

Senate Engrossed House Bill

statewide assessment; testing window; revisions

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

HOUSE BILL 2032

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-701, 15-741, 15-742 AND 15-743, ARIZONA REVISED
STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-701, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-701. Common schools; promotions; requirements;
5 certificate; supervision of eighth grades by
6 superintendent of high school district; high school
7 admissions; academic credit; definition

8 A. The state board of education shall:

9 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study incorporating the academic
10 standards adopted by the state board of education to be taught in the
11 common schools.

12 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the promotion of pupils
13 from the eighth grade and competency requirements for the promotion of
14 pupils from the third grade that incorporate the academic standards in at
15 least the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social
16 studies. The competency requirements for the promotion of pupils from the
17 third grade shall include the following:

18 (a) A requirement that a pupil not be promoted from the third grade
19 if the pupil ~~obtains a score on the reading portion of the statewide~~
20 ~~assessment that~~ does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills as
21 established by the state board. A pupil may not be retained ~~pursuant to~~
22 ~~this subdivision if data regarding the pupil's performance on the~~
23 ~~statewide assessment is not available before the end of the current~~
24 ~~academic year and may not be retained~~ more than once. A pupil who is not
25 retained ~~due to the unavailability of test data~~ AND WHO OBTAINS A SCORE ON
26 THE READING PORTION OF THE STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT THAT DOES NOT DEMONSTRATE
27 SUFFICIENT READING SKILLS must receive evidence-based intervention and
28 remedial strategies pursuant to subdivision (c) of this paragraph ~~if the~~
29 ~~third grade assessment data subsequently does not demonstrate sufficient~~
30 ~~reading skills.~~

31 (b) A mechanism to allow a school district governing board or
32 charter school governing body to promote from the third grade a pupil who
33 does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills pursuant to subdivision (a)
34 of this paragraph if the pupil:

35 (i) Is an English learner or a limited English proficient student
36 as defined in section 15-751 and has had fewer than three years of English
37 language instruction.

38 (ii) Is in the process of a special education referral or
39 evaluation for placement in special education, has been diagnosed as
40 having a significant reading impairment, including dyslexia, or is a child
41 with a disability as defined in section 15-761 if the pupil's
42 individualized education program team and the pupil's parent or guardian
43 agree that promotion is appropriate based on the pupil's individualized
44 education program.

1 (iii) Has demonstrated or subsequently demonstrates sufficient
2 reading skills or adequate progress toward sufficient reading skills of
3 the third grade reading standards as evidenced through a collection of
4 reading assessments approved by the state board of education, which
5 includes an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the
6 state board.

7 (iv) Receives intervention and remedial services during the summer
8 or a subsequent school year pursuant to subdivision (c) of this paragraph
9 and demonstrates sufficient progress based on guidelines issued pursuant
10 to subsection B, paragraph 7 of this section.

11 (c) Evidence-based intervention and remedial strategies developed
12 by the state board of education for pupils who are not promoted from the
13 third grade. A school district governing board or charter school
14 governing body shall offer more than one of the intervention and remedial
15 strategies developed by the state board of education. The parent or
16 guardian of a pupil who is not promoted from the third grade and the
17 pupil's teacher and principal may choose the most appropriate intervention
18 and remedial strategies that will be provided to that pupil. The
19 intervention and remedial strategies developed by the state board of
20 education shall include:

21 (i) A requirement that the pupil be assigned for evidence-based
22 reading instruction by a different teacher who was designated in that
23 teacher's most recent performance evaluation in one of the top two
24 performance classifications.

25 (ii) Summer school reading instruction.

26 (iii) In the next academic year, intensive reading instruction that
27 occurs before, during or after the regular school day, or any combination
28 of before, during and after the regular school day.

29 (iv) Small group and teacher-led evidence-based reading
30 instruction, which may include computer-based or online reading
31 instruction.

32 (d) A requirement that a school district governing board or charter
33 school governing body that promotes a pupil pursuant to subdivision (b) of
34 this paragraph provide annual reporting to the department of education on
35 or before October 1 that includes information on the total number of
36 pupils subject to the retention provisions of subdivision (a) of this
37 paragraph, the total number of students promoted pursuant to subdivision
38 (b) of this paragraph, the total number of pupils retained in grade three
39 and the interventions administered pursuant to subdivision (c) of this
40 paragraph.

41 3. Provide for universal screening of pupils in preschool programs,
42 kindergarten programs and grades one through three that is designed to
43 identify pupils who have reading deficiencies pursuant to section 15-704.

