

REFERENCE TITLE: grant program; high schools; ADE

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2025

## HB 2881

Introduced by  
Representatives Hernandez A: Biasiucci, Gress, Hernandez C, Hernandez L,  
Luna-Nájera, Tsosie, Volk

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 15-249.08; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 2, article 2, Arizona Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-249.08, to read:

4 15-249.08. High school success grant program; rules; school  
5 requirements; fund; exemption

6 A. THE HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS GRANT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED IN THE  
7 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO FUND NINTH GRADE ON-TRACK PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  
8 THAT ARE PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
9 ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM AND MAY ADOPT RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
10 TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

11 1. ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO APPLY FOR A GRANT,  
12 FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO EVALUATE THE APPLICATIONS AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO  
13 AWARD MULTI-YEAR GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
14 ACCEPT GRANT APPLICATIONS BEGINNING ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION  
15 AND SHALL ENSURE THAT THE APPLICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS DO NOT  
16 IMPOSE AN UNDUE BURDEN ON THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

17 2. REQUIRE EACH APPLICATION THAT IS SUBMITTED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO  
18 BE APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OR  
19 CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY, WHICHEVER APPLIES, BEFORE THE APPLICATION  
20 IS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

21 3. IF SUFFICIENT MONIES ARE AVAILABLE, AWARD GRANTS TO EACH  
22 ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL IN AN AMOUNT THAT IS EQUAL TO \$150, ADJUSTED FOR  
23 INFLATION EACH YEAR AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, FOR EACH STUDENT WHO IS  
24 ENROLLED IN NINTH GRADE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL. IF THERE ARE NOT SUFFICIENT  
25 MONIES AVAILABLE TO FUND GRANTS FOR EACH ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL PURSUANT  
26 TO THIS PARAGRAPH, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE GRANT AWARDS AS  
27 FOLLOWS:

28 (a) GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT RECEIVED GRANT  
29 MONIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IN THE CURRENT YEAR AND THAT IS IN GOOD  
30 STANDING.

31 (b) PRIORITIZE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF  
32 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO MEET THE ECONOMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS  
33 ESTABLISHED UNDER THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND CHILD NUTRITION ACTS (42  
34 UNITED STATES CODE SECTIONS 1751 THROUGH 1793) FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE  
35 LUNCHES.

36 4. PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR  
37 IMPLEMENTING NINTH GRADE ON-TRACK PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PURSUANT TO THIS  
38 SECTION.

39 B. EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT RECEIVES A GRANT AWARD PURSUANT TO  
40 SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION SHALL:

41 1. USE THE MONIES TO ESTABLISH AND EXPAND PROGRAMS, OPPORTUNITIES  
42 AND STRATEGIES THAT HELP NINTH GRADE STUDENTS COMPLETE SUFFICIENT CREDITS  
43 TO BE ON TRACK TO GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS, INCLUDING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1 (a) PROVIDING REAL-TIME, ACCESSIBLY FORMATTED DATA REGARDING  
2 STUDENT GRADES, ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR TO GRADE NINE TEACHERS AND SUPPORT  
3 STAFF.

4 (b) ALLOCATING TIME FOR GRADE NINE TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF TO  
5 MEET DURING THE SCHOOL DAY TO REVIEW DATA AND DEVELOP INTERVENTION  
6 STRATEGIES FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS IN GRADE NINE. THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL  
7 MAINTAIN RECORDS OF MEETINGS HELD PURSUANT TO THIS SUBDIVISION AND PROVIDE  
8 THOSE RECORDS TO THE DEPARTMENT ON REQUEST.

9 (c) PROVIDE TIMELY, ACTIONABLE DATA FOR GRADE NINE TEACHERS,  
10 INCLUDING PROVIDING ACCESS TO DATA AND DEVELOPING TEACHERS' DATA LITERACY.

11 (d) CREATING HIGHLY EFFECTIVE GRADE NINE SUCCESS TEAMS.

12 (e) ESTABLISHING FOUNDATIONAL STRUCTURES AND CONDITIONS FOR GRADE  
13 NINE ON-TRACK WORK.

14 (f) ESTABLISHING SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO OPTIMIZE OPERATIONS OF  
15 THE GRADE NINE SUCCESS TEAM.

16 (g) SYSTEMATIZING GRADE NINE SUCCESS BY RECRUITING AND ENGAGING ALL  
17 STAKEHOLDERS.

18 (h) CREATING AND EXECUTING PROACTIVE AND DATA-DRIVEN INTERVENTIONS  
19 FOR STUDENTS IN GRADE NINE.

20 (i) CULTIVATING A GROWTH MINDSET IN ADULTS.

21 (j) ESTABLISHING DATA-DRIVEN INTERVENTIONS AND ACADEMIC REFERRAL  
22 SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES.

23 (k) IMPLEMENTING PROACTIVE AND HIGH LEVERAGE INTERVENTION  
24 STRATEGIES.

25 (l) CREATING AND EXECUTING A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF GRADE NINE  
26 TRANSITION SUPPORTS.

27 (m) CREATING A PERSONALIZED AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS  
28 IN GRADE NINE.

29 (n) PROVIDING EARLY PREPARATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRY.

30 (o) PROVIDING PROACTIVE SUPPORTS TO GRADE NINE TEACHERS AND SUPPORT  
31 STAFF.

32 (p) IMPLEMENTING HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES AND FAIR  
33 GRADING PRACTICES.

34 (q) DEVELOPING LEARNING-CENTERED PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES AND  
35 STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING COMMUNITIES.

36 (r) ESTABLISHING A PARTNERSHIP WITH AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS AT  
37 LEAST FIVE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE PROVIDING NINTH GRADE ON-TRACK PROGRAMS AND  
38 SERVICES TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO INCREASE GRADE NINE ON-TRACK RATES.

39 2. ON REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT, PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION  
40 NECESSARY TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

41 C. THE HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS GRANT PROGRAM FUND IS ESTABLISHED  
42 CONSISTING OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS.  
43 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND. MONIES IN THE FUND  
44 ARE CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED AND ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF  
45 SECTION 35-190 RELATING TO LAPSING OF APPROPRIATIONS.

1 D. THE LEGISLATURE SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE MONIES TO THE HIGH  
2 SCHOOL SUCCESS GRANT PROGRAM FUND IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO AT LEAST \$150 FOR  
3 EACH NINTH GRADE STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THIS STATE,  
4 ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION EACH YEAR AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

5 E. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A STUDENT IS DEEMED ON TRACK  
6 TO GRADUATE IF THE STUDENT DOES BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

7 1. COMPLETES AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE CREDITS REQUIRED  
8 FOR THE STUDENT TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL BY THE END OF NINTH GRADE.

9 2. DOES NOT EARN MORE THAN ONE LETTER GRADE OF F, OR THE  
10 EQUIVALENT, IN NINTH GRADE.

11 Sec. 2. Appropriation; high school success grant program  
12 fund; intent

13 A. The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is appropriated from the state general fund in  
14 fiscal year 2025-2026 to the high school success grant program fund  
15 established by section 15-249.08, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by  
16 this act.

17 B. The legislature intends that the appropriation made in  
18 subsection A of this section be considered ongoing funding in future  
19 years.