K-12; school funding; revisions

State of Arizona Senate Fifty-sixth Legislature First Regular Session 2023

SENATE BILL 1495

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-185, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 4, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING ARTICLE 6; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-808 AND 15-901, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 9, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-901.04; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-924, 15-947, 15-971, 15-992, 15-2402 AND 41-1276, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL FINANCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: Section 1. Section 15-185, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-185. <u>Charter schools; financing; civil penalties;</u> transportation; definition

- A. A school district is not financially responsible for any charter school that is sponsored by the state board of education, the state board for charter schools, a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, a community college district or a group of community college districts.
- B. Financial provisions for a charter school that is sponsored by the state board of education, the state board for charter schools, a university, a community college district or a group of community college districts are as follows:
- 1. The charter school shall calculate a base support level as prescribed in section 15-943 USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04, except that:
 - (a) Section 15-941 does not apply to these charter schools.
- (b) The small school weights prescribed in section 15-943, paragraph 1 apply if a charter holder holds one charter for one or more school sites and the average daily membership for the school sites are combined for the calculation of the small school weight. The small school weight shall not be applied individually to a charter holder if one or more of the following conditions exist and the combined average daily membership derived from the following conditions is greater than six hundred:
- (i) The organizational structure or management agreement of the charter holder requires the charter holder or charter school to contract with a specific management company.
- (ii) The governing body of the charter holder has identical membership to another charter holder in this state.
- (iii) The charter holder is a subsidiary of a corporation that has other subsidiaries that are charter holders in this state.
 - (iv) The charter holder holds more than one charter in this state.
- (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of this paragraph, for fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, the department of education shall reduce by thirty-three percent the amount provided by the small school weight for charter schools prescribed in subdivision (b) of this paragraph.
- 2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this subsection, the student count shall be determined initially using an estimated student count based on actual registration of pupils before the beginning of the school year. Notwithstanding section 15-1042, subsection F, student level data submitted to the department may be used to determine estimated student counts. After the first forty days, one hundred days or two hundred days in session, as applicable, the charter school shall revise the student

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 count to be equal to the actual average daily membership, as defined in section 15-901, of the charter school. Before the fortieth day, one hundredth day or two hundredth day in session, as applicable, the state board of education, the state board for charter schools, the sponsoring university, the sponsoring community college district or the sponsoring group of community college districts may require a charter school to report periodically regarding pupil enrollment and attendance, and the department of education may revise its computation of equalization assistance based on the report. A charter school shall revise its student count, base support level and charter STATE additional assistance before May 15. A charter school that overestimated its student count shall revise its budget before May 15. A charter school that underestimated its student count may revise its budget before May 15.

- 3. A charter school may use section 15-855 for the purposes of this section. The charter school and the department of education shall prescribe procedures for determining average daily membership.
- 4. Equalization assistance for the charter school shall be determined by adding the amount of the base support level and charter additional assistance. The amount of the charter additional assistance is \$1,985.58 per student count in preschool programs for children with disabilities, kindergarten programs and grades one through eight and \$2,314.16 per student count in grades nine through twelve.
- 5. 4. The state board of education shall apportion state aid from the appropriations made for such purposes to the state treasurer for disbursement to the charter schools in each county in an amount as determined by this paragraph. The apportionments shall be made as prescribed in section 15-973, subsection B.
- 6. 5. The charter school shall not charge tuition for pupils who reside in this state, levy taxes or issue bonds. A charter school may admit pupils who are not residents of this state and shall charge tuition for those pupils in the same manner prescribed in section 15-823.
- 7. 6. Not later than noon on the day preceding each apportionment date established by PURSUANT TO paragraph 5 4 of this subsection, the superintendent of public instruction shall furnish to the state treasurer an abstract of the apportionment and shall certify the apportionment to the department of administration, which shall draw its warrant in favor of the charter schools for the amount apportioned.
- C. If a pupil is enrolled in both a charter school and a public school that is not a charter school, the sum of the daily membership, which includes enrollment as prescribed in section 15-901, subsection A, paragraph 1, subdivisions (a) and (b) and daily attendance as prescribed in section 15-901, subsection A, paragraph 5, for that pupil in the school district and the charter school shall not exceed 1.0. If a pupil is enrolled in both a charter school and a public school that is not a charter school, the department of education shall direct the average daily

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membership to the school with the most recent enrollment date. On validation of actual enrollment in both a charter school and a public school that is not a charter school and if the sum of the daily membership or daily attendance for that pupil is greater than 1.0, the sum shall be reduced to 1.0 and shall be apportioned between the public school and the charter school based on the percentage of total time that the pupil is enrolled or in attendance in the public school and the charter school. The uniform system of financial records shall include guidelines to apportion the pupil enrollment and attendance as provided in this section.

- D. Charter schools are allowed to accept grants and gifts to supplement their state funding, but it is not the intent of the charter school law to require taxpayers to pay twice to educate the same pupils. The base support level for a charter school or for a school district sponsoring a charter school shall be reduced by an amount equal to the total amount of monies received by a charter school from a federal or state agency if the federal or state monies are intended for the basic maintenance and operations of the school. The superintendent of public instruction shall estimate the amount of the reduction for the budget year and shall revise the reduction to reflect the actual amount before May 15 of the current year. If the reduction results in a negative amount, the negative amount shall be used in computing all budget limits and equalization assistance, except that:
 - 1. Equalization assistance shall not be less than zero.
- 2. For a charter school sponsored by the state board of education, the state board for charter schools, a university, a community college district or a group of community college districts, the total of the base support level and the <a href="https://charter.ncbi.nlm.ncbi.
- E. If a charter school was a district public school in the prior year and sponsored by the state board of education, the state board for charter schools, a university, a community college district or a group of community college districts, the reduction in subsection D of this section applies. The reduction to the base support level of the charter school shall equal the sum of the base support level and the charter additional assistance received in the current year for those pupils who were enrolled in the traditional public school in the prior year and are now enrolled in the charter school in the current year.
- F. E. Equalization assistance for charter schools shall be provided as a single amount based on average daily membership without categorical distinctions between maintenance and operations or capital.
- 6. F. At the request of a charter school, the county school superintendent of the county where the charter school is located may provide the same educational services to the charter school as prescribed in section 15-308, subsection A. The county school superintendent may

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charge a fee to recover costs for providing educational services to charter schools.

H. G. If the sponsor of the charter school determines at a public meeting that the charter school is not in compliance with federal law, with the laws of this state or with its charter, the sponsor of a charter school may submit a request to the department of education to withhold up to ten percent of the monthly apportionment of state aid that would otherwise be due the charter school. The department shall adjust the charter school's apportionment accordingly. The sponsor shall provide written notice to the charter school at least seventy-two hours before the meeting and shall allow the charter school to respond to the allegations of noncompliance at the meeting before the sponsor makes a final determination to notify the department of education of noncompliance. The charter school shall submit a corrective action plan to the sponsor on a date specified by the sponsor at the meeting. The corrective action plan shall be designed to correct deficiencies at the charter school and to ensure that the charter school promptly returns to compliance. When the sponsor determines that the charter school is in compliance, department shall restore the full amount of state aid payments to the charter school.

T. H. In addition to the withholding of state aid payments pursuant to subsection + G of this section, the sponsor of a charter school may impose a civil penalty of \$1,000 per occurrence if a charter school fails to comply with the fingerprinting requirements prescribed in section 15-183, subsection C or section 15-512. The sponsor of a charter school shall not impose a civil penalty if it is the first time the charter school is out of compliance with the fingerprinting requirements and if the charter school provides proof within forty-eight hours after written notification that an application for the appropriate fingerprint check has been received by the department of public safety. The sponsor of the charter school shall obtain proof that the charter school has been notified, and the notification shall identify the date of the deadline and shall be signed by both parties. The sponsor of a charter school shall automatically impose a civil penalty of \$1,000 per occurrence if the sponsor determines that the charter school subsequently violates the fingerprinting requirements. Civil penalties pursuant to this subsection shall be assessed by requesting the department of education to reduce the amount of state aid that the charter school would otherwise receive by an amount equal to the civil penalty. The amount of state aid withheld shall revert to the state general fund at the end of the fiscal year.

J. I. A charter school may receive and spend monies distributed by the department of education pursuant to section 42-5029, subsection E, section 42-5029.02, subsection A and section 37-521, subsection B.

 $\mathsf{K.}$ J. If a school district transports or contracts to transport pupils to the Arizona state schools for the deaf and the blind during any

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 fiscal year, the school district may transport or contract with a charter school to transport sensory impaired pupils during that same fiscal year to a charter school if requested by the parent of the pupil and if the distance from the pupil's place of actual residence within the school district to the charter school is less than the distance from the pupil's place of actual residence within the school district to the campus of the Arizona state schools for the deaf and the blind.