1 4. Develop evidence-based intervention and remedial strategies
2 pursuant to paragraph 2, subdivision (c) of this subsection for pupils in
3 kindergarten programs and grades one through three who are identified as
4 having reading deficiencies pursuant to section 15-704.

5 5. Distribute guidelines for the school districts to follow in
6 prescribing criteria for the promotion of pupils from grade to grade in
7 the common schools. These guidelines shall include recommended procedures
8 for ensuring that the cultural background of a pupil is taken into
9 consideration when criteria for promotion are being applied.

10 B. School districts and charter schools shall provide annual
11 written notification to parents of pupils in kindergarten programs and
12 first, second and third grades that a pupil who does not demonstrate
13 sufficient reading skills pursuant to subsection A of this section will
14 not be promoted from the third grade. School districts and charter
15 schools shall identify each pupil who is at risk of reading below grade
16 level in kindergarten and grades one, two and three and shall provide to
17 the parent of that pupil a specific written notification of the reading
18 deficiency within three weeks after identifying the reading deficiency.
19 The notification shall include the following information:

20 1. A description of the pupil's specific individual needs.

21 2. A description of the current reading services provided to the
22 pupil.

23 3. A description of the available supplemental instructional
24 services and supporting programs that are designed to remediate reading
25 deficiencies. Each school district or charter school shall offer more
26 than one evidence-based intervention strategy and more than one remedial
27 strategy developed by the state board of education for pupils with reading
28 deficiencies. The notification shall list the intervention and remedial
29 strategies offered and shall instruct the parent to choose, in
30 consultation with the pupil's teacher, the most appropriate strategies to
31 be provided and implemented for that child.

32 4. Parental strategies to assist the pupil to attain reading
33 proficiency.

34 5. The frequency with which the school district or charter school
35 will provide timely updates and information to the parent on the pupil's
36 progress toward reading proficiency.

37 6. A statement that the pupil will not be promoted from the third
38 grade if the pupil does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills pursuant
39 to subsection A, paragraph 2, subdivision (a) of this section, unless the
40 pupil is exempt from mandatory retention in grade three or the pupil
41 qualifies for an exemption pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 2,
42 subdivision (b) of this section.

43 7. A description of the school district or charter school policies
44 on midyear promotion to a higher grade.

1 C. Pursuant to the guidelines that the state board of education
2 distributes, the governing board of a school district shall:

3 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
4 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this
5 section.

6 2. Prescribe criteria for the promotion of pupils from grade to
7 grade in the common schools in the school district. These criteria shall
8 include accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading,
9 writing, mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by
10 district assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of
11 academic achievement and attendance.

12 D. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
13 competency requirements for promotion that are in addition to or higher
14 than the course of study and competency requirements the state board
15 prescribes.

16 E. A teacher shall determine whether to promote or retain a pupil
17 in a grade in a common school on the basis of the prescribed criteria.
18 The governing board, if it reviews the decision of a teacher to promote or
19 retain a pupil in a grade in a common school as provided in section
20 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base its decision on the prescribed criteria.

21 F. A governing board may provide and issue certificates of
22 promotion to pupils whom it promotes from the eighth grade of a common
23 school. Such certificates shall be signed by the principal or
24 superintendent of schools. If there is no principal or superintendent of
25 schools, the certificates shall be signed by an eighth grade teacher. The
26 certificates shall admit the holders to any high school in this state.

27 G. Within any high school district or union high school district,
28 the superintendent of the high school district shall supervise the work of
29 the eighth grade of all schools that do not employ a superintendent or
30 principal.

31 H. A school district shall not deny a pupil who is between the ages
32 of sixteen and twenty-one years admission to a high school because the
33 pupil does not hold an eighth grade certificate. Governing boards shall
34 establish procedures for determining the admissibility of pupils who are
35 under sixteen years of age and who do not hold eighth grade certificates.

36 I. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow common
37 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic
38 course or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject
39 without enrolling in the course or subject.

40 J. A school district may conduct a ceremony to honor pupils who
41 have been promoted from the eighth grade.

42 K. For the purposes of this section, "dyslexia" means a condition
43 that:

44 1. Is neurological in origin.

1 2. Is characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word
2 recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities, including
3 difficulties that typically result from a deficit in the phonological
4 component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other
5 cognitive abilities and to the provision of effective classroom
6 instruction.

7 3. May include secondary consequences such as problems with reading
8 comprehension and reduced reading experience that may impede the growth of
9 vocabulary and background knowledge.

10 Sec. 2. Section 15-741, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
11 read:

12 15-741. Assessment of pupils; definition

13 A. The state board of education shall:

14 1. Adopt rules for the purposes of this article pursuant to title
15 41, chapter 6.

