

House Engrossed

school district governing boards; training

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

# HOUSE BILL 2379

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-302, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-349; AMENDING SECTION 15-421, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARDS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-302, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-302. Powers and duties

5 A. The county school superintendent shall:

6 1. Distribute all laws, reports, circulars, instructions and forms  
7 that the county school superintendent may receive for the use of school  
8 officers.

9 2. Record all official acts.

10 3. Appoint governing board members of school districts to fill all  
11 vacancies, but the term of the appointment shall be until the next regular  
12 election for governing board members, at which time a successor shall be  
13 elected to serve the unexpired portion of the term. ~~A person who is  
14 subject to registration as a sex offender in this state or in any other  
15 jurisdiction is ineligible for appointment under this paragraph.~~ Within  
16 thirty days after notification of a vacancy, the school district governing  
17 board may submit up to three names to the county school superintendent for  
18 consideration of an appointment to fill the vacancy. The county school  
19 superintendent is not required to appoint a governing board member from  
20 the list of names submitted by the governing board. The county school  
21 superintendent, if the county school superintendent deems it in the best  
22 interest of the community, may call a special election to fill the  
23 vacancies. If an election is called, the newly elected member shall serve  
24 for the remainder of the unexpired portion of the term. **A PERSON IS  
25 INELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IF EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING  
26 APPLIES:**

27 (a) **THE PERSON IS SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION AS A SEX OFFENDER IN THIS  
28 STATE OR IN ANY OTHER JURISDICTION.**

29 (b) **THE PERSON IS INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
30 THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER PURSUANT TO SECTION  
31 15-349, SUBSECTION E.**

32 4. Make reports, when directed by the superintendent of public  
33 instruction, showing matters relating to schools in the county as may be  
34 required on the forms furnished by the superintendent of public  
35 instruction.

36 5. Have such powers and perform such duties as otherwise prescribed  
37 by law.

38 6. On or before October 1 of each year, report to the  
39 superintendent of public instruction the amount of monies received from  
40 state school funds, special school district taxes and other sources, the  
41 total expenditures for school purposes and the balance on hand to the  
42 credit of each school district at the close of the school year.

43 7. Contract with the board of supervisors for the board of  
44 supervisors to conduct all regular school district elections.

1           8. Be responsible, in cooperation with the school district  
2 governing boards and the board of supervisors, for all special school  
3 district elections.

4           9. Maintain teacher and administrator certification records of  
5 effective dates and expiration dates of teachers' and administrators'  
6 certificates in compliance with guidelines prescribed in the uniform  
7 system of financial records for those school districts for which the  
8 county school superintendent is the fiscal agent. The county school  
9 superintendent shall not draw a warrant in payment of a teacher's,  
10 substitute teacher's or administrator's salary unless the teacher,  
11 substitute teacher or administrator is legally certified during the fiscal  
12 year in which the term for payment is demanded.

13           10. Notify a school district three years before the expiration of a  
14 revenue control limit override that the school district's budget must be  
15 adjusted in the final two years of the override pursuant to section  
16 15-481, subsections P and Q, if the voters do not approve another  
17 override.

18           11. In collaboration with the department of education and other  
19 state agencies, assist school districts, charter schools, county free  
20 library districts, municipal libraries, nonprofit and public libraries,  
21 tribal libraries, private schools and tribal schools on using student  
22 data, staff development, curriculum alignment and technology to improve  
23 student performance.

24           12. Assist schools in meeting yearly adequate progress goals as  
25 defined by criteria established by the state board of education and  
26 implemented by the department of education.

27           B. At the request of school districts and charter schools, the  
28 county school superintendent may provide discretionary programs in  
29 addition to the programs prescribed in subsection A of this section.

30           C. The county school superintendent may:

31           1. Provide the services prescribed in subsections A and B of this  
32 section in the county or jointly with two or more counties pursuant to  
33 title 11, chapter 7, article 3.

34           2. Review the operations and finances, including expenditures, of  
35 any school district that is located in the county.

36           D. Each county school superintendent may establish an advisory  
37 committee to the office of the county school superintendent.

38           Sec. 2. Title 15, chapter 3, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
39 is amended by adding section 15-349, to read:

40           15-349. Governing board members; biennial training  
41           requirements; annual reports; ineligibility;  
42           auditor general approval; joint legislative audit  
43           committee hearing and approval

44           A. AT LEAST ONCE IN EVERY TWO-YEAR PERIOD, EACH GOVERNING BOARD  
45 MEMBER OF EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE SHALL COMPLETE A TRAINING

1 PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES A TOTAL OF AT LEAST EIGHT HOURS OF INSTRUCTION ON  
2 SCHOOL FINANCE, INCLUDING HOW ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS RELATE TO SCHOOL  
3 FINANCE:

- 4 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE.
- 5 2. THE FIDUCIARY DUTIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS.
- 6 3. HOW TO DEVELOP, ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING  
7 BOARD POLICIES.
- 8 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.
- 9 5. STUDENT OUTCOME-FOCUSED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE.
- 10 6. THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT  
11 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS.
- 12 7. ANY OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO  
13 SERVICE AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER.