- t. K. Notwithstanding any other law, a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona board of regents, a community college district or a group of community college districts shall not include any student in the student count of the university, community college district or group of community college districts for state funding purposes if that student is enrolled in and attending a charter school sponsored by the university, community college district or group of community college districts.
- M. L. The governing body of a charter school shall transmit a copy of its proposed budget or the summary of the proposed budget and a notice of the public hearing to the department of education for posting on the department of education's website not later than ten days before the hearing and meeting. If the charter school maintains a website, the charter school governing body shall post on its website a copy of its proposed budget or the summary of the proposed budget and a notice of the public hearing.
- N. M. The governing body of a charter school shall collaborate with the private organization that is approved by the state board of education pursuant to section 15-792.02 to provide approved board examination systems for the charter school.
- $rac{ heta.}{ heta.}$ N. If allowed by federal law, a charter school may opt out of federal grant opportunities if the charter holder or the appropriate governing body of the charter school determines that the federal requirements impose unduly burdensome reporting requirements.
- P. O. For the purposes of this section, "monies intended for the basic maintenance and operations of the school" means monies intended to provide support for the educational program of the school, except that it does not include supplemental assistance for a specific purpose or title VIII of the elementary and secondary education act of 1965 monies. The auditor general shall determine which federal or state monies meet this definition.
- Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 4, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding article 6, to read:

ARTICLE 6. STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA

15-495. School districts: state student funding formula:
election; reversion to standard school finance
formula

A. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT PROVIDES INSTRUCTION TO STUDENTS IN ANY COMBINATION OF KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND

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 GRADES ONE THROUGH TWELVE MAY ELECT TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04 TO DETERMINE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S DISTRICT SUPPORT LEVEL IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT HAVE AN OVERRIDE IN PLACE PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-481 OR 15-482 AND EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

- 1. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT OWE ANY DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS ON ANY CLASS A OR CLASS B BOND.
- 2. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS FOUR OR FEWER REMAINING FISCAL YEARS IN WHICH IT IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE PAYMENTS ON ANY CLASS A OR CLASS B BOND.
- B. A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS ELIGIBLE UNDER SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION MAY ELECT TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04 PURSUANT TO THE FOLLOWING:
- 1. IF THE ESTIMATED TOTAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PRIMARY PROPERTY TAX RATE WILL BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO THE PRIOR YEAR TOTAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PRIMARY PROPERTY TAX RATE, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MAY DO EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:
- (a) VOTE AT A GOVERNING BOARD MEETING TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04.
- (b) CALL AN ELECTION TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHOULD USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04.
- 2. IF THE ESTIMATED TOTAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PRIMARY PROPERTY TAX RATE WILL BE GREATER THAN THE PRIOR YEAR TOTAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PRIMARY PROPERTY TAX RATE, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MAY CALL AN ELECTION TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHOULD USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04.
- 3. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD CALLS AN ELECTION PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 1 OR 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE QUESTION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO A VOTE OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-401 AND SUBJECT TO SECTION 15-402. THE QUESTION SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS MUST DESCRIBE THE TAX RATE THAT IS ASSOCIATED WITH USING THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA AND THE ESTIMATED COST OF THAT TAX RATE FOR THE OWNER OF A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME THAT IS VALUED AT \$200,000. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD SHALL ORDER THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY IN NOVEMBER AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-204, SUBSECTION F.
- 4. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS AUTHORIZED TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 1 OR 2 OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04 AND SHALL NO LONGER USE THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA BEGINNING IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR FOLLOWING THE AUTHORIZATION.
- C. A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS USING THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA MAY NOT:

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1. USE ANY OTHER SOURCE OF PROPERTY TAX-GENERATED FUNDING OTHER THAN THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA, INCLUDING FUNDING GENERATED PURSUANT TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
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- (a) SECTION 15-481.
- (b) SECTION 15-482.
- (c) SECTION 15-910.
- (d) SECTION 15-946.
- (e) SECTION 15-949.
- (f) SECTION 15-954.
- (g) SECTION 15-995.
- (h) CHAPTER 9, ARTICLE 7 OF THIS TITLE.
- 2. APPLY FOR OR RECEIVE ANY FUNDING FROM THE DIVISION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION OR THE SCHOOL FACILITIES OVERSIGHT BOARD, EXCEPT THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY RECEIVE FUNDING FOR NEW SCHOOL FACILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-5741.
- 3. RECEIVE DISTRICT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-961.
- D. IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVES THE USE OF THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA AS PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDES BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ITS MEMBERS TO REVERT TO THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD SHALL CALL AN ELECTION TO DETERMINE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO NO LONGER USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04 AND TO REVERT TO THE STANDARD SCHOOL THE QUESTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO A VOTE OF THE FINANCE FORMULA. QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-401 AND SUBJECT TO SECTION 15-402. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD SHALL ORDER THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY IN NOVEMBER AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-204, SUBSECTION F. IF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO VOTE ON THE QUESTION VOTE TO NO LONGER USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04 AND TO REVERT TO THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY USE ALL OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDING AUTHORIZED BY LAW IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR FOLLOWING THE ELECTION HELD PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION. A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY NOT SUBMIT A QUESTION FOR AN OVERRIDE OR CLASS A OR CLASS B BOND ALONG WITH A QUESTION TO OPT OUT OF THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA IN THE SAME ELECTION.
- E. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT INCLUDE A CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISTRICT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-391.
- Sec. 3. Section 15-808, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-808. Arizona online instruction; reports; definitions

A. Arizona online instruction shall be instituted to meet the needs of pupils in the information age. The state board of education shall

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44 45 select district public schools and state-approved charter authorizers shall sponsor charter schools to be online course providers or online schools. The state board of education and state-approved charter authorizers shall develop standards for the approval of online course providers and online schools based on the following criteria:

- 1. The depth and breadth of curriculum choices.
- 2. The variety of educational methodologies employed by the school and the means of addressing the unique needs and learning styles of targeted pupil populations, including computer-assisted learning systems, virtual classrooms, virtual laboratories, electronic field trips, e-mail EMAIL, virtual tutoring, online help desk, group chat sessions and noncomputer-based activities performed under the direction of a certificated teacher.
- 3. The availability of an intranet or private network to safeguard pupils against predatory and pornographic elements of the internet.
 - 4. The availability of filtered research access to the internet.
- 5. The availability of private individual e-mail EMAIL between pupils, teachers, administrators and parents in order to protect the confidentiality of pupil records and information.
- 6. The availability of faculty members who are experienced with computer networks, the internet and computer animation.
- 7. The extent to which the school intends to develop partnerships with universities, community colleges and private businesses.
- 8. The services offered to populations with developmental disabilities.
 - 9. The grade levels that will be served.
- Each new school that provides online instruction shall provide online instruction on a probationary status. After a new school that provides online instruction has clearly demonstrated the integrity of its instruction through the actual improvement of the academic performance of its students, the school may apply to be removed probationary status. The state board of education state-approved charter authorizer that sponsored the charter school shall remove from Arizona online instruction any probationary school that fails to clearly demonstrate improvement in academic performance within three years measured against goals in the approved application and the state's accountability system. All pupils who participate in Arizona online instruction shall reside in this state. Pupils who participate in Arizona online instruction are subject to the testing requirements prescribed in chapter 7, article 3 of this title. On enrollment, the school shall notify the parents or guardians of the pupil of the state testing requirements. If a pupil fails to comply with the testing requirements and the school administers the tests pursuant to this subsection to less than ninety-five percent of the pupils in Arizona online instruction, the pupil shall not be allowed to participate in Arizona online instruction.

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- C. The state board of education and state-approved charter authorizers shall develop annual reporting mechanisms for schools that participate in Arizona online instruction.
- D. The department of education shall compile the information submitted in the annual reports by schools participating in Arizona online instruction. The department of education shall submit the compiled report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate by November 15 of each year.
- E. Each school selected for Arizona online instruction shall ensure that a daily log is maintained for each pupil who participates in Arizona online instruction. The daily log shall describe the amount of time spent by each pupil participating in Arizona online instruction pursuant to this section on academic tasks. The daily log shall be used by the school district or charter school to qualify the pupils who participate in Arizona online instruction in the school's average daily attendance calculations pursuant to subsection F of this section.
- F. If a pupil is enrolled in a school district or charter school and also participates in Arizona online instruction, the sum of the average daily membership, which includes enrollment as prescribed in section 15-901, subsection A, paragraph 1, subdivisions (a) and (b) and daily attendance as prescribed in section 15-901, subsection A, paragraph 5, for that pupil in the school district or charter school and in Arizona online instruction shall not exceed 1.0. If the pupil is enrolled in a school district or a charter school and also participates in Arizona online instruction and the sum of the daily membership or daily attendance for that pupil is greater than 1.0, the sum shall be reduced to 1.0 and shall be apportioned between the school district, unless the school district is a career technical education district subject to apportionment requirements of section 15-393, or charter school Arizona online instruction based on the percentage of total time that the pupil is enrolled or in attendance in the school district or charter school and Arizona online instruction. The uniform system of financial records shall include guidelines for the apportionment of the pupil enrollment and attendance as provided in this subsection. Pupils in Arizona online instruction do not incur absences for purposes of this subsection and may generate an average daily attendance of 1.0 for attendance hours during any hour of the day, during any day of the week and at any time between July 1 and June 30 of each fiscal year. kindergarten programs and grades one through eight, average daily membership shall be calculated by dividing the instructional hours as reported in the daily log required in subsection E of this section by the applicable hourly requirements prescribed in section 15-901. For grades nine through twelve, average daily membership shall be calculated by dividing the instructional hours as reported in the daily log required in subsection E of this section by nine hundred. The average daily

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membership of a pupil who participates in online instruction shall not exceed 1.0. Average daily membership shall not be calculated on the one hundredth day of instruction for the purposes of this section. Funding shall be determined as follows:

- 1. A pupil who is enrolled full-time in Arizona online instruction shall be funded for online instruction at ninety-five percent of the base support level that would be calculated for that pupil if that pupil were enrolled as a full-time student in a school district or charter school that does not participate in Arizona online instruction. Charter STATE additional assistance and district additional assistance shall be calculated in the same manner they would be calculated if the student were enrolled in a district or charter school that does not participate in Arizona online instruction.
- 2. A pupil who is enrolled part-time in Arizona online instruction shall be funded for online instruction at eighty-five percent of the base support level that would be calculated for that pupil if that pupil were enrolled as a part-time student in a school district or charter school that does not participate in Arizona online instruction. Charter STATE additional assistance and district additional assistance shall be calculated in the same manner they would be calculated if the student were enrolled in a district or charter school that does not participate in Arizona online instruction.
- G. If the academic achievement of a pupil declines while the pupil is participating in Arizona online instruction, the pupil's parents, the pupil's teachers and the principal or head teacher of the school shall confer to evaluate whether the pupil should be allowed to continue to participate in Arizona online instruction.
- H. To ensure the academic integrity of pupils who participate in online instruction, Arizona online instruction shall include multiple diverse assessment measures and the proctored administration of required state standardized tests.
- I. A school district or charter school may not charge a fee to a pupil who takes an examination in a particular course to obtain academic credit, pursuant to section 15-701.01, subsection I, from the school district or charter school if the academic credit for a course was previously earned in an Arizona online instruction course or at any public school in this state. Any test administered pursuant to this subsection shall be an assessment that is aligned to the course-relevant state academic standards.
 - J. For the purposes of this section:
 - 1. "Full-time student" means:
- (a) A student who is at least five years of age before September 1 of a school year and who is enrolled in a school kindergarten program that meets at least three hundred forty-six hours during the school year.

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- (b) A student who is at least six years of age before September 1 of a school year, who has not graduated from the highest grade taught in the school and who is regularly enrolled in a course of study required by the state board of education. For first, second and third grade students, the instructional program shall meet at least seven hundred twelve hours. For fourth, fifth and sixth grade students, the instructional program shall meet at least eight hundred ninety hours during the school year.
- (c) Seventh and eighth grade students or ungraded students who are at least twelve, but under fourteen, years of age on or before September 1 and who are enrolled in an instructional program of courses that meets at least one thousand sixty-eight hours during the school year.
- (d) For high schools, a student who has not graduated from the highest grade taught in the school district, or an ungraded student who is at least fourteen years of age on or before September 1, and who is enrolled in at least four courses throughout the year that meet at least nine hundred hours during the school year. A full-time student shall not be counted more than once for computation of average daily membership.
- 2. "Online course provider" means a school other than an online school that is selected by the state board of education or a state-approved charter authorizer to participate in Arizona online instruction pursuant to this section and that provides at least one online academic course that is approved by the state board of education.
- 3. "Online school" means a school that provides at least four online academic courses or one or more online courses for the equivalent of at least five hours each day for one hundred eighty school days and that is a charter school that is sponsored by a state-approved charter authorizer or a district public school that is selected by the state board of education to participate in Arizona online instruction.
 - 4. "Part-time student" means:
- (a) Any student who is enrolled in a program that does not meet the definition in paragraph 1 of this subsection shall be funded at eighty-five percent of the base support level that would be calculated for that pupil if that pupil were enrolled as a part-time student in a school district or charter school that does not participate in Arizona online instruction.
- (b) A part-time student of seventy-five percent average daily membership shall be enrolled in at least three subjects throughout the year that offer for first, second and third grade students at least five hundred thirty-four instructional hours in a school year and for fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at least six hundred sixty-eight instructional hours in a school year. A part-time student of fifty percent average daily membership shall be enrolled in at least two subjects throughout the year that offer for first, second and third grade students at least three hundred fifty-six instructional hours in a school

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year and for fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at least four hundred forty-five instructional hours in a school year. A part-time student of twenty-five percent average daily membership shall be enrolled in at least one subject throughout the year that offers for first, second and third grade students at least one hundred seventy-eight instructional hours in a school year and for fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at least two hundred twenty-three instructional hours in a school year.

- (c) For seventh and eighth grade students, a part-time student of seventy-five percent average daily membership shall be enrolled in at least three subjects throughout the year that offer at least eight hundred one instructional hours in a school year. A part-time student of fifty percent average daily membership shall be enrolled in at least two subjects throughout the year that offer at least five hundred thirty-four instructional hours in a school year. A part-time student of twenty-five percent average daily membership shall be enrolled in at least one subject throughout the year that offers at least two hundred sixty-seven instructional hours in a school year.
- (d) For high school students, a part-time student of seventy-five percent average daily membership shall be enrolled in at least three subjects throughout the year that offer at least six hundred seventy-five instructional hours in a school year. A part-time student of fifty percent average daily membership shall be enrolled in at least two subjects throughout the year that offer at least four hundred fifty instructional hours in a school year. A part-time student of twenty-five percent average daily membership shall be enrolled in at least one subject throughout the year that offers at least two hundred twenty-five instructional hours in a school year.
- 5. "State-approved charter authorizer" means any charter school sponsor authorized pursuant to section 15-183.

Sec. 4. <u>Heading changes</u>

- A. The chapter heading of title 15, chapter 9, Arizona Revised Statutes, is changed from "SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETING AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE" to "SCHOOL BUDGETING AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE".
- B. The article heading of title 15, chapter 9, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, is changed from "GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS" to "GENERAL PROVISIONS".
- Sec. 5. Section 15-901, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-901. <u>Definitions</u>

- A. In this title, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 1. "Average daily membership" means the total enrollment of fractional students and full-time students, minus withdrawals, of each school day through the first one hundred days or two hundred days in session, as applicable, for the current year. Withdrawals include students who are formally withdrawn from schools and students who are

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 absent for ten consecutive school days, except for excused absences identified by the department of education. For the purposes of this section, school districts and charter schools shall report student absence data to the department of education at least once every sixty days in session. For computation purposes, the effective date of withdrawal shall be retroactive to the last day of actual attendance of the student or excused absence. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this subsection in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.

- (a) "Fractional student" means:
- (i) For common schools, a preschool child who is enrolled in a program for preschool children with disabilities of at least three hundred sixty minutes each week that meets at least two hundred sixteen hours over the minimum number of days or a kindergarten student who is at least five years of age before January 1 of the school year and enrolled in a school kindergarten program that meets at least three hundred fifty-six hours for one hundred eighty-day school year, or the instructional hours prescribed in this section. In computing the average daily membership, preschool children with disabilities and kindergarten students shall be counted as one-half of a full-time student. For common schools, a part-time student is a student enrolled for less than the total time for a full-time student as defined in this section. A part-time common school student shall be counted as one-fourth, one-half or three-fourths of a full-time student if the student is enrolled in an instructional program that is at least one-fourth, one-half or three-fourths of the time a full-time student is enrolled as defined in subdivision (b) of this paragraph. The hours in which a student is scheduled to attend a common school during the regular school day shall be included in the calculation of the average daily membership for that student.
- (ii) For high schools, a part-time student who is enrolled in less than four subjects that count toward graduation as defined by the state board of education, each of which, if taught each school day for the minimum number of days required in a school year, would meet a minimum of one hundred twenty-three hours a year, or the equivalent, in a recognized high school. The average daily membership of a part-time high school student shall be 0.75 if the student is enrolled in an instructional program of three subjects that meet at least five hundred forty hours for a one hundred eighty-day school year, or the instructional hours prescribed in this section. The average daily membership of a part-time high school student shall be 0.5 if the student is enrolled in an instructional program of two subjects that meet at least three hundred sixty hours for a one hundred eighty-day school year, or the instructional hours prescribed in this section. The average daily membership of a part-time high school student shall be 0.25 if the student is enrolled in

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44 45 an instructional program of one subject that meets at least one hundred eighty hours for a one hundred eighty-day school year, or the instructional hours prescribed in this section. The hours in which a student is scheduled to attend a high school during the regular school day shall be included in the calculation of the average daily membership for that student.

- (b) "Full-time student" means:
- (i) For common schools, a student who is at least six years of age before January 1 of a school year, who has not graduated from the highest grade taught in the school district and who is regularly enrolled in a course of study required by the state board of education. First, second and third grade students or ungraded group B children with disabilities who are at least five, but under six, years of age by September 1 must be enrolled in an instructional program that meets for a total of at least seven hundred twelve hours for a one hundred eighty-day school year, or the instructional hours prescribed in this section. Fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students must be enrolled in an instructional program that meets for a total of at least eight hundred ninety hours for one hundred eighty-day school year, or the instructional hours including prescribed in this section, the equivalent number instructional hours for schools that operate on a one forty-four-day school year. The hours in which a student is scheduled to attend a common school during the regular school day shall be included in the calculation of the average daily membership for that student.
- (ii) For high schools, a student who has not graduated from the highest grade taught in the school district and who is enrolled in at least an instructional program of four or more subjects that count toward graduation as defined by the state board of education, each of which, if taught each school day for the minimum number of days required in a school year, would meet a minimum of one hundred twenty-three hours a year, or the equivalent, that meets for a total of at least seven hundred twenty hours for a one hundred eighty-day school year, or the instructional hours prescribed in this section in a recognized high school. A full-time student shall not be counted more than once for computation of average daily membership. The average daily membership of a full-time high school student shall be 1.0 if the student is enrolled in at least four subjects that meet at least seven hundred twenty hours for a one hundred eighty-day school year, or the equivalent instructional hours prescribed in this section. The hours in which a student is scheduled to attend a high school during the regular school day shall be included in the calculation of the average daily membership for that student.
- (iii) If a child who has not reached five years of age before September 1 of the current school year is admitted to kindergarten and repeats kindergarten in the following school year, a school district or charter school is not eligible to receive basic state aid on behalf of

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that child during the child's second year of kindergarten. If a child who has not reached five years of age before September 1 of the current school year is admitted to kindergarten but does not remain enrolled, a school district or charter school may receive a portion of basic state aid on behalf of that child in the subsequent year. A school district or charter school may charge tuition for any child who is ineligible for basic state aid pursuant to this item.

