions and a proposed construction schedule for individual projects approved in the current fiscal year and expected project approvals for the upcoming fiscal year to the joint committee on capital review for its review. A copy of the report shall also be submitted electronically to the governor's office of strategic planning and budgeting. The joint legislative budget committee staff, the governor's office of strategic planning and budgeting staff and the division staff shall agree on the format of the report.

9. Every two years, provide school districts with information on improving and maintaining the indoor environmental quality in school buildings.

10. Adopt rules regarding the validation of adjacent ways projects pursuant to paragraph 11 of this subsection.

1 11. Validate proposed adjacent ways projects that are submitted by
2 school districts as prescribed in section 15-995 pursuant to rules adopted
3 by the division under paragraph 10 of this subsection.

4 12. Submit a monthly report to the school facilities oversight board
5 that details each adjacent ways project validated pursuant to paragraph 11
6 of this subsection.

7 13. Brief the joint committee on capital review at least once each
8 year regarding the use of monies from all of the following:

9 (a) The emergency deficiencies correction fund established by
10 section 41-5721.

11 (b) The building renewal grant fund established by section 41-5731.

12 (c) The new school facilities fund established by section 41-5741.

13 B. The school facilities oversight board or the division may
14 contract for the following services in compliance with the procurement
15 practices prescribed in chapter 23 of this title:

16 1. Private services.

17 2. Construction project management services.

18 3. Assessments for school buildings to determine if the buildings
19 have outlived their useful life pursuant to section 41-5741, subsection G
20 or have been condemned.

21 4. Services related to land acquisition and development of a school
22 site.

23 C. The school facilities oversight board shall:

24 1. Review and approve student population projections submitted by
25 school districts to determine to what extent school districts are entitled
26 to monies to construct new facilities pursuant to section 41-5741. The
27 board shall make a final determination within five months after receiving
28 an application from a school district for monies from the new school
29 facilities fund.

30 2. Certify that plans for new school facilities meet the building
31 adequacy standards prescribed in section 41-5711.

1 3. Review and approve or reject requests submitted by school
2 districts to take actions pursuant to section 15-341, subsection G.

3 4. On or before December 15 of each year, electronically submit a
4 report to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the
5 senate, the superintendent of public instruction, the secretary of state
6 and the governor that includes the following information:

7 (a) A detailed description of the amount of monies the board
8 distributed under this chapter in the previous fiscal year.

9 (b) A list of each capital project that received monies from the
10 board under this chapter during the previous fiscal year, a brief
11 description of each project that was funded and a summary of the board's
12 reasons for distributing monies for the project.

13 (c) A summary of the findings and conclusions of the building
14 maintenance inspections conducted pursuant to this article during the
15 previous fiscal year.

16 5. On or before December 1 of each year, electronically report to
17 the joint committee on capital review the amounts necessary to fulfill the
18 requirements of section 41-5741 for the following three fiscal years. In
19 developing the amounts necessary for this report, the board shall use the
20 most recent average daily membership data available. On request from the
21 board, the department of education shall make available the most recent
22 average daily membership data for use in calculating the amounts necessary
23 to fulfill the requirements of section 41-5741 for the following three
24 fiscal years. The board shall provide copies of the report to the
25 president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and
26 the governor.

27 6. Adopt minimum school facility adequacy guidelines to provide the
28 minimum quality and quantity of school buildings and the facilities and
29 equipment necessary and appropriate to enable pupils to achieve the
30 educational goals of the Arizona state schools for the deaf and the blind.
31 The board shall establish minimum school facility adequacy guidelines
32 applicable to the Arizona state schools for the deaf and the blind.

1 7. On or before June 15 of each year, electronically submit to the
2 joint committee on capital review for its review detailed information
3 regarding demographic assumptions, a proposed construction schedule and new
4 school construction cost estimates for individual projects approved in the
5 current fiscal year and expected project approvals for the upcoming fiscal
6 year. A copy of the report shall also be submitted electronically to the
7 governor's office of strategic planning and budgeting. The joint
8 legislative budget committee staff, the governor's office of strategic
9 planning and budgeting staff and the board staff shall agree on the format
10 of the report.

11 8. On or before December 31 of each year, report to the joint
12 legislative budget committee on all class B bond approvals by school
13 districts in that year. Each school district shall report to the board on
14 or before December 1 of each year information required by the board for the
15 report prescribed in this paragraph.