14 B. THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH A SCHOOL  
15 DISTRICT IS LOCATED OR, IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOCATED IN MORE THAN ONE  
16 COUNTY, THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH A  
17 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER RESIDES SHALL PROVIDE A TRAINING PROGRAM THAT IS  
18 APPROVED BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED  
19 BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD  
20 MEMBERS. A COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT MAY ENTER INTO AN  
21 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER COUNTY SCHOOL  
22 SUPERINTENDENT TO PROVIDE THE TRAINING PROGRAM THROUGH THE OTHER COUNTY  
23 SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

24 C. ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2027 AND EVERY SECOND YEAR THEREAFTER,  
25 EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER SHALL NOTIFY THE COUNTY SCHOOL  
26 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOCATED THE  
27 DATE ON WHICH THE GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMPLETED THE TRAINING. IF THE  
28 SCHOOL DISTRICT IS LOCATED IN MORE THAN ONE COUNTY, THE GOVERNING BOARD  
29 MEMBER MAY NOTIFY THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH  
30 THE GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER RESIDES. ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2027 AND  
31 EVERY SECOND YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SHALL  
32 COMPILE THE NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION AND SUBMIT  
33 A REPORT TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT INDICATES WHETHER EACH  
34 SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMPLETED THE TRAINING. THE STATE  
35 BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL COMPILE THE REPORTS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS  
36 SUBSECTION AND, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2027 AND EVERY SECOND YEAR  
37 THEREAFTER, SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
38 SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE OFFICE OF THE  
39 AUDITOR GENERAL AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION THAT  
40 INDICATES WHETHER EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER COMPLETED  
41 THE TRAINING.

42 D. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE A TRAINING PROGRAM  
43 THAT IS APPROVED BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS  
44 PRESCRIBED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
45 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER WHO HAS NOT COMPLETED A TRAINING PROGRAM THAT IS

1 PROVIDED BY A COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF  
2 THIS SECTION DURING THE CURRENT TWO-YEAR PERIOD. THE DEPARTMENT MAY CHARGE  
3 EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE COST OF PROVIDING THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO THE  
4 SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION.  
5 EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL PAY FOR ANY COSTS INCURRED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO  
6 PROVIDE THE TRAINING TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS.

7 E. A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING  
8 REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION IS INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE  
9 FOR NOMINATION, ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD  
10 MEMBER IN ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
11 GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER BOTH:

12 1. WAS NOT APPOINTED TO THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER DURING  
13 THE CURRENT TERM.

14 2. IS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OF A SCHOOL  
15 DISTRICT THAT IS IDENTIFIED BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL AS ONE OF THE HIGHEST  
16 RISK SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THIS STATE.

17 F. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EACH COUNTY SCHOOL  
18 SUPERINTENDENT WHO PROVIDES A TRAINING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF  
19 THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO THE AUDITOR GENERAL, IN  
20 A FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL, FOR APPROVAL BEFORE  
21 PROVIDING THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO ANY GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER. IF THE  
22 AUDITOR GENERAL DISAPPROVES A TRAINING PROGRAM SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THIS  
23 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY SUBMIT THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO THE JOINT  
24 LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL. THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE  
25 AUDIT COMMITTEE MUST HEAR AND APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE TRAINING PROGRAM  
26 AT THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING AFTER THE PROGRAM IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO  
27 THIS SUBSECTION. IF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE APPROVES THE  
28 TRAINING PROGRAM BY A MAJORITY VOTE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE THE  
29 TRAINING PROGRAM TO ANY GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE  
30 AUDITOR GENERAL.

31 Sec. 3. Section 15-421, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
32 read:

33 15-421. Governing boards; members; qualifications;  
34 prohibitions; candidate statements; definitions

35 A. The governing body of a school district shall be a governing  
36 board. There shall be three governing board members, except as otherwise  
37 provided by this section and section 15-425, subsection A.

38 B. The governing body of a high school district shall be a  
39 governing board composed of:

40 1. In a single district, the governing board members of the common  
41 school district.

42 2. In a union high school district, five members.

43 C. A person is eligible for election to the office of governing  
44 board member if all of the following apply:

45 1. The person is a registered voter of this state.

1           2. The person has been a resident of the school district for at  
2 least one year immediately preceding the day of election.

3           3. The person is not subject to registration as a sex offender in  
4 this state or in any other jurisdiction.

5           4. THE PERSON IS NOT INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION OR  
6 ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER PURSUANT TO SECTION  
7 15-349, SUBSECTION E.

8           D. An employee of a school district, including a person who  
9 directly provides certified or classified services to the school district  
10 as an employee of a third-party contractor, or the spouse of such an  
11 employee may not hold membership on the governing board of a school  
12 district by which the employee is employed.