16 2. Adopt and implement a statewide assessment to measure pupil
17 achievement of the state board-adopted academic standards in reading,
18 writing and mathematics in at least four grades designated by the state
19 board. The state board shall determine the manner of implementation. The
20 state board may administer assessments of the academic standards in social
21 studies and science, except that a pupil shall not be required to meet or
22 exceed the social studies or science standards measured by the statewide
23 assessment.

24 3. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this section are uniform
25 throughout this state.

26 4. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this section are able to be
27 scored in an objective manner and are not intended to advocate any
28 sectarian, partisan or denominational viewpoint.

29 5. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this article collect only
30 types of pupil nontest data that are approved by the state board at a
31 public meeting and published on the website of the state board pursuant to
32 paragraph 7 of this subsection.

33 6. Include within its budget all costs pertaining to the tests
34 prescribed in this article. If sufficient monies are appropriated, the
35 state board may provide achievement test services to school districts that
36 request assistance in testing pupils in grades additional to those
37 required by this section.

38 7. Survey teachers, principals and superintendents on
39 achievement-related nontest indicators, including information on
40 graduation rates by ethnicity and dropout rates by ethnicity for each
41 grade level. Before the survey, the state board shall approve at a public
42 meeting the nontest indicators on which data will be collected and shall
43 post in a prominent position on the home page of the state board's website
44 a link to the nontest indicators entitled "What nontest data does the
45 state of Arizona collect about Arizona pupils?". The linked webpage shall

1 state the types of data collected, the reasons for the collection of the
2 data and the entities with which the data is shared. In conducting the
3 survey and collecting data, the state board shall not violate the
4 provisions of the family educational rights and privacy act (P.L. 93-380),
5 as amended, or disclose personally identifiable information.

6 8. Establish a fair and consistent method and standard by which
7 test scores from schools in a district may be evaluated taking into
8 consideration demographic data. The state board shall establish
9 intervention strategies to assist schools with scores below the acceptable
10 standard. The state board shall annually review district and school
11 scores and shall offer assistance to school districts in analyzing data
12 and implementing intervention strategies. The state board shall use the
13 adopted test and methods of data evaluation for a period of at least ten
14 years.

15 9. Participate in other assessments that provide national
16 comparisons as needed.

17 10. Require in the contract for the statewide assessment pursuant
18 to this section that test ~~scores and assessment data from the third grade~~
19 ~~reading portion of the statewide assessment adopted pursuant to this~~
20 ~~section be received by local education agencies on or before May 15 of~~
21 ~~each academic year and that the scores and assessment data from all other~~
22 ~~portions of the statewide assessment adopted pursuant to this section be~~
23 ~~received by local education agencies on or before May 25~~ MAY 26 of each
24 academic year. The state board shall impose penalties on the contractor
25 for scores received after ~~these dates~~ MAY 26, UNLESS THE CONTRACTOR
26 PROVIDES UNOFFICIAL TEST SCORES TO LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES ON OR BEFORE
27 MAY 26. ~~If the state board alters the statewide assessment testing window~~
28 ~~for any reason, the state board may adjust the dates by which local~~
29 ~~education agencies are required to receive the scores and assessment data~~
30 ~~proportionately. If the state board adjusts the dates by which local~~
31 ~~education agencies are required to receive the scores and assessment data,~~
32 ~~the state board may not impose penalties on the contractor unless the~~
33 ~~scores and assessment data are received after the adjusted dates. THE~~
34 ~~CONTRACTOR MAY PROVIDE UNOFFICIAL TEST SCORES AND DATA FROM THE STATEWIDE~~
35 ~~ASSESSMENT ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION TO LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES TO~~
36 ~~COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES PRESCRIBED BY THIS PARAGRAPH.~~

37 B. The achievement tests adopted by the state board as provided in
38 subsection A of this section shall be given at least annually. Nontest
39 indicator data and other information shall be collected at the same time
40 as the collection of achievement test data.

41 C. Local school district governing boards shall:

42 1. Administer the tests prescribed in subsection A of this section.

43 2. Survey teachers, principals and superintendents on
44 achievement-related nontest indicator data as required by the state board,
45 including information related to district graduation and dropout rates.

1 In conducting the survey and collecting data, the governing board shall
2 not violate the provisions of the family educational rights and privacy
3 act (P.L. 93-380), as amended, or disclose personally identifiable
4 information.

5 D. Any additional assessments for high school pupils that are
6 adopted by the state board after November 24, 2009 shall be designed to
7 measure college and career readiness of pupils.