- (iv) Except as otherwise provided by law, for a full-time high school student who is concurrently enrolled in two school districts or two charter schools, the average daily membership shall not exceed 1.0.
- (v) Except as otherwise provided by law, for any student who is concurrently enrolled in a school district and a charter school, the average daily membership shall be apportioned between the school district and the charter school and shall not exceed 1.0. The apportionment shall be based on the percentage of total time that the student is enrolled in or in attendance at the school district and the charter school.
- (vi) Except as otherwise provided by law, for any student who is concurrently enrolled, pursuant to section 15-808, in a school district and Arizona online instruction or a charter school and Arizona online instruction, the average daily membership shall be apportioned between the school district and Arizona online instruction or the charter school and Arizona online instruction and shall not exceed 1.0. The apportionment shall be based on the percentage of total time that the student is enrolled in or in attendance at the school district and Arizona online instruction or the charter school and Arizona online instruction.
- (vii) For homebound or hospitalized, a student receiving at least four hours of instruction per week.
- (c) "Regular school day" means the regularly scheduled class periods intended for instructional purposes. Instructional purposes may include core subjects, elective subjects, lunch, study halls, music instruction and other classes that advance the academic instruction of pupils. Instructional purposes do not include athletic practices or extracurricular clubs and activities.
- 2. "Budget year" means the fiscal year for which the school district is budgeting and that immediately follows the current year.
- 3. "Common school district" means a political subdivision of this state offering instruction to students in programs for preschool children with disabilities and kindergarten programs and either:
 - (a) Grades one through eight.
 - (b) Grades one through nine pursuant to section 15-447.01.
- 4. "Current year" means the fiscal year in which a school district is operating.
 - 5. "Daily attendance" means:
 - (a) For common schools, days in which a pupil:

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- (i) Of a kindergarten program or ungraded, but not group B children with disabilities, who is at least five, but under six, years of age by September 1 attends at least three-quarters of the instructional time scheduled for the day. If the total instruction time scheduled for the year is at least three hundred fifty-six hours but is less than seven hundred twelve hours, such attendance shall be counted as one-half day of attendance. If the instructional time scheduled for the year is at least six hundred ninety-two hours, "daily attendance" means days in which a pupil attends at least one-half of the instructional time scheduled for the day. Such attendance shall be counted as one-half day of attendance. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this item in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
- (ii) Of the first, second or third grades attends more than three-quarters of the instructional time scheduled for the day. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this item in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
- (iii) Of the fourth, fifth or sixth grades attends more than three-quarters of the instructional time scheduled for the day, except as provided in section 15-797. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this item in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
- (iv) Of the seventh or eighth grades attends more than three-quarters of the instructional time scheduled for the day, except as provided in section 15-797. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this item in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
- (b) For common schools, the attendance of a pupil at three-quarters or less of the instructional time scheduled for the day shall be counted as follows, except as provided in section 15-797 and except that attendance for a fractional student shall not exceed the pupil's fractional membership:
- (i) If attendance for all pupils in the school is based on quarter days, the attendance of a pupil shall be counted as one-fourth of a day's attendance for each one-fourth of full-time instructional time attended. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this item in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.

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- (ii) If attendance for all pupils in the school is based on half days, the attendance of at least three-quarters of the instructional time scheduled for the day shall be counted as a full day's attendance and attendance at a minimum of one-half but less than three-quarters of the instructional time scheduled for the day equals one-half day of attendance. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this item in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
- (c) For common schools, the attendance of a preschool child with disabilities shall be counted as one-fourth day's attendance for each thirty-six minutes of attendance, except as provided in paragraph 1, subdivision (a), item (i) of this subsection for children with disabilities up to a maximum of three hundred sixty minutes each week. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this subdivision in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
- (d) For high schools, the attendance of a pupil shall not be counted as a full day unless the pupil is actually and physically in attendance and enrolled in and carrying four subjects, each of which, if taught each school day for the minimum number of days required in a school year, would meet a minimum of one hundred twenty-three hours a year, or the equivalent, that count toward graduation in a recognized high school except as provided in section 15-797 and subdivision (e) of this paragraph. Attendance of a pupil carrying less than the load prescribed shall be prorated. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this subdivision in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
- (e) For high schools, the attendance of a pupil may be counted as one-fourth of a day's attendance for each sixty minutes of instructional time in a subject that counts toward graduation, except that attendance for a pupil shall not exceed the pupil's full or fractional membership. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this subdivision in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
- (f) For homebound or hospitalized, a full day of attendance may be counted for each day during a week in which the student receives at least four hours of instruction. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this subdivision in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.

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- (g) For school districts that maintain school for an approved year-round school year operation, attendance shall be based on a computation, as prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction, of the one hundred eighty days' equivalency or two hundred days' equivalency, as applicable, of instructional time as approved by the superintendent of public instruction during which each pupil is enrolled. A school district or charter school may satisfy any of the time and hours requirements prescribed in this subdivision in any manner prescribed in the school district's or charter school's instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
 - 6. "Daily route mileage" means the sum of:
- (a) The total number of miles driven daily by all buses of a school district while transporting eligible students from their residence to the school of attendance and from the school of attendance to their residence on scheduled routes approved by the superintendent of public instruction.
- (b) The total number of miles driven daily on routes approved by the superintendent of public instruction for which a private party, a political subdivision or a common or a contract carrier is reimbursed for bringing an eligible student from the place of the student's residence to a school transportation pickup point or to the school of attendance and from the school transportation scheduled return point or from the school of attendance to the student's residence. Daily route mileage includes the total number of miles necessary to drive to transport eligible students from and to their residence as provided in this paragraph.
 - 7. "District support level" means:
- (a) FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT USES THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA, the base support level plus the transportation support level.
- (b) FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ELECTS TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-495, THE BASE SUPPORT LEVEL.
 - 8. "Eligible students" means:
- (a) Students who are transported by or for a school district and who qualify as full-time students or fractional students, except students for whom transportation is paid by another school district or a county school superintendent, and:
- (i) For common school students, whose place of actual residence within the school district is more than one mile from the school facility of attendance or students who are admitted pursuant to section 15-816.01 and who meet the economic eligibility requirements established under the national school lunch and child nutrition acts (42 United States Code sections 1751 through 1793) for free or reduced-price lunches and whose actual place of residence outside the school district boundaries is more than one mile from the school facility of attendance.
- (ii) For high school students, whose place of actual residence within the school district is more than one and one-half miles from the school facility of attendance or students who are admitted pursuant to

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 section 15-816.01 and who meet the economic eligibility requirements established under the national school lunch and child nutrition acts (42 United States Code sections 1751 through 1793) for free or reduced-price lunches and whose actual place of residence outside the school district boundaries is more than one and one-half miles from the school facility of attendance.

- (b) Kindergarten students, for purposes of computing the number of eligible students under subdivision (a), item (i) of this paragraph, shall be counted as full-time students, notwithstanding any other provision of law.
- (c) Children with disabilities, as defined by section 15-761, who are transported by or for the school district or who are admitted pursuant to chapter 8, article 1.1 of this title and who qualify as full-time students or fractional students regardless of location or residence within the school district or children with disabilities whose transportation is required by the pupil's individualized education program.
- (d) Students whose residence is outside the school district and who are transported within the school district on the same basis as students who reside in the school district.
- 9. "Enrolled" or "enrollment" means that a pupil is currently registered in the school district.
- 10. "GDP price deflator" means the average of the four implicit price deflators for the gross domestic product reported by the United States department of commerce for the four quarters of the calendar year.
- 11. "High school district" means a political subdivision of this state offering instruction to students for grades nine through twelve or that portion of the budget of a common school district that is allocated to teaching high school subjects with permission of the state board of education.
- 12. "Instructional hours" or "instructional time" means hours or time spent pursuant to an instructional time model adopted under section 15-901.08.
 - 13. "Revenue control limit" means:
- (a) FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT USES THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA, the base revenue control limit plus the transportation revenue control limit.
- (b) FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ELECTS TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-495, THE BASE REVENUE CONTROL LIMIT.
- 14. "Student count" means average daily membership as prescribed in this subsection for the fiscal year before the current year, except that for the purpose of budget preparation student count means average daily membership as prescribed in this subsection for the current year.
- 15. "Submit electronically" means submitted in a format and in a manner prescribed by the department of education.