16 D. The director of the division shall serve as the director of the
17 school facilities oversight board. The director may hire and fire
18 necessary staff subject to chapter 4, article 4 of this title and as
19 approved by the legislature in the budget. The staff of the school
20 facilities oversight board is exempt from chapter 4, articles 5 and 6 of
21 this title. The director:

22 1. Shall analyze applications for monies submitted to the board and
23 to the division by school districts.

24 2. Shall assist the board and the division in developing forms and
25 procedures for distributing and reviewing applications and distributing
26 monies to school districts.

27 3. May review or audit, or both, the expenditure of monies by a
28 school district for deficiencies corrections and new school facilities.

29 4. Shall assist the board and the division in preparing the board's
30 and division's annual reports.

31 5. Shall research and provide reports on issues of general interest
32 to the board and the division.

1 6. May aid school districts in developing reasonable and
2 cost-effective school designs in order to avoid statewide duplicated
3 efforts and unwarranted expenditures in the area of school design.

4 7. May assist school districts in facilitating the development of
5 multijurisdictional facilities.

6 8. Shall assist the board and the division in any other appropriate
7 matter or method as directed by the division and the members of the board.

8 9. Shall establish procedures to ensure compliance with the notice
9 and hearing requirements prescribed in section 15-905. The notice and
10 hearing procedures adopted by the board shall include the requirement, with
11 respect to the board's consideration of any application filed after July 1,
12 2001 or after December 31 of the year in which the property becomes
13 territory in the vicinity of a military airport or ancillary military
14 facility as defined in section 28-8461 for monies to fund the construction
15 of new school facilities proposed to be located in territory in the
16 vicinity of a military airport or ancillary military facility, that the
17 military airport receive notification of the application by first class
18 mail at least thirty days before any hearing concerning the application.

19 10. May expedite any request for monies in which the local match was
20 not obtained for a project that received preliminary approval by the state
21 board for school capital facilities.

22 11. Shall expedite any request for monies in which the school
23 district governing board submits an application that shows an immediate
24 need for a new school facility.

25 12. Shall determine administrative completeness within one month
26 after receiving an application from a school district for monies from the
27 new school facilities fund.

28 13. Shall provide technical support to school districts as requested
29 by school districts in connection with constructing new school facilities
30 and maintaining existing school facilities and may contract directly with
31 construction project managers pursuant to subsection B of this section.

1 This paragraph does not restrict a school district from contracting with a
2 construction project manager using district or state resources.

3 E. When appropriate, the board and the division shall review and use
4 the statewide school facilities inventory and needs assessment conducted by
5 the joint committee on capital review and issued in July, ~~1995~~.

6 F. The school facilities oversight board shall contract with one or
7 more private building inspectors to complete an initial assessment of
8 school facilities and equipment and shall inspect each school building in
9 this state at least once every five years to ensure compliance with section
10 41-5711. A copy of the inspection report, together with any
11 recommendations for building maintenance, shall be provided to the school
12 facilities oversight board and the governing board of the school district.

13 G. The division or the board, as applicable, may consider
14 appropriate combinations of facilities or uses in assessing and curing
15 deficiencies pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section and in
16 certifying plans for new school facilities pursuant to subsection C,
17 paragraph 2 of this section.

18 H. The board shall not award any monies to fund new facilities that
19 are financed by class A bonds that are issued by the school district.

20 I. The board or the division shall not distribute monies to a school
21 district for replacing or repairing facilities if the costs associated with
22 the replacement or repair are covered by insurance or a performance or
23 payment bond.

24 J. The division may contract for construction services and materials
25 that are necessary to correct existing deficiencies in school district
26 facilities. The division may procure the construction services necessary
27 pursuant to this subsection by any method, including
28 construction-manager-at-risk, design-build, design-bid-build or
29 job-order-contracting as provided by chapter 23 of this title. The
30 construction planning and services performed pursuant to this subsection
31 are exempt from section 41-791.01.

1 K. The division may enter into agreements with school districts to
2 allow division staff and contractors access to school property for the
3 purposes of performing the construction services necessary pursuant to
4 subsection J of this section.

