



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1054

~~middle school students; civics; instruction~~
(NOW: students; civics education; development program)

Purpose

Establishes the Arizona Civics Education and Leadership Development Program (Civics and Leadership Program) within the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the Arizona Civics Education and Leadership Development Fund (Fund). Outlines eligibility requirements for nonprofits to participate, authorized uses of Fund monies and reporting requirements. Appropriates \$300,000 in FY 2024 from the state General Fund to the Fund.

Background

The State Board of Education (SBE) must prescribe a minimum course of study and competency requirements for common schools and high schools that incorporate academic standards in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. SBE-adopted social studies standards for common schools include civic standards for each grade. High school social studies standards must include American civics (A.R.S. §§ [15-701](#) and [15-701.01](#); [SBE](#)). On Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day, public schools must dedicate most of the day to civics education ([A.R.S. § 15-710.01](#)).

The SBE must work with specified entities to develop high school civic education standards that include instruction on the founding principles of the United States and civic-minded expectations of desirable citizenry. To obtain a high school diploma, a high school student must pass a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. A seventh or eighth grade student may take the civics test and does not have to retake the test in high school, if the student receives a passing score (A.R.S. §§ [15-701.01](#) and [15-718](#)).

S.B. 1054 appropriates \$300,000 in FY 2024 from the state General Fund to the Fund.

Provisions

1. Establishes the Civics and Leadership Program within ADE to provide civics education and leadership development training to middle school and high school students in Arizona.
2. Requires ADE to develop procedures for eligible nonprofits to apply to participate in the Civics and Leadership Program and allows ADE to approve an application if the eligible nonprofit:
 - a) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit;
 - b) has provided American civics education instruction to students who are at least 10 years old for at least five years;

- c) advances the principles of a democratic republic through multigenerational civics education, civil discourse and civic engagement;
 - d) can provide American civics education and leadership training to middle school and high school students;
 - e) submits a copy of the curriculum and all course materials, including instructor manuals, as part of the application.
3. Requires the provided American civics education and leadership development training to:
 - a) promote civil service and engagement;
 - b) prepare students for the duties of citizenship;
 - c) provide opportunities to identify and debate issues relating to a democratic republic; and
 - d) include education and training on the original intent of the founding documents and principles of the United States as found in source documents, including the U.S. Constitution and constitutional amendments, with emphasis on the Bill of Rights, and the arguments presented in the Federalist Papers.
4. Requires the education and training to include education on any of the following:
 - a) the history of the United States of America, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights;
 - b) the Declaration of Independence;
 - c) the composition and roles of the branches of local, state and federal government;
 - d) the roles and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic republic, including the importance of civil discourse; and
 - e) the positive benefits for citizens in a democratic republic in contrast to other forms of government.
5. Establishes the Fund, administered by ADE and consisting of legislative appropriations, gifts, grants and donations.
6. Appropriates \$300,000 in FY 2024 from the state General Fund to the Fund and specifies that the appropriation is exempt from lapsing.
7. Directs ADE to administer the Fund and distribute Fund monies to approved nonprofits.
8. Requires the nonprofits to use the distributed monies for:
 - a) stipends for civics leaders and counselors and wages for program staff;
 - b) educational materials and transportation; and
 - c) food, beverages and clothing.
9. Specifies that Fund monies are continuously appropriated and exempt from lapsing.
10. Requires each approved nonprofit to annually submit a report to ADE by November 1 describing the number and types of activities conducted, number of students served and outcomes achieved.
11. Directs ADE to compile the reports and submit the compiled reports to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Secretary of State.
12. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committees

1. Expands eligibility for the Civics and Leadership Program to include non-profits that provide civics education and training to high school students.
2. Requires, for eligibility, that a nonprofit:
 - a) advance the principles of a democratic republic, rather than advance American democracy; and
 - b) provide the outlined education and training relating to a democratic republic, rather than to democracy.
3. Requires ADE's application procedures to be for nonprofits to participate in the Civics and Leadership Program, rather than be instructional service providers.
4. Requires a participating nonprofit to provide education and training, rather than instruction.
5. Modifies the requirements for the provided education and instruction.
6. Removes the specification that participating students must be enrolled in a school district, charter school or private school.
7. Makes technical and conforming changes.

Amendments Adopted by Committee of the Whole

1. Adds, to the criteria for a nonprofit to be approved to participate in Civics and Leadership Program, that the nonprofit must:
 - a) include education and training on the original intent of the founding documents and principles of the United States as found in source documents; and
 - b) submit a copy of the curriculum and course materials as part of the application.
2. Modifies the topics that a nonprofit participant may include in education and training by:
 - a) adding the positive benefits for citizens in a democratic republic in contrast to other forms of government; and
 - b) including the composition and roles, rather than only composition, of the branches of government.

Senate Action

ED	2/2/23	DPA	5-2-0
APPROP	2/14/23	DPA	8-2-0

Prepared by Senate Research

March 16, 2023

LB/slp