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- 16. "Total bus mileage" means the total number of miles driven by all buses of a school district during the school year.
- 17. "Total students transported" means all eligible students transported from their place of residence to a school transportation pickup point or to the school of attendance and from the school of attendance or from the school transportation scheduled return point to their place of residence.
- 18. "Unified school district" means a political subdivision of this state offering instruction to students in programs for preschool children with disabilities and kindergarten programs and grades one through twelve.
 - B. In this title, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 1. "Base" means the revenue level per student count specified by the legislature.
- 2. "Base level" means the following amounts plus the percentage increase to the base level as provided in section 15-902.04:
 - (a) For fiscal year 2020-2021, \$4,305.73.
 - (b) For fiscal year 2021-2022, \$4,390.65.
 - (c) For fiscal year 2022-2023, \$4,775.27.
- 3. "Base revenue control limit" means the base revenue control limit computed as provided in section 15-944.
- 4. "Base support level" means the base support level as provided in section 15-943.
- 5. "Certified teacher" means a person who is certified as a teacher pursuant to the rules adopted by the state board of education, who renders direct and personal services to schoolchildren in the form of instruction related to the school district's educational course of study and who is paid from the maintenance and operation section of the budget.
- 6. "DD" means programs for children with developmental delays who are at least three years of age but under ten years of age. A preschool child who is categorized under this paragraph is not eligible to receive funding pursuant to section 15-943, paragraph 2, subdivision (b).
- 7. "ED, MIID, SLD, SLI and OHI" means programs for children with emotional disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities, a specific learning disability, a speech/language impairment and other health impairments. A preschool child who is categorized as SLI under this paragraph is not eligible to receive funding pursuant to section 15-943, paragraph 2, subdivision (b).
- 8. "ED-P" means programs for children with emotional disabilities who are enrolled in private special education programs as prescribed in section 15-765, subsection D, paragraph 1 or in an intensive school district program as provided in section 15-765, subsection D, paragraph 2.
- 9. "ELL" means English learners who do not speak English or whose native language is not English, who are not currently able to perform ordinary classroom work in English and who are enrolled in an English language education program pursuant to sections 15-751, 15-752 and 15-753.

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- 10. "FRPL" means students who meet the eligibility requirements established under the national school lunch and child nutrition acts (42 United States Code sections 1751 through 1793) for free or reduced-price lunches, or an equivalent measure recognized for participating in the federal free and reduced-price lunch program and other school programs dependent on a poverty measure, including the community eligibility provision for which free and reduced-price lunch data is not available.
- 11. "Full-time equivalent certified teacher" or "FTE certified teacher" means for a certified teacher the following:
 - (a) If employed full time as defined in section 15-501, 1.00.
- (b) If employed less than full time, multiply 1.00 by the percentage of a full school day, or its equivalent, or a full class load, or its equivalent, for which the teacher is employed as determined by the governing board.
- 12. "G" means educational programs for gifted pupils who score at or above the ninety-seventh percentile, based on national norms, on a test adopted by the state board of education.
- 13. "Group A" means educational programs for career exploration, a specific learning disability, an emotional disability, a mild intellectual disability, remedial education, a speech/language impairment, developmental delay, homebound pupils, bilingual pupils and pupils with other health impairments.
- 14. "Group B" means educational improvements for pupils kindergarten programs and grades one through three, educational programs for autism, a hearing impairment, a moderate intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, multiple disabilities with severe sensory impairment, orthopedic impairments, preschool severe delay, a severe intellectual disability and emotional disabilities for school age pupils enrolled in private special education programs or in school district programs for children with severe disabilities or visual impairment, English learners enrolled in a program to promote English language proficiency pursuant to section 15-752 and students who meet the eligibility requirements established under the national school lunch and child nutrition acts (42 United States Code sections 1751 through 1793) for free or reduced-price lunches, or an equivalent measure recognized for participating in the federal free and reduced-price lunch program and other school programs dependent on a poverty measure, including the community eligibility provision for which free and reduced-price lunch data is not available.
 - 15. "HI" means programs for pupils with hearing impairment.
- 16. "Homebound" or "hospitalized" means a pupil who is capable of profiting from academic instruction but is unable to attend school due to illness, disease, accident or other health conditions, who has been examined by a competent medical doctor and who is certified by that doctor

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as being unable to attend regular classes for a period of not less than three school months or a pupil who is capable of profiting from academic instruction but is unable to attend school regularly due to chronic or acute health problems, who has been examined by a competent medical doctor and who is certified by that doctor as being unable to attend regular classes for intermittent periods of time totaling three school months during a school year. The medical certification shall state the general medical condition, such as illness, disease or chronic health condition, that is the reason that the pupil is unable to attend school. Homebound or hospitalized includes a student who is unable to attend school for a period of less than three months due to a pregnancy if a competent medical doctor, after an examination, certifies that the student is unable to attend regular classes due to risk to the pregnancy or to the student's health.

- 17. "K-3" means kindergarten programs and grades one through three.
- 18. "K-3 reading" means reading programs for pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one, two and three.
- 19. "MD-R, A-R and SID-R" means resource programs for pupils with multiple disabilities, autism and severe intellectual disability.
- 20. "MD-SC, A-SC and SID-SC" means self-contained programs for pupils with multiple disabilities, autism and severe intellectual disability.
- 21. "MD-SSI" means a program for pupils with multiple disabilities with severe sensory impairment.
- 22. "MOID" means programs for pupils with moderate intellectual disability.
- 23. "OI-R" means a resource program for pupils with orthopedic impairments.
- 24. "OI-SC" means a self-contained program for pupils with orthopedic impairments.
- 25. "PSD" means preschool programs for children with disabilities as provided in section 15-771.
- 26. "P-SD" means programs for children who meet the definition of preschool severe delay as provided in section 15-771.
- 27. "Qualifying tax rate" means the qualifying tax rate specified in section 15-971 applied to the assessed valuation used for primary property taxes.
- 28. "Small isolated school district" means a school district that meets all of the following:
- (a) Has a student count of fewer than six hundred in kindergarten programs and grades one through eight or grades nine through twelve.
- (b) Contains no school that is fewer than thirty miles by the most reasonable route from another school, or, if road conditions and terrain make the driving slow or hazardous, fifteen miles from another school that

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 teaches one or more of the same grades and is operated by another school district in this state.

- (c) Is designated as a small isolated school district by the superintendent of public instruction.
- 29. "Small school district" means a school district that meets all of the following:
- (a) Has a student count of fewer than six hundred in kindergarten programs and grades one through eight or grades nine through twelve.
- (b) Contains at least one school that is fewer than thirty miles by the most reasonable route from another school that teaches one or more of the same grades and is operated by another school district in this state.
- (c) Is designated as a small school district by the superintendent of public instruction.
- 30. "Transportation revenue control limit" means the transportation revenue control limit computed as prescribed in section 15-946.
- 31. "Transportation support level" means the support level for pupil transportation operating expenses as provided in section 15-945.
 - 32. "VI" means programs for pupils with visual impairments.
- Sec. 6. Title 15, chapter 9, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-901.04, to read:

15-901.04. State student funding formula; calculation

- A. THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA IS ESTABLISHED FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT ELECT TO USE THIS FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-495 AND FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT USES THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA AND EACH CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL:
 - 1. CALCULATE A BASE SUPPORT LEVEL AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-943.
- 2. ADD THE BASE SUPPORT LEVEL AMOUNT CALCULATED UNDER PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION AND STATE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. THE AMOUNT OF STATE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IS:
- (a) \$2,025.29 PER STUDENT COUNT IN PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND GRADES ONE THROUGH EIGHT.
 - (b) \$2,360.44 PER STUDENT COUNT IN GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE.
- B. FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS, THE AMOUNT CALCULATED UNDER SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION IS THE EQUALIZATION ASSISTANCE FOR THE CHARTER SCHOOL.
- Sec. 7. Section 15-924, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-924. In lieu of transportation grants

A. Notwithstanding any other law, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, a school district may use a portion of its transportation funding allocated pursuant to sections 15-945 and 15-946 to provide in lieu of transportation grants to parents of students who attend the school district pursuant to a plan submitted to the department of education. School districts may issue grants to support individual parents or neighborhood carpools in transporting students to school. A school district's transportation funding allocation may not be reduced or

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 otherwise diminished due to the school district awarding grants pursuant to this section.

- B. Notwithstanding any other law, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, a charter school may use a portion of its tharter STATE additional assistance funding allocated pursuant to section 15-185 15-901.04 to provide in lieu of transportation grants to parents of students who attend the charter school pursuant to a plan submitted to the department of education. Charter schools may issue grants to support individual parents or neighborhood carpools in transporting students to school. Participating charter schools shall report to the department regarding the monies awarded to parents as required by the department.
- C. The department of education shall adopt policies and procedures to account for expenditures under this section and to require proof of attendance for students whose transportation is supported through grants under this section.
- Sec. 8. Section 15-947, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

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15-947. Revenue control limit: district support level:

general budget limit: unrestricted total capital
budget limit; district additional assistance limit;
state additional assistance limit
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- A. The revenue control limit for a school district is equal to:
- 1. FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT USES THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA, the sum of the base revenue control limit determined in section 15-944 and the transportation revenue control limit determined in section 15-946.
- 2. FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ELECTS TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-495, THE BASE REVENUE CONTROL LIMIT.
 - B. The district support level for a school district is equal to:
- 1. FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT USES THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA, the sum of the base support level determined in section 15-943 and the transportation support level determined in section 15-945.
- 2. FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ELECTS TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-495, THE BASE SUPPORT LEVEL DETERMINED IN SECTION 15-943.
- C. The general budget limit for each school district, for each fiscal year, is the sum of the following:
- - 2. The maintenance and operation portion of the following amounts:
- (a) Amounts that are fully funded by revenues other than a levy of taxes on the taxable property within the school district, as listed below:
- (i) Amounts budgeted as the budget balance carryforward as provided in section 15-943.01.