5 L. Each school district shall develop routine preventive maintenance
6 guidelines for its facilities. The guidelines shall include plumbing
7 systems, electrical systems, heating, ventilation and air conditioning
8 systems, special equipment and other systems and for roofing systems shall
9 recommend visual inspections performed by district staff for signs of
10 structural stress and weakness. The guidelines shall be submitted to the
11 division for review and approval. If on inspection by the division it is
12 determined that a school district facility was inadequately maintained
13 pursuant to the school district's routine preventive maintenance
14 guidelines, the school district shall return the building to compliance
15 with the school district's routine preventive maintenance guidelines.

16 M. The ~~board and the~~ division may temporarily transfer monies, or,
17 if applicable, **THE BOARD MAY** direct the division to transfer monies,
18 between the emergency deficiencies correction fund established by section
19 41-5721 and the new school facilities fund established by section 41-5741
20 if all of the following conditions are met:

21 1. The transfer is necessary to avoid a temporary shortfall in the
22 fund into which the monies are transferred.

23 2. The transferred monies are restored to the fund where the monies
24 originated as soon as practicable after the temporary shortfall in the
25 other fund has been addressed.

26 3. The board and the division report to the joint committee on
27 capital review the amount of and the reason for any monies transferred.

28 N. After notifying each school district, and if a written objection
29 from the school district is not received by the board or the division
30 within thirty days after the notification, the board or the division may
31 access public utility company records of power, water, natural gas,
32 telephone and broadband usage to assemble consistent and accurate data on

1 utility consumption at school facilities to determine the effectiveness of
2 facility design, operation and maintenance measures intended to reduce
3 energy and water consumption and costs. Any public utility that provides
4 service to a school district in this state shall provide the data requested
5 by the board or the division pursuant to this subsection.

6 0. The division or the board shall not require a common school
7 district that provides instruction to pupils in grade nine to obtain
8 approval from the division or the board to reconfigure its school
9 facilities. A common school district that provides instruction to pupils
10 in grade nine is not entitled to additional monies from the division or the
11 board for facilities to educate pupils in grade nine.

12 P. A school district may appeal the denial of a request for monies
13 pursuant to this chapter or any other appealable agency action by the
14 division or the board pursuant to chapter 6, article 10 of this title. For
15 the purposes of this subsection, "appealable agency action" has the same
16 meaning prescribed in section 41-1092.

17 Sec. 6. Title 41, chapter 56, article 10, Arizona Revised Statutes,
18 is amended by adding section 41-5842, to read:

19 41-5842. Arizona expanding excellence fund: definition

20 A. THE ARIZONA EXPANDING EXCELLENCE FUND IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE
21 PURPOSES OF SEEDING HIGH QUALITY SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE. THE DEPARTMENT OF
22 ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND AT THE DIRECTION OF THE CREDIT
23 ENHANCEMENT ELIGIBILITY BOARD ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 41-5852. THE FUND
24 CONSISTS OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS, DONATIONS AND ANY
25 OTHER MONIES TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE CONTINUOUSLY
26 APPROPRIATED AND ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 35-190 RELATING
27 TO LAPsing OF APPROPRIATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ACCEPT AND SPEND FEDERAL
28 MONIES AND PRIVATE GRANTS, GIFTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEVISES TO ASSIST IN
29 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

30 B. THE CREDIT ENHANCEMENT ELIGIBILITY BOARD ESTABLISHED BY SECTION
31 41-5852 MAY DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE GRANTS FROM THE
32 FUND FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

1 1. SEEDING THE EXPANSION OF SCHOOLS THAT ARE APPROVED AS ACHIEVEMENT
2 DISTRICT SCHOOLS UNDER SECTION 41-5841 TO SERVE MORE STUDENTS IN LOW-INCOME
3 COMMUNITIES THAT DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOL.

4 2. SEEDING INNOVATIVE COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN SCHOOLS THAT ARE
5 APPROVED AS ACHIEVEMENT DISTRICT SCHOOLS UNDER SECTION 41-5841 AND OTHER
6 SCHOOLS IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES.

7 3. INCENTIVIZING THE EXPANSION OF HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOLS IN LOW-INCOME
8 COMMUNITIES IN THIS STATE FOR STUDENTS THAT DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A
9 HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOL.