8 E. If a high school pupil who is enrolled in a school district or
9 charter school participates in a nationally recognized assessment that is
10 both adopted by the state board of education pursuant to subsection A of
11 this section and administered by a person other than the school district
12 or charter school, the pupil or pupil's parent or guardian may submit the
13 pupil's official score report for the assessment to the school district or
14 charter school. On receipt of an official score report pursuant to this
15 subsection, the school district or charter school shall do all of the
16 following:

17 1. Record the score in the pupil's file.

18 2. Report the score to the state board of education and the
19 department of education.

20 3. If the pupil or pupil's parent or guardian submits an official
21 score report pursuant to this subsection to the school district or charter
22 school before the date on which the school administers the tests
23 prescribed in subsection A of this section, allow the pupil to opt out of
24 participation in the assessment that is administered by the school
25 district or charter school. If a pupil opts out of an assessment pursuant
26 to this paragraph, the school district or charter school shall use the
27 data from the pupil's official score report for the pupil's achievement
28 test data for the purposes of this section. This paragraph does not
29 require a school district or charter school to allow a pupil to opt out of
30 the collection of nontest indicator data or other information that is
31 collected about pupils who participate in the assessment that is
32 administered by the school district or charter school pursuant to this
33 section.

34 F. A test for penmanship shall not be required pursuant to this
35 article.

36 G. If a local education agency requests a raw data file of
37 assessment data for the pupils tested at the local education agency, the
38 department of education shall fulfill the request in a format that is
39 usable for assessment diagnostics within thirty days after the request.
40 The local education agency shall follow all applicable student data
41 privacy laws and may not publicly disclose individual student achievement
42 results.

43 H. A school district or charter school may administer the statewide
44 assessment in the form of a written test ~~if~~ FOR any of the following
45 ~~applies~~ REASONS:

1 1. A written test is required pursuant to an individualized
2 education program or a section 504 plan as defined in section 15-731.

3 2. To accommodate special circumstances.

4 3. For religious purposes.

5 4. On request by a pupil's parent or guardian.

6 I. For the purposes of this section, "nationally recognized" has
7 the same meaning prescribed in section 15-741.02.

8 Sec. 3. Section 15-742, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
9 read:

10 15-742. Contract to purchase tests: bond; score distribution
11 deadline; action for damages

12 A. The state board of education shall enter into contracts with
13 contractors ~~for the TO purchase of~~ the tests adopted by the state board
14 pursuant to sections 15-203 and 15-741. Notwithstanding section 41-2546,
15 the state board may enter into contracts ~~for the TO purchase of~~ nationally
16 standardized norm-referenced tests pursuant to this section for a duration
17 of up to ten years. The contracts may also provide for the distribution
18 of the tests to the school districts and the scoring of the tests.

19 B. Contractors shall give a cash or corporate surety bond payable
20 to this state and approved by the state board indemnifying the state in
21 the test purchases in an amount ~~not less than five hundred nor~~ **OF AT LEAST**
22 **\$500 AND NOT** more than ~~ten thousand dollars~~ **\$10,000** as may be determined
23 by the state board. The contractor shall faithfully comply with the
24 conditions of the contract and shall furnish to the state the tests as
25 provided in the contract at prices not exceeding the lowest prices then
26 granted to any buyer. If there is a decrease in the prices given to a
27 person purchasing such tests from the contractor, ~~the~~ **THIS** state shall
28 have the benefit of the decrease in price.

29 C. The contractor shall file with the state board a sworn statement
30 stating the lowest prices for which the contractor's series of tests is
31 sold anywhere in the United States.

32 D. Any contract entered into pursuant to this section shall require
33 that **THE CONTRACTOR DISTRIBUTE** test scores ~~and assessment data from the~~
34 ~~third grade reading portion of the statewide assessment adopted pursuant~~
35 ~~to section 15-741 be received by local education agencies on or before May~~
36 ~~15 of each academic year and the scores and assessment data from all other~~
37 ~~portions of the statewide assessment adopted pursuant to section 15-741 be~~
38 ~~received by TO~~ local education agencies on or before ~~May 25~~ **MAY 26** of each
39 academic year. **THE CONTRACTOR MAY DISTRIBUTE UNOFFICIAL TEST SCORES AND**
40 **DATA FROM THE STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT TO LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES TO COMPLY**
41 **WITH THE DEADLINE PRESCRIBED BY THIS SUBSECTION.**

42 E. If a contractor violates a condition of the contract, the
43 attorney general, on request of the state board of education, shall
44 institute an action for damages on the bond of the contractor.

