REFERENCE TITLE: juvenile detention centers; education programs

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

HB 2235

Introduced by
Representative Blackman

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-913 AND 15-913.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

Section 1. Section 15-913, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-913. Juvenile detention centers; education programs; fund

A. Each county that operates a juvenile detention center shall offer an education program to serve all school-age children in ~~its~~ THE COUNTY'S juvenile detention center. The county school superintendent and the presiding juvenile court judge in each county shall agree on the method of delivery of the juvenile detention center education program.

B. The state board of education shall prescribe standards and achievement testing requirements for county juvenile detention center education programs that attempt to ensure that the programs are compatible with public school education goals and requirements. The county school superintendent shall attempt to coordinate the program with each ~~pupil's~~ STUDENT'S school district of residence to assist the ~~pupil's~~ STUDENT'S transition back to the school district at the appropriate time.

C. A county may operate ~~its~~ AND FUND, OR OPERATE BUT NOT FUND, THE COUNTY'S juvenile detention center education program through an existing accommodation school.

D. If a county chooses not to operate, ~~its~~ OR TO OPERATE BUT NOT FUND, THE COUNTY'S juvenile detention center education program through an existing accommodation school, the county school superintendent may establish a detention center education fund to provide financial support to the JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER EDUCATION program. THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT MAY ADMINISTER THE DETENTION CENTER EDUCATION FUND THROUGH AN EXISTING ACCOMMODATION SCHOOL. The detention center education fund for each COUNTY'S program shall consist of a base amount plus a variable amount. For fiscal year 2019-2020, the base amount is $100,000 and the variable amount shall be determined pursuant to subsection E of this section. Beginning with fiscal year 2020-2021, the base amount is the amount for the prior year adjusted by the growth rate prescribed by law, subject to appropriation. The base amount and variable amount for each county or counties served shall be funded with state general fund monies, subject to appropriation. The county school superintendent must submit claims for payments to the superintendent of public instruction. The county school superintendent shall deposit the payments ~~into~~ IN the detention center education fund. Any excess monies in the detention center education fund shall be used to supplement classroom spending.

E. The variable amount OF EACH COUNTY'S DETENTION CENTER EDUCATION FUND shall be determined as follows:

1. Determine the number of days in the prior fiscal year that each child who had been in the detention center for more than forty-eight hours received an instructional program of at least two hundred forty minutes. A school district OR AN ACCOMMODATION SCHOOL may not count a child as

being in attendance in that school district on a day that the child is counted for the purposes of this paragraph.

2. Multiply the number of days determined under paragraph 1 of this subsection by the following amount:

(a) For fiscal year 2019-2020, $25.

(b) For fiscal year 2020-2021 and thereafter, the amount for the prior year adjusted by the growth rate prescribed by law, subject to appropriation.

3. For each child with a disability as defined in section 15-761 who had been in the detention center for more than forty-eight hours:

(a) Determine the amount prescribed in section 15-1204, subsection E, paragraph 1 or 2 and add $100 for capital outlay costs.

(b) Divide the sum determined under subdivision (a) of this paragraph by one hundred seventy-five.

(c) Subtract the amount prescribed in paragraph 2, subdivision (a) or (b) of this subsection from the quotient determined in subdivision (b) of this paragraph.

(d) Determine the number of days in the prior fiscal year that the child received an instructional program of at least two hundred forty minutes.

(e) Multiply the amount determined in subdivision (d) of this paragraph by the difference determined in subdivision (c) of this paragraph.

4. Add the amounts determined in paragraph 3 of this subsection for all children with disabilities.

5. Add the sum determined in paragraph 4 of this subsection to the product determined in paragraph 2 of this subsection. This sum is the variable amount.

F. If a county JUVENILE detention center education program serves more than one county, the county school superintendents and the presiding juvenile court judges of the counties ~~being~~ THAT ARE served shall agree on a county of jurisdiction. The county school superintendent shall deposit ~~into~~ IN the detention center education fund of the county of jurisdiction monies that are received from the superintendent of public instruction pursuant to this section for all counties served by the county of jurisdiction.

G. If a county ~~operated~~ FUNDED a juvenile detention center education program through an accommodation school in the year before it begins to ~~operate its~~ FUND THE COUNTY'S juvenile detention center education program as provided in subsection D of this section, for the first year of ~~operation~~ FUNDING as provided in subsection D of this section, the student count of the accommodation school shall be reduced by the student count attributable to the juvenile detention center education program.