10 4. SUPPORTING COLLABORATIVE OPERATIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL
11 PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN SCHOOLS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-241.01, SUBSECTION K.

12 C. THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE CREDIT
13 ENHANCEMENT ELIGIBILITY BOARD, SHALL ADOPT ANY RULES, POLICIES AND
14 PROCEDURES NECESSARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND.

15 D. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOL" MEANS A
16 SCHOOL THAT HAS BEEN ASSIGNED A LETTER GRADE OF A OR B PURSUANT TO SECTION
17 15-241.

18 Sec. 7. Operation excellence school improvement program;
19 school achievement improvement fund: distributions;
20 improvement plans; request for proposals;
21 independent school improvement partners; reporting
22 requirements; delayed repeal

23 A. Beginning in fiscal year 2022-2023, the operation excellence
24 school improvement program is established to improve academic outcomes and
25 opportunities for all students in schools that meet the eligibility
26 requirements prescribed in subsections C and D of this section. Schools
27 that receive funding from the school achievement improvement fund pursuant
28 to this section shall prioritize these resources to implement
29 evidence-based, proven strategies to increase academic proficiency and
30 growth.

31 B. The school achievement improvement fund is established for the
32 purposes of this section. The fund consists of legislative appropriations,

1 gifts, grants, donations and any other monies transferred to the fund. The
2 department of education shall administer the fund at the direction of the
3 state board of education. Monies in the fund are continuously appropriated
4 and are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised
5 Statutes, relating to lapsing of appropriations, except that any monies
6 remaining in the fund on December 31, 2027 revert to the state general
7 fund. The department of education may accept and spend federal monies and
8 private grants, gifts, contributions and devises to assist in carrying out
9 this section.

10 C. Beginning January 1, 2023, the state board of education shall
11 identify schools that will be designated as operation excellence schools.
12 The state board shall identify schools that meet either of the following
13 criteria:

14 1. Any school operated by a school district or charter holder that
15 received a letter grade of D or F during both the 2018-2019 fiscal year and
16 the 2021-2022 fiscal year pursuant to section 15-241, Arizona Revised
17 Statutes.

18 2. Any school operated by a school district or charter holder that
19 is not eligible to receive or has not been assigned a letter grade pursuant
20 to section 15-241, Arizona Revised Statutes, and that has been identified
21 by the department of education as a school requiring comprehensive support
22 and improvement for low achievement pursuant to the every student succeeds
23 act (P.L. 114-95; 129 Stat. 1802) in the prior or most recent fiscal year.

24 D. A school operated by a school district or charter holder may opt
25 to participate in the operation excellence school improvement program by
26 notifying the state board of education. A school may opt into operation
27 excellence if either of the following applies:

28 1. The school is operated by a school district or charter holder
29 that has been assigned a letter grade of C, D or F during the 2018-2019
30 fiscal year or the 2021-2022 fiscal year pursuant to section 15-241,
31 Arizona Revised Statutes, and at least sixty percent of the pupils enrolled
32 in the school meet the eligibility requirements established under the

1 national school lunch and child nutrition acts (42 United States Code
2 sections 1751 through 1793) for free or reduced-price lunches, or an
3 equivalent measure recognized for participating in the federal free and
4 reduced-price lunch program and other school programs dependent on a
5 poverty measure, including the community eligibility provision for which
6 free and reduced-price lunch data is not available. For the purposes of
7 this paragraph, only students who are eligible to be included in a school's
8 student count shall be considered in determining that school's percentage
9 of free or reduced-price lunch students or other poverty indicators.

10 2. The school is operated by a school district or charter holder
11 that has been identified by the department of education as a school
12 requiring comprehensive support and improvement for low achievement
13 pursuant to the every student succeeds act (P.L. 114-95; 129 Stat. 1802) in
14 the prior or most recent fiscal year.

15 E. A school that is opting to participate pursuant to subsection D
16 of this section shall notify the state board of education on or before
17 January 30, 2023.

18 F. Notwithstanding any other law, a charter school that is
19 participating in the operation excellence school improvement program is not
20 immune from or otherwise protected against the charter school's sponsor
21 revoking the charter school's charter during the duration of the charter
22 school's participation in the program.