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- (ii) Tuition revenues for attendance of nonresident pupils.
- (iii) State assistance as provided in section 15-976.
- (iv) Special education revenues as provided in section 15-825, subsection D and section 15-1204.
- (v) Title VIII of the elementary and secondary education act of 1965 assistance determined for children with disabilities, children with specific learning disabilities, children residing on Indian lands and children residing within the boundaries of an accommodation school that is located on a military reservation and that is classified as a heavily impacted local educational agency pursuant to 20 United States Code section 7703 as provided in section 15-905, subsections K and O.
- (vi) Title VIII of the elementary and secondary education act of 1965 administrative costs as provided in section 15-905, subsection P.
- (vii) State assistance for excess tuition as provided in section 15-825.01.
- (viii) Transportation revenues for attendance of nonresident pupils.
- (b) Amounts approved pursuant to an override election as provided in section 15-481 for the applicable fiscal year.
- (c) Amounts authorized by the county school superintendent pursuant to section 15-974, subsection B.
- (d) Expenditures for complying with a court order of desegregation as provided in section 15-910.
- (e) Interest on registered warrants or tax anticipation notes as provided in section 15-910.
- (f) Amounts budgeted for a jointly owned and operated career and technical education and vocational education center as provided in section 15-910.01.
- 3. The maintenance and operations portion of district additional assistance OR STATE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE for the budget year.
- 4. Any other budget item that is budgeted in the maintenance and operation section of the budget and that is specifically exempt from the revenue control limit or district additional assistance.
- D. The unrestricted capital budget limit, for each school district for each fiscal year, is the sum of the following:
- 1. The federal impact adjustment as determined in section 15-964 for the budget year.
- 2. Any other budget item that is budgeted in the capital outlay section of the budget and that is specifically exempt from district additional assistance.
- 3. The unrestricted capital portion of the amounts contained in subsection C of this section.
- 4. The unexpended budget balance in the unrestricted capital outlay fund from the previous fiscal year.

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 5. The net interest earned in the unrestricted capital outlay fund from the previous fiscal year.

Sec. 9. Section 15-971, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-971. <u>Determination of equalization assistance payments</u> from county and state funds for school districts

- A. Equalization assistance for education is computed by determining the total of the following:
- 1. The lesser of a school district's revenue control limit or district support level as determined in section 15-947.
- 2. District additional assistance of a school district as determined in section 15-961 OR STATE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, IF APPLICABLE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-901.04.
- 1. The amount that would be produced by levying the applicable qualifying tax rate determined pursuant to section 41-1276 for a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that does not offer instruction in high school subjects as provided in section 15-447.
- 2. The amount that would be produced by levying the applicable qualifying tax rate determined pursuant to section 41-1276 for a unified school district, a common school district not within a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that offers instruction in high school subjects as provided in section 15-447. The qualifying tax rate shall be applied in the following manner:
- (a) For the purposes of the amount determined in subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section:
- (i) Determine separately the percentage that the weighted student count in preschool programs for children with disabilities, kindergarten programs and grades one through eight and the weighted student count in grades nine through twelve is to the weighted student count determined in subtotal A as provided in section 15-943, paragraph 2, subdivision (a).
- (ii) Apply the percentages determined in item (i) of this subdivision to the amount determined in subsection A, paragraph ${\bf 1}$ of this section.
- (b) For the purposes of the amounts determined in subsection A, paragraph 2 of this section, determine separately the amount of the district additional assistance attributable to the student count in preschool programs for children with disabilities, kindergarten programs and grades one through eight and grades nine through twelve.
- (c) From the amounts determined in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this paragraph, subtract the levy that would be produced by the current qualifying tax rate for a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that does not offer instruction in high

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school subjects as provided in section 15-447. If the qualifying tax rate generates a levy that is in excess of the total determined in subsection A of this section, the school district is not eligible for equalization assistance. For the purposes of this subsection, "assessed valuation" includes the values used to determine voluntary contributions collected pursuant to title 9, chapter 4, article 3 and title 48, chapter 1, article 8 and the assessed value of all property subject to the government property lease excise tax pursuant to title 42, chapter 6, article 5.

- 3. The amount that would be produced by levying a qualifying tax rate in a career technical education district, which shall be \$.05 per \$100 assessed valuation unless the legislature sets a lower rate by law.
- C. County aid for equalization assistance for education shall be computed as follows:
- 1. Determine the total equalization assistance for all school districts in the county as provided in subsections A and B of this section.
- 2. Determine the total amount of state equalization assistance collected for all school districts in the county as provided in section 15-994 and the monies collected pursuant to section 15-992, subsection F.
- 3. Divide the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this subsection by the amount determined in paragraph 1 of this subsection.
- 4. Multiply the amount determined in subsections A and B of this section by the quotient determined in paragraph 3 of this subsection for each school district.
- 5. The amount determined in paragraph 4 of this subsection shall be the county aid for equalization assistance for education for a school district.
- D. State aid for equalization assistance for education for a school district shall be computed as follows:
- 1. Determine the equalization assistance for education for a school district as provided in subsections A and B of this section.
- 2. For each county, determine the levy that would be produced by the state equalization assistance property tax rate prescribed in section 15-994, subsection A.
- 3. Prorate the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this subsection to each school district in the county as prescribed by subsection ${\sf C}$ of this section.
- 4. Subtract the amount determined in paragraph 3 of this subsection from the amount determined in paragraph 1 of this subsection.
- E. Equalization assistance for education shall be paid from appropriations for that purpose to the school districts as provided in section 15-973.
- F. A school district shall report expenditures on approved career and technical education and vocational education programs in the annual financial report according to uniform guidelines prescribed by the uniform

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 system of financial records and in order to facilitate compliance with sections 15-255 and 15-904.

- G. The additional weight for state aid purposes given to special education as provided in section 15-943 shall be given to school districts only if special education programs comply with chapter 7, article 4 of this title and the conditions and standards prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction pursuant to rules of the state board of education for pupil identification and placement pursuant to sections 15-766 and 15-767.
- H. In addition to state general fund appropriations, all amounts received pursuant to section 37-521, subsection B, paragraph 3, section 42-5029, subsection E, paragraph 5 and section 42-5029.02, subsection A, paragraph 5 and from any other source for the purposes of this section are appropriated for state aid to schools as provided in this section.
- I. The total amount of state monies that may be spent in any fiscal year for state equalization assistance shall not exceed the amount appropriated or authorized by section 35-173 for that purpose. This section does not impose a duty on an officer, agent or employee of this state to discharge a responsibility or create any right in a person or group if the discharge or right would require an expenditure of state monies in excess of the expenditure authorized by legislative appropriation for that specific purpose.
- Sec. 10. Section 15-992, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-992. School district tax levy; additional tax in districts ineligible for equalization assistance; definition

- A. The board of supervisors of each county, at the time of levying other taxes, shall annually levy school district taxes on the property in any school district in which additional amounts are required, which shall be at rates prescribed in this section. A delinquency factor for estimated uncollected taxes may not be included in the computation of the primary tax rate for school district taxes. Local property taxes may not be levied for any deficit in the classroom site fund. The taxes shall be added to and collected in the same manner as other county taxes on the property within the school district. The amount of the school district taxes levied on the property in a particular school district shall be paid into the school fund of that school district.
- B. At the same time of levying taxes as provided in subsection A of this section, the county board of supervisors shall annually levy an additional tax in each school district that is not eligible for equalization assistance as provided in section 15-971 in an amount determined as follows:
- 1. Determine the levy that would be produced by fifty percent of the applicable qualifying tax rate, prescribed in section 15-971,

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 subsection B, per \$100 assessed valuation. THE APPLIABLE QUALIFYING TAX RATE:

- (a) FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT USES THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA IS THE APPLICABLE QUALIFYING TAX RATE PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-971, SUBSECTION B.
- (b) FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ELECTS TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-495, NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 15-971, SUBSECTION B, IS THE APPLICABLE QUALIFYING TAX RATE PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 41-1276, SUBSECTION I, PARAGRAPH 1.
- 2. Subtract the amount determined in section 15-971, subsection A from the levy determined in paragraph 1 of this subsection. This difference is the additional amount levied or collected as voluntary contributions pursuant to title 48, chapter 1, article 8, except that if the difference is zero or is a negative number, there shall be no levy.
- C. Monies collected pursuant to subsection B of this section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund to aid in school financial assistance.
- D. The additional tax prescribed in subsection B of this section is considered to be primary property tax for purposes of section 15-972, subsection B, except that this state is not required to make the payments prescribed in section 15-972, subsection H for these reductions in taxes.
- E. The tax levy prescribed in subsection A of this section shall be a rate equal to:
- 1. FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT USES THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA, the applicable qualifying tax rate or rates as prescribed in section 15-971, subsection B or a rate that would result in a levy that equals the school district equalization assistance base prescribed in section 15-971 subtracted by any amount received pursuant to section 15-905, subsections K, O and P per \$100 of assessed valuation used for primary property taxes, whichever is less.
- 2. FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ELECTS TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-495, THE APPLICABLE QUALIFYING TAX RATE OR RATES AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 41-1276, SUBSECTION I, PARAGRAPH 1 OR A RATE THAT WOULD RESULT IN A LEVY THAT EQUALS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT EQUALIZATION ASSISTANCE BASE PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-971 SUBTRACTED BY ANY AMOUNT RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-905, SUBSECTIONS K, O AND P PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION USED FOR PRIMARY PROPERTY TAXES, WHICHEVER IS LESS.
- F. At the same time of levying taxes as provided in subsection A of this section, the county board of supervisors shall annually levy an additional tax in each common school district not within a high school district that is equal to the countywide average per pupil equalization base for high school pupils multiplied by the number of resident high school pupils in the common school district not within a high school district during the prior school year. The monies collected pursuant to

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 this subsection shall be added to county aid for equalization assistance for education pursuant to section 15-971, subsection C. On or before July 1 of each year, the department of education shall provide each county board of supervisors with the countywide average per pupil equalization base for high school pupils, the number of resident high school pupils in the common school district not within a high school district during the prior school year and any other information requested by the county board of supervisors for the purposes of levying the tax prescribed in this subsection.