Sec. 2. Section 15-913.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

15-913.01. County jails; education program; fund

A. Each county that operates a county jail shall offer an education program to serve all prisoners who are twenty-one years of age or younger, who do not have a high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma and who are confined in the county jail. The county school superintendent and the sheriff in each county shall agree on the method of delivery of the education program.

B. The county school superintendent shall develop policies and procedures to transfer the educational records of any prisoner WHO IS confined in a county jail AND who has been transferred from a juvenile detention center or from any other public agency that has provided educational services to that prisoner.

C. A county may operate ~~its~~ AND FUND, OR OPERATE BUT NOT FUND, THE county jail education program through an accommodation school that provides alternative education services pursuant to section 15-308, except that each pupil enrolled in the accommodation school county jail education program shall be funded at an amount equal to seventy-two percent of the amount for that pupil if that pupil were enrolled in another accommodation school program.

D. If a county chooses not to operate, ~~its~~ OR TO OPERATE BUT NOT FUND, THE county jail education program through an accommodation school, the county school superintendent may establish a county jail education fund to provide financial support to the COUNTY JAIL EDUCATION program. THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT MAY ADMINISTER THE COUNTY JAIL EDUCATION FUND THROUGH AN EXISTING ACCOMMODATION SCHOOL. The county jail education fund for each COUNTY'S program shall consist of a base amount plus a variable amount. For fiscal year 1999-2000, the base amount is $14,400 and the variable amount shall be determined pursuant to subsection E of this section. The base amount and variable amount for each county or counties served shall be funded with state general fund monies, subject to appropriation. The county school superintendent must submit claims for payments to the superintendent of public instruction. The county school superintendent shall deposit the payments in the respective county jail education fund.

E. The variable amount OF EACH COUNTY JAIL EDUCATION FUND shall be determined as follows:

1. Determine the number of days in the prior fiscal year that each pupil who is a prisoner and who had been in the county jail for more than forty-eight hours received an instructional program of at least two hundred forty minutes. A school district OR AN ACCOMMODATION SCHOOL may not count a pupil as being in attendance in that school district on a day that the pupil is counted as a prisoner for the purposes of this paragraph.

2. Multiply the number of days determined under paragraph 1 of this subsection by the following amount:

(a) For fiscal year 1999-2000, $10.80.

(b) For fiscal year 2000-2001 and each year thereafter, the amount for the prior year adjusted by any growth rate prescribed by law, subject to legislative appropriation.

3. For each pupil who is a child with a disability as defined in section 15-761, who is a prisoner and who had been in the county jail for more than forty-eight hours:

(a) Determine the amount prescribed in section 15-1204, subsection E, paragraph 1 or 2, multiply the amount by .72 and add $72 for capital outlay costs.

(b) Divide the sum determined under subdivision (a) of this paragraph by one hundred seventy-five.

(c) Subtract the amount prescribed in paragraph 2 of this subsection from the quotient determined in subdivision (b) of this paragraph.

(d) Determine the number of days in the prior fiscal year that the pupil received an instructional program of at least two hundred forty minutes.

(e) Multiply the amount determined in subdivision (d) of this paragraph by the difference determined in subdivision (c) of this paragraph.

4. Add the amounts determined in paragraph 3 of this subsection for all pupils with disabilities who are prisoners.

5. Add the sum determined in paragraph 4 of this subsection to the product determined in paragraph 2 of this subsection. This sum is the variable amount.

F. If a county jail education program serves more than one county, the county school superintendents and the sheriffs of the counties ~~being~~ THAT ARE served shall agree on a county of jurisdiction. The county school superintendent shall deposit in the county jail education fund of the county of jurisdiction monies that are received from the superintendent of public instruction pursuant to this section for all counties THAT ARE served by the county of jurisdiction.

G. If a county ~~operated~~ FUNDED a county jail education program through an accommodation school in the year before it begins to ~~operate its~~ FUND THE county jail education program as provided in subsection D of this section, for the first year of ~~operation~~ FUNDING as provided in subsection D of this section, the student count of the accommodation school shall be reduced by the average daily membership attributable to the accommodation school's county jail education program in its last fiscal year of operation.