23 G. For fiscal years 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, at the
24 direction of the state board of education, the department of education
25 shall distribute monies from the school achievement improvement fund to
26 school districts and charter schools that have selected to engage in school
27 improvement pursuant to subsection D of this section or required to
28 participate pursuant to subsection C of this section in the amount of \$150
29 per student who is enrolled in the current school year. A school that is
30 eligible to receive funding for the small school weight prescribed in
31 section 15-943, paragraph 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, may not receive less
32 than \$30,000 in total funding pursuant to this subsection.

1 H. Any monies a school district or charter holder receives from the
2 school achievement improvement fund shall be separately accounted for in
3 the school district's or charter holder's annual financial report.

4 I. All monies a school district or charter holder receives pursuant
5 to this section shall be spent at and for the benefit of a qualifying
6 school site.

7 J. The department of education shall disburse funding only for that
8 fiscal year on the state board of education's approval of the school's
9 improvement plan submitted pursuant to subsection K, L or M of this
10 section. The state board of education shall direct the department of
11 education to provide payments to schools for the operation excellence
12 school improvement program that are in compliance with this section on July
13 1 of each year. If the appropriated amount is not sufficient to fully pay
14 each school, the department of education shall first fund all school sites
15 pursuant to subsection C of this section and then proportionately allocate
16 the funding per student for school sites pursuant to subsection D of this
17 section.

18 K. Not later than March 1, 2023, a school district or charter holder
19 of a school that meets the requirements prescribed in subsection D of this
20 section shall submit to the state board of education an improvement plan to
21 improve student outcomes, which may include targeted academic
22 interventions, professional development, adaptive technology or other
23 evidence-based, proven strategies to close the achievement gap. The plan
24 must also identify a mentor who can assist with academic achievement. The
25 mentor must be a current or former school leader with a demonstrable record
26 of leading a successful school improvement effort and must commit to
27 providing regular check-ins and advice to the participating school leader
28 whom the person is mentoring.

29 L. The school district governing board of a school that meets the
30 requirements prescribed in subsection C of this section is subject to both
31 of the following:

1 1. The school district governing board shall establish an operation
2 excellence committee composed of at least all of the following:

3 (a) The superintendent of the school district.

4 (b) The school principal from the identified school.

5 (c) At least one parent of a child who attends the identified school
6 and at least one teacher from the identified school. There shall be an
7 equal number of parents and teachers on the committee.

8 2. Not later than March 1, 2023, the operation excellence committee
9 shall submit an improvement plan to the state board of education to improve
10 student outcomes, which may include targeted academic interventions,
11 professional development, adaptive technology or other evidence-based,
12 proven strategies to close the achievement gap. The committee shall inform
13 the state board of education which approved school improvement partner or
14 partners from the partner network list identified by the state board
15 pursuant to subsection N of this section will implement the improvement
16 plan developed under this paragraph. Notwithstanding any other law,
17 subject to the approval of the state board of education, the school
18 district governing board of a school that is submitting an improvement plan
19 pursuant to this paragraph may apply to the state board of education for a
20 waiver of identified provisions of title 15, chapter 5, Arizona Revised
21 Statutes, for the duration of the improvement plan authorized pursuant to
22 this section. The school district governing board shall identify the
23 provisions of title 15, chapter 5, Arizona Revised Statutes, that apply and
24 shall explain the reasons for exemption from those provisions of state law
25 during the duration of the improvement plan.

26 M. The charter holder of a charter school that meets the
27 requirements prescribed in subsection C of this section is subject to both
28 of the following:

29 1. The charter holder shall establish an operation excellence
30 committee composed of at least all of the following:

31 (a) The chief administrative officer of the identified charter
32 school.

(b) The school principal from the identified charter school.

(c) At least one parent of a child who attends the identified school and at least one teacher from the identified school. There shall be an equal number of parents and teachers on the committee.

2. Not later than March 1, 2023, the committee shall submit an improvement plan to the state board of education to improve student outcomes, which may include targeted academic interventions, professional development, adaptive technology or other evidence-based, proven strategies to close the achievement gap. The committee shall partner with approved independent school improvement partners from the partner network list identified by the state board of education pursuant to subsection N of this section to implement the improvement plan developed under this paragraph.