1 Sec. 4. Section 15-743, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
2 read:

3 15-743. Test results; annual reports; five-year cumulative
4 summary; distribution of scores to schools and
5 parents; testing window

6 A. The state board of education shall provide annual reports for
7 ~~every~~ EACH school and school district and ~~the~~ THIS state as a whole. The
8 state board shall annually submit these reports to school districts, the
9 legislature and the county school superintendents and shall make them
10 available to the public. The state board shall publish and distribute the
11 reports by September 1 and shall ~~also~~ provide a cumulative summary of the
12 reports every five years. The annual reports and cumulative summary
13 results shall include:

14 1. Average and range scores on the statewide assessment adopted
15 pursuant to section 15-741.

16 2. Standardized test scores by subject area according to
17 percentiles and stanines for the school, school district, county, state
18 and nation.

19 3. Achievement-related nontest indicator data collected in the
20 survey of teachers, principals and superintendents as required by section
21 15-741, including information related to dropout rates by ethnicity for
22 each grade level and graduation rates and postsecondary employment and
23 education by ethnicity. In reporting such data, the state board shall not
24 violate the provisions of the family educational rights and privacy act
25 (P.L. 93-380), as amended, or disclose personally identifiable
26 information.

27 4. The numbers of pupils who have completed the academic standards
28 at grades three, eight and twelve.

29 B. Test results on individual pupils shall not be made available to
30 the public by name or individually identifiable reference.

31 C. The state board shall provide a copy of the results from the
32 tests prescribed in section 15-741, subsection A for each school district
33 to that school district. Results may not be released to the public until
34 ten days after the reports are provided to each school district.

35 D. The state board shall provide each school district **THAT IS**
36 participating in the testing program with a copy of each pupil's
37 standardized norm-referenced test scores in reading, language arts and
38 mathematics, and the associated grade equivalents, percentiles and
39 stanines for the school, school district, county, state and nation, a
40 report of pupil progress on an ongoing and annual basis, showing the
41 trends in gain or loss in pupil achievement over time in reading, language
42 arts and mathematics for all years in which pupils are enrolled in the
43 school district for an entire school year and for which this information
44 is available and a report of the pupil progress for pupils not enrolled in
45 a district for an entire school year. The state board shall ~~also~~ provide

1 each school district with each pupil's statewide assessment scores and the
2 statewide assessment scores for the school, school district, county and
3 state.

4 E. The school district shall provide a parent or guardian of each
5 pupil participating in the standardized norm-referenced testing part of
6 the program with a copy of the pupil's scores in reading, language arts
7 and mathematics, and the percentiles and stanines. The school district
8 shall provide a parent or guardian of each pupil with a copy of the
9 pupil's scores on the statewide assessment and the associated scores for
10 the school, school district, county and state. The school district shall
11 make available to the public through the reports those scores for each
12 school in the school district and for the school district, county, state
13 and nation.

14 F. Any testing window established and executed by the department of
15 education or the state board for the administration of the statewide
16 assessment adopted pursuant to section 15-741 may not be longer than ~~four~~
17 ~~SIX~~ consecutive school weeks ~~shall ensure that local education agencies~~
18 ~~receive test scores and assessment data from the third grade reading~~
19 ~~portion of the statewide assessment on or before May 15 of each academic~~
20 ~~year and that the scores and assessment data from all other portions of~~
21 ~~the statewide assessment adopted pursuant to section 15-741 are received~~
22 ~~by local education agencies on or before May 25 of each academic year.~~
23 THE TESTING WINDOW ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION FOR AN
24 ASSESSMENT THAT IS ADMINISTERED TO STUDENTS IN ANY OF GRADES THREE THROUGH
25 EIGHT MAY NOT BEGIN BEFORE THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL DURING ANY SCHOOL YEAR
26 UNLESS THE ASSESSMENT IS AN ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT THAT IS ADMINISTERED
27 PURSUANT TO A STUDENT'S SECTION 504 PLAN OR INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION
28 PROGRAM AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-731. The department of education or the
29 state board may not prohibit the superintendent or the staff of a local
30 education agency from sharing statewide assessment data with the local
31 education agency's district governing board or governing body or otherwise
32 impede the sharing of statewide assessment data.

33 ~~G. Notwithstanding subsection F of this section and sections 15-741~~
34 ~~and 15-742, the department of education, subject to review and approval by~~
35 ~~the state board, may adjust the testing window for the statewide~~
36 ~~assessment adopted pursuant to section 15-741 in academic years that the~~
37 ~~state board is revising current proficiency levels or is establishing new~~
38 ~~proficiency levels for the statewide assessment adopted pursuant to~~
39 ~~section 15-741.~~

40 Sec. 5. Implementation

41 The state board of education shall enter into contracts with
42 contractors to purchase tests pursuant to sections 15-741 and 15-742,
43 Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act.