G. At the time of levying taxes as provided in subsection E of this section, the county school superintendent shall annually validate any additional primary school district tax levy amount requests from each school district and levy the sum of the following amounts:

1. FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT USES THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA:

 $\frac{1.}{1.0}$ (a) A rate that would result in a levy that equals the difference between the transportation revenue control limit as determined in section 15-946 and the transportation support level as determined in section 15-945 or a lesser amount.

 $\frac{2}{1}$ (b) A rate that would result in a levy that equals any amount pursuant to section 15-910.

3. (c) A rate that would result in a levy that equals any amount for tuition loss as determined in section 15-954.

4. (d) A rate that would result in a levy that equals any amount for the small school adjustment as determined in section 15-949.

5. (e) A rate that would result in a levy that equals any amount for liabilities in excess of the school district budget pursuant to section 15-907.

6. (f) A rate that would result in a levy that equals any amount for adjacent ways pursuant to section 15-995.

7. (g) A rate that would result in a levy that equals the amount not captured by the qualifying tax rate as a result of property subject to the government property lease excise tax pursuant to title 42, chapter 6, article 5 as calculated in section 15-971, subsection B, paragraph 2.

8. (h) Following the recommendation of the county school superintendent and on approval by the county board of supervisors, for a school district that is not eligible for state aid, a rate that would result in a levy that equals any legal amount not levied in the current year as a result of underestimated average daily membership in the current year or as a result of a judgment in accordance with section 42-16213.

9. (i) A rate that would result in a levy that equals any amount pursuant to a qualifying dropout prevention program that was originally established by law in 1987.

 $\frac{10.}{10.}$ (j) On the recommendation of the county school superintendent and on approval by the county board of supervisors before adoption of tax

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rates pursuant to section 42-17151, a rate that would result in a levy that equals any separately stated cash deficit from the prior fiscal year resulting from an anticipated or actual deviation in the property tax roll, including resolutions or judgments pursuant to title 42, chapter 16, articles 5 and 6.

- 2. FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ELECTS TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-495:
- (a) A RATE THAT WOULD RESULT IN A LEVY THAT EQUALS THE AMOUNT NOT CAPTURED BY THE QUALIFYING TAX RATE AS A RESULT OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY LEASE EXCISE TAX PURSUANT TO TITLE 42, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 5 AS CALCULATED IN SECTION 15-971, SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH 2.
- (b) FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND ON APPROVAL BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR STATE AID, A RATE THAT WOULD RESULT IN A LEVY THAT EQUALS ANY LEGAL AMOUNT NOT LEVIED IN THE CURRENT YEAR AS A RESULT OF UNDERESTIMATED AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP IN THE CURRENT YEAR OR AS A RESULT OF A JUDGMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-16213.
- (c) ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND ON APPROVAL BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BEFORE ADOPTION OF TAX RATES PURSUANT TO SECTION 42-17151, A RATE THAT WOULD RESULT IN A LEVY THAT EQUALS ANY SEPARATELY STATED CASH DEFICIT FROM THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR RESULTING FROM AN ANTICIPATED OR ACTUAL DEVIATION IN THE PROPERTY TAX ROLL, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS OR JUDGMENTS PURSUANT TO TITLE 42, CHAPTER 16, ARTICLES 5 AND 6.
- H. For the purposes of this section, "assessed valuation" includes the values used to determine voluntary contributions collected pursuant to title 9, chapter 4, article 3 and title 48, chapter 1, article 8.
- Sec. 11. Section 15-2402, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-2402. Arizona empowerment scholarship accounts; funds

- A. Arizona empowerment scholarship accounts are established to provide options for the education of students in this state.
- B. To enroll a qualified student for an Arizona empowerment scholarship account, the parent of the qualified student must sign an agreement to do all of the following:
- 1. Use a portion of the Arizona empowerment scholarship account monies allocated annually to provide an education for the qualified student in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science, unless the Arizona empowerment scholarship account is allocated monies according to a transfer schedule other than quarterly transfers pursuant to section 15-2403, subsection G.
- 2. Not enroll the qualified student in a school district or charter school and release the school district from all obligations to educate the qualified student. This paragraph does not:

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- (a) Relieve the school district or charter school that the qualified student previously attended from the obligation to conduct an evaluation pursuant to section 15-766.
- (b) Require a THE qualified student to withdraw from a THE school district or charter school before enrolling for an Arizona empowerment scholarship account if the qualified student withdraws from the school district or charter school before receiving any monies in the qualified student's Arizona empowerment scholarship account.
- (c) Prevent $\frac{1}{a}$ THE qualified student from applying in advance for an Arizona empowerment scholarship account to be funded beginning the following school year.
- 3. Not accept a scholarship from a school tuition organization pursuant to title 43 concurrently with an Arizona empowerment scholarship account for the qualified student in the same year a parent signs the agreement pursuant to this section.
- 4. Use monies deposited in the qualified student's Arizona empowerment scholarship account only for the following expenses of the qualified student:
 - (a) Tuition or fees at a qualified school.
 - (b) Textbooks required by a qualified school.
- (c) If the qualified student meets any of the criteria specified in section 15-2401, paragraph 7, subdivision (a), item (i), (ii) or (iii) as determined by a school district or by an independent third party pursuant to section 15-2403, subsection J, the qualified student may use the following additional services:
- (i) Educational therapies from a licensed or accredited practitioner or provider, including and up to any amount not covered by insurance if the expense is partially paid by a health insurance policy for the qualified student.
 - (ii) A licensed or accredited paraprofessional or educational aide.
- (iii) Tuition for vocational and life skills education approved by the department.
- (iv) Associated goods and services that include educational and psychological evaluations, assistive technology rentals and braille translation goods and services approved by the department.
- (d) Tutoring or teaching services provided by an individual or facility accredited by a state, regional or national accrediting organization.
 - (e) Curricula and supplementary materials.
 - (f) Tuition or fees for a nonpublic online learning program.
- (g) Fees for a nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement test, an advanced placement examination or any exams related to college or university admission.
 - (h) Tuition or fees at an eligible postsecondary institution.
 - (i) Textbooks required by an eligible postsecondary institution.

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- (j) Fees to manage the Arizona empowerment scholarship account.
- (k) Services provided by a public school, including individual classes and extracurricular programs.
 - (1) Insurance or surety bond payments.
 - (m) Uniforms purchased from or through a qualified school.
- (n) If the qualified student meets the criteria specified in section 15-2401, paragraph 7, subdivision (a), item (i), (ii) or (iii) and if the qualified student is in the second year prior to the final year of a contract executed pursuant to this article, costs associated with an annual education plan conducted by an independent evaluation team. shall prescribe minimum qualifications for independent evaluation teams pursuant to this subdivision and factors that teams must use to determine whether the qualified student shall be eligible to continue to receive monies pursuant to this article through the school year in which the qualified student reaches twenty-two years of age. An independent evaluation team that provides an annual education plan pursuant to this subdivision shall submit a written report that summarizes the results of the evaluation to the parent of the qualified student and to the department on or before July 31. The written report submitted by the independent evaluation team is valid for one year. If the department determines that the qualified student meets the eligibility criteria prescribed in the annual education plan, the qualified student is eligible to continue to receive monies pursuant to this article until the qualified student reaches twenty-two years of age, subject to annual review. A parent may appeal the department's decision pursuant to title 41, chapter 6, article 10. As an addendum to a qualified student's final-year contract, the department shall provide the following written information to the parent of the qualified student:
- (i) That the qualified student will not be eligible to continue to receive monies pursuant to this article unless the results of an annual education plan conducted pursuant to this subdivision demonstrate that the qualified student meets the eligibility criteria prescribed in the annual education plan.
- (ii) That the parent is entitled to obtain an annual education plan pursuant to this subdivision to determine whether the qualified student meets the eligibility criteria prescribed in the annual education plan.
- (iii) A list of independent evaluation teams that meet the minimum qualifications prescribed by the department pursuant to this subdivision.
- (o) Public transportation services in this state, including a commuter pass for the qualified student, or transportation network services as defined in section 28-9551 between the qualified student's residence and a qualified school in which the qualified student is enrolled.