N. On or before January 1, 2023, the state board of education shall identify approved independent school improvement partners to be included on a partner network list through a request for proposals process. A school district or the charter holder of a school that meets the requirements prescribed in subsection C of this section shall select from the partner network list to implement, in partnership with the school's operation excellence committee, the improvement plan submitted under subsection L or M of this section. A state agency, or any subsidiary of the state agency, that meets the criteria prescribed in subsection O of this section is eligible for inclusion on the partner network list.

0. For the purposes of subsection N of this section, the state board of education shall award contracts to independent school improvement partners that meet all of the following requirements:

1. Have a credible track record of improving student academic achievement in public schools with various demographic characteristics, as measured by statewide assessments.

2. Have experience designing, implementing and evaluating data-driven instructional systems in public schools.

1 3. Have experience coaching public school administrators and
2 teachers on designing and implementing data-driven school improvement
3 plans.

4 4. Have experience delivering high quality professional development
5 and coaching in instructional effectiveness to public school administrators
6 and teachers.

7 P. In addition to assisting in implementing the improvement plan
8 prescribed in subsection L or M of this section, the state board of
9 education shall assist the operation excellence school in all of the
10 following:

11 1. Collecting and analyzing data on student achievement.
12 2. Recommending changes to the school to improve student
13 achievement.

14 3. Monitoring the implementation of the improvement plan.
15 4. Providing implementation support for the improvement plan.

16 Q. If a participating school is not demonstrating student academic
17 growth or is otherwise dissatisfied with the services provided by a
18 contracted independent school improvement partner, the school may submit a
19 request to the state board of education to cancel that contract and select
20 a different independent school improvement partner at the approval by the
21 state board of education.

22 R. The state board of education shall review and approve all
23 improvement plans submitted under this section within ninety days after
24 submission.

25 S. If a school district has an existing improvement plan on file
26 with the department of education under any provision of title 15, Arizona
27 Revised Statutes, or pursuant to the every student succeeds act (P.L.
28 114-95; 129 Stat. 1802), the plan submitted under this section must attempt
29 to align with or expand on the existing improvement plan.

30 T. The state board of education may adopt rules, policies and
31 procedures to carry out this section, including rules to establish an

1 appeals process for a school that does not receive approval of its
2 improvement plan.

3 U. On or before June 1 of each year, each school that received
4 monies pursuant to this section in the prior fiscal year shall submit a
5 report to the state board of education that describes how the improvement
6 plan developed pursuant to this section has improved student academic
7 achievement. The state board of education may request additional
8 information or data to be included in these reports. The state board of
9 education may require additional reports as needed throughout the year to
10 assess a school's progress. The state board of education shall review each
11 improvement plan annually and require any modifications. If an improvement
12 plan or report is not submitted, the state board of education shall
13 withhold monies under this section until the plan or report is submitted
14 according to this section.

15 V. On or before October 1, 2024, October 1, 2025 and October 1,
16 2026, the state board of education shall compile each report submitted
17 pursuant to subsection U of this section and provide that information to
18 the joint legislative budget committee, the governor's office of strategic
19 planning and budgeting and the chairpersons of the education committees of
20 the house of representatives and the senate, or their successor committees.

21 W. On or before December 1, 2027, the state board of education shall
22 submit a final report on the operation excellence school improvement
23 program to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the
24 house of representatives, the joint legislative budget committee and the
25 governor's office of strategic planning and budgeting and shall provide a
26 copy of the report to the secretary of state. The report shall include
27 information on all of the following:

28 1. The schools and independent school improvement partners that
29 participated in the program.

30 2. The academic progress of students in schools participating in the
31 program.

3. Any other information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

X. The state board of education shall consult and engage with school improvement experts that have proven to be successful in this state to develop an evidence-based model framework for school improvement.

Y. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2027.

Sec. 8. Appropriations: school achievement improvement fund: state board of education

A. The sum of \$58,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in each of fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 to the school achievement improvement fund established by section 7 of this act.

B. Of the amounts appropriated under subsection A of this section, the state board of education may use up to \$1,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 to administer the operation excellence school improvement program established by section 7 of this act. Notwithstanding any other law, seven full-time equivalent positions are appropriated from the state general fund in each of fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 to the state board of education for the purposes prescribed in this subsection.

Sec. 9. Retroactivity

This act applies retroactively to from and after June 30, 2022."

22 Amend title to conform

DAVID GOWAN

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06/20/2022
3:53 PM
C: HN