13           E. Notwithstanding subsection D of this section and title 38,  
14 chapter 3, article 8, a small school district may employ, including  
15 employment through a third-party contractor that provides services to the  
16 small school district, a substitute teacher who is related to a member of  
17 the governing board as immediate family and who has had the same household  
18 of residence within the preceding four years. If a small school district  
19 employs a substitute teacher pursuant to this subsection, the member of  
20 the governing board who is related to the substitute teacher shall be  
21 recused from voting on any matter relating to substitute teachers.

22           F. A school district may employ, including employment through a  
23 third-party contractor that provides services to the school district, a  
24 person who served as a member of the school district's governing board  
25 during the preceding two years only in a position in which the person will  
26 provide services directly to students, including as a certificated  
27 teacher, a substitute teacher and an employee or contractor who provides  
28 transportation, instructional support or student support services. A  
29 school district may increase the time period prescribed in this subsection  
30 to be more than two years.

31           G. A member of one governing board is ineligible to be a candidate  
32 for nomination or election to or serve simultaneously as a member of any  
33 other governing board, except that a member of a governing board may be a  
34 candidate for nomination or election for any other governing board if the  
35 member is serving in the last year of a term of office. A member of a  
36 governing board shall resign the member's seat on the governing board  
37 before becoming a candidate for nomination or election to the governing  
38 board of any other school district, unless the member of the governing  
39 board is serving in the last year of a term of office.

40           H. Notwithstanding section 15-511, each county school  
41 superintendent shall publish on the superintendent's website the statement  
42 of each certified candidate for membership on a school district governing  
43 board located in the county. The county school superintendent shall list  
44 each school district on the superintendent's website from which a link  
45 shall be established to the candidate's name, which shall link to the

1 candidate's statement and photograph. The candidate shall submit the  
2 statement to the person at the county school superintendent's office  
3 assigned to manage candidate statements, after notice of certification  
4 from the county school superintendent's office but not later than  
5 twenty-one days before the date that general election early ballots are  
6 allowed to be mailed. The person shall post each candidate's statement on  
7 the county school superintendent's website not later than fourteen days  
8 before the date that general election early ballots are allowed to be  
9 mailed. If a candidate does not submit a statement, the county school  
10 superintendent's website shall state "no response submitted" for the  
11 candidate. The candidate statements shall be posted on the website  
12 alphabetically by each school district and by candidate. The candidate  
13 statement shall be typewritten or electronically submitted. The county  
14 school superintendent shall post the statements verbatim as they are  
15 received unless a candidate requests in writing that typographical errors  
16 be corrected. The candidate statement shall contain the following items  
17 in the same size and format for each candidate:

- 18 1. A recent photograph of the candidate.
- 19 2. A statement not to exceed five hundred words.
- 20 3. A disclosure of any relationships by affinity, by consanguinity  
21 or by law to the third degree that exist between the candidate and any  
22 current governing board members or other candidates for election to the  
23 same governing board.

24 I. Persons related as immediate family who have the same household  
25 of residence within four years prior shall not serve simultaneously on the  
26 governing board of the same school district if the governing board is  
27 composed of five members. For a school district with a student count of  
28 at least two hundred fifty that is located in a county with a population  
29 of more than five hundred thousand persons, not more than two persons  
30 related by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third degree shall  
31 serve simultaneously on the governing board of the same school district if  
32 the governing board is composed of five members. A qualified elector who  
33 resides in the school district may bring an action in superior court to  
34 enforce this subsection.

35 J. A person related as immediate family who has the same household  
36 of residence within four years prior to a member of the governing board of  
37 the same school district is ineligible to be a candidate for nomination or  
38 election to that governing board if the governing board is composed of  
39 five members, except that a person related as immediate family who has the  
40 same household of residence within four years prior to a member of a  
41 governing board may be a candidate for nomination or election to the  
42 governing board of the same school district if the member is serving in  
43 the last year of a term of office. For a school district with a student  
44 count of at least two hundred fifty that is located in a county with a  
45 population of more than five hundred thousand persons, not more than two

1 persons related by affinity, by consanguinity or by law to the third  
2 degree shall be eligible to be a candidate for nomination or election to a  
3 governing board that is composed of five members. A qualified elector who  
4 resides in the school district may bring an action in superior court to  
5 enforce this subsection.

6 K. Persons related as immediate family who have the same household  
7 of residence within four years prior are ineligible to be simultaneous  
8 candidates for nomination or election to the governing board of the same  
9 school district if the governing board is composed of five members. For a  
10 school district with a student count of at least two hundred fifty that is  
11 located in a county with a population of more than five hundred thousand  
12 persons, not more than two persons related by affinity, by consanguinity  
13 or by law to the third degree shall be simultaneous candidates for  
14 nomination or election to a governing board that is composed of five  
15 members. A qualified elector who resides in the school district may bring  
16 an action in superior court to enforce this subsection.

17 L. For the purposes of this section:

18 1. "Household of residence" means the place of abode during  
19 applicable time periods or the residence address used by an individual for  
20 voter registration or property tax purposes.

21 2. "Immediate family" means individuals who are married to each  
22 other and any children of those individuals.

23 3. "Small school district" has the same meaning prescribed in  
24 section 15-901.