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- (p) Computer hardware and technological devices primarily used for an educational purpose. For the purposes of this subdivision, "computer hardware and technological devices":
- (i) Includes calculators, personal computers, laptops, tablet devices, microscopes, telescopes and printers.
- (ii) Does not include entertainment and other primarily noneducational devices, including televisions, telephones, video game consoles and accessories, and home theatre and audio equipment.
- 5. Not file an affidavit of intent to homeschool pursuant to section 15-802, subsection B, paragraph 2 or 3.
- 6. Not use monies deposited in the qualified student's account for any of the following:
- (a) Computer hardware or other technological devices, except as otherwise allowed under paragraph 4, subdivision (c) or (p) of this subsection.
- (b) Transportation of the pupil, except for transportation services described in paragraph 4, subdivision (o) of this subsection.
- C. In exchange for the parent's agreement pursuant to subsection B of this section, the department shall transfer from the monies that would otherwise be allocated to a recipient's prior school district, or if the child is currently eligible to attend a preschool program for children with disabilities, a kindergarten program or any of grades one through twelve, the monies that the department determines would otherwise be allocated to a recipient's expected school district of attendance, to the treasurer for deposit into an Arizona empowerment scholarship account an amount that is equivalent to ninety percent of the sum of the base support level and additional assistance prescribed in sections 15-185 and 15-943 for that particular student if that student were attending a charter school AMOUNT THAT WOULD BE CALCULATED FOR THAT STUDENT UNDER THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-901.04, SUBSECTION A.
- D. The department of education empowerment scholarship account fund is established consisting of monies appropriated by the legislature. The department shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund are subject to legislative appropriation. Monies in the fund shall be used for the department's costs in administering Arizona empowerment scholarship accounts under this chapter. Monies in the fund are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. If the number of Arizona empowerment scholarship accounts significantly increases after fiscal year 2020-2021, the department may request an increase in the amount appropriated to the fund in any subsequent fiscal year in the budget estimate submitted pursuant to section 35-113. The department shall list monies in the fund as a separate line item in its budget estimate.

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- E. The state treasurer empowerment scholarship account fund is established consisting of monies appropriated by the legislature. The state treasurer shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund shall be used for the state treasurer's costs in administering the Arizona empowerment scholarship accounts under this chapter. If the number of Arizona empowerment scholarship accounts significantly increases after fiscal year 2020-2021, the state treasurer may request an increase in the amount appropriated to the fund in any subsequent fiscal year in the budget estimate submitted pursuant to section 35-113. Monies in the fund are subject to legislative appropriation. Monies in the fund are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. The state treasurer shall list monies in the fund as a separate line item in its budget estimate.
- F. A parent must renew the qualified student's Arizona empowerment scholarship account on an annual basis.
- G. Notwithstanding any changes to the student's multidisciplinary evaluation team plan, a student who has previously qualified for an Arizona empowerment scholarship account remains eligible to apply for renewal until the student finishes high school.
- H. If a parent does not renew the qualified student's Arizona empowerment scholarship account for a period of three academic years, the department shall notify the parent that the qualified student's account will be closed in sixty calendar days. The notification must be sent through certified mail, email and telephone, if applicable. The parent has sixty calendar days to renew the qualified student's Arizona empowerment scholarship account. If the parent chooses not to renew or does not respond in sixty calendar days, the department shall close the account and any remaining monies shall be returned to the state.
- I. A signed agreement under this section constitutes school attendance required by section 15-802.
- J. A qualified school or a provider of services purchased pursuant to subsection B, paragraph 4 of this section may not share, refund or rebate any Arizona empowerment scholarship account monies with the parent or qualified student in any manner.
- K. Notwithstanding subsection H of this section, on the qualified student's graduation from a postsecondary institution or after any period of four consecutive years after high school graduation in which the student is not enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution, but not before this time as long as the account holder continues using a portion of account monies for eligible expenses each year and is in good standing, the qualified student's Arizona empowerment scholarship account shall be closed and any remaining monies shall be returned to the state.
- L. Monies received pursuant to this article do not constitute taxable income to the parent of the qualified student.

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Sec. 12. Section 41-1276, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

41-1276. <u>Truth in taxation levy for equalization assistance</u> to school districts

- A. On or before February 15 of each year, the joint legislative budget committee shall compute and transmit the truth in taxation rates for equalization assistance for school districts for the following fiscal year to:
- 1. The chairperson CHAIRPERSONS of the house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees.
- 2. The chairperson CHAIRPERSONS of the appropriations committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or their successor committees.
- B. The truth in taxation rates consist of the qualifying tax rate for a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that does not offer instruction in high school subjects pursuant to section 15-971, subsection B, paragraph 1 and a qualifying tax rate for a unified district, a common school district not within a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that offers instruction in high school subjects pursuant to section 15-971, subsection B, paragraph 2 that will offset the change in net assessed valuation of property that was subject to tax in the prior year.
- C. The joint legislative budget committee shall compute the truth in taxation rates as follows:
- 1. Determine the statewide net assessed value for the preceding tax year as provided in section 42-17151, subsection A, paragraph 3.
- 2. Determine the statewide net assessed value for the current tax year, excluding the net assessed value of property that was not subject to tax in the preceding year.
- 3. Divide the amount determined in paragraph 1 of this subsection by the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this subsection.
- 4. Adjust the qualifying tax rates for the current fiscal year by the percentage determined in paragraph 3 of this subsection in order to offset the change in net assessed value.
- D. Except as provided in subsections E and G of this section, the qualifying tax rate for a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that does not offer instruction in high school subjects and the qualifying tax rate for a unified school district, a common school district not within a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that offers instruction in high school subjects for the following fiscal year shall be the rate determined by the joint legislative budget committee pursuant to subsection C of this section. The committee shall transmit the rates to

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 the superintendent of public instruction and the county boards of supervisors by March 15 of each year.

- E. If the legislature proposes qualifying tax rates that exceed the truth in taxation rate:
- 1. The house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees, shall hold a joint hearing on or before February 28 and publish a notice of a truth in taxation hearing subject to the following requirements:
- (a) The notice shall be published twice in a newspaper of general circulation in this state that is published at the state capital. The first publication shall be at least fourteen but not more than twenty days before the date of the hearing. The second publication shall be at least seven but not more than ten days before the date of the hearing.
- (b) The notice shall be published in a location other than the classified or legal advertising section of the newspaper.
- (c) The notice shall be at least one-fourth page in size and shall be surrounded by a solid black border at least one-eighth inch in width.
- (d) The notice shall be in the following form, with the "truth in taxation hearing notice of tax increase" headline in at least eighteen-point type:

Truth in Taxation Hearing Notice of Tax Increase

In compliance with section 41-1276, Arizona Revised Statutes, the state legislature is notifying property taxpayers in Arizona of the legislature's intention to raise the property tax levy over last year's level.

The proposed tax increase will cause the taxes on a \$100,000 home to be \$(total proposed taxes including the tax increase). Without the proposed tax increase, the total taxes that would be owed on a \$100,000 home would have been \$_____.

All interested citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase that is scheduled to be held (date and time) at (location).

- (e) For the purposes of computing the tax increase on a \$100,000 home as required by the notice, the joint meeting of the house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees, shall consider the difference between the truth in taxation rate and the proposed increased rate.
- 2. The joint meeting of the house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees, shall consider any motion to recommend the proposed tax rates to the full legislature by roll call vote.

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- F. In addition to publishing the truth in taxation notice under subsection E, paragraph 1 of this section, the joint meeting of the house of representatives ways and means committee and the senate finance committee, or their successor committees, shall issue a press release containing the truth in taxation notice.
- G. Notwithstanding any other law, The legislature shall not adopt a state budget that provides for qualifying tax rates pursuant to section 15-971 that exceed the truth in taxation rates computed pursuant to subsection A of this section unless the rates are adopted by a concurrent resolution approved by an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature before the legislature enacts the general appropriations bill. If the resolution is not approved by two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature, the rates for the following fiscal year shall be the truth in taxation rates determined pursuant to subsection C of this section and shall be transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction and the county boards of supervisors.
- H. Notwithstanding subsection C of this section and if approved by the qualified electors voting at a statewide general election, the legislature shall not set a qualifying tax rate that exceeds \$2.1265 for a common or high school district or \$4.253 for a unified school district. The legislature shall not set a county equalization assistance for education rate that exceeds \$0.5123.
 - I. Pursuant to subsection C of this section: —
- 1. FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT USES THE STANDARD SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA, the qualifying tax rate in tax year 2022:
- (a) For a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that does not offer instruction in high school subjects as provided in section 15-447 is \$1.7133.
- (b) and For a unified school district, a common school district not within a high school district or a common school district within a high school district that offers instruction in high school subjects as provided in section 15-447 is \$3.4266.
- 2. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION G OF THIS SECTION, FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ELECTS TO USE THE STATE STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-495, THE QUALIFYING TAX RATE IN TAX YEAR 2023:
- (a) FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT WITHIN A HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT DOES NOT OFFER INSTRUCTION IN HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 15-447 IS \$2.0559.
- (b) FOR A UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, A COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT NOT WITHIN A HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT WITHIN A HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT OFFERS INSTRUCTION IN HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 15-447 IS \$4.1119.

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