

REFERENCE TITLE: school attendance requirements; religious purposes

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2266

Introduced by
Representative Marshall

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-806, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-806, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-806. Policies; excuse from school attendance

5 A. The governing board of each school district and the governing
6 body of each charter school shall adopt a policy ~~governing the excuse of~~
7 ~~pupils for religious purposes. The policy may permit a pupil~~ THAT ALLOWS
8 STUDENTS to be excused from school attendance for religious purposes,
9 including participation in religious exercises or religious instruction.
10 ~~if the policy permits a pupil to be excused for religious purposes,~~ The
11 policy ~~shall~~ MUST stipulate the conditions under which the excuse will be
12 granted, ~~. These conditions shall include~~ INCLUDING at least the
13 following CONDITIONS:

14 1. The person who has custody of the ~~pupil~~ STUDENT has given
15 written consent.

16 2. Any religious instruction or exercise takes place at a suitable
17 place away from school property designated by the church or religious
18 denomination or group.

19 B. The governing board of each school district and the governing
20 body of each charter school shall adopt a policy governing the excuse of
21 ~~pupils~~ STUDENTS from school attendance. The policy ~~shall~~ MUST require the
22 school district to apply to the department of education for authorization
23 of school closure for the following reasons:

24 1. Widespread illness for any period of three consecutive days or
25 more.

26 2. Adverse weather conditions for any period of three consecutive
27 days or more.

28 3. Concerted refusal by students to attend classes for any period
29 of three consecutive days or more.

30 4. Threats of violence against school property, school personnel or
31 ~~pupils~~ STUDENTS for any period of one day or more.

32 5. Situations affecting the safety of persons or property resulting
33 from fire, flooding or floodwater, an earthquake, a hazardous material
34 event or another cause if approved by the department of education.