

House Engrossed

Arizona commission on student outcomes

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

HOUSE BILL 2478

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE ARIZONA COMMISSION ON STUDENT OUTCOMES; APPROPRIATING
MONIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Arizona commission on student outcomes; members;
3 duties; reporting requirements; delayed repeal

4 A. The Arizona commission on student outcomes is established to
5 analyze, review and recommend improvements to the current K-12 education
6 system in this state.

7 B. The commission is composed of the following members:

8 1. Three members who are appointed by the speaker of the house of
9 representatives, not more than two of whom are members of the same
10 political party. The speaker of the house of representatives shall
11 designate one of the members to serve as cochairperson of the commission.

12 2. Three members who are appointed by the president of the senate,
13 not more than two of whom are members of the same political party. The
14 president of the senate shall designate one of the members to serve as
15 cochairperson of the commission.

16 3. One member who is appointed by the governor.

17 4. The superintendent of public instruction, or the
18 superintendent's designee.

19 5. One member who represents a nonprofit organization that produces
20 research on economic and educational policies and who is appointed by the
21 speaker of the house of representatives.

22 6. One person who represents a statewide taxpayer organization and
23 who is appointed by the president of the senate.

24 7. One person who represents an organization that represents school
25 district governing boards and who is appointed by the speaker of the house
26 of representatives.

27 8. One person who represents an organization that represents
28 charter schools and who is appointed by the president of the senate.

29 9. One member who represents an organization that represents school
30 district administrators in this state and who is appointed by the minority
31 leader of the house of representatives.

32 10. One member who is a teacher in a public school in this state
33 and who is appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

34 C. Commission members are not eligible to receive compensation but
35 are eligible for reimbursement of expenses pursuant to title 38, chapter
36 4, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes.

37 D. Meetings of the commission are subject to the requirements of
38 title 38, chapter 3, article 3.1, Arizona Revised Statutes.

39 E. The commission shall appoint an executive director who serves at
40 the pleasure of the commission. The executive director is eligible to
41 receive compensation pursuant to section 38-611, Arizona Revised Statutes.

42 F. The commission shall:

43 1. Analyze school district expenditures of local, state and federal
44 monies to determine how resources are aligned with the core instructional
45 priorities identified by the commission.

1 2. Review and analyze the adequacy of early childhood education
2 programs and services that are offered in this state.

3 3. Identify state laws, rules that are adopted by the state board
4 of education and policies that are adopted by school district governing
5 boards or charter school governing bodies that might not direct resources
6 toward positive instructional outcomes.

7 4. Examine barriers and challenges to teacher compensation and
8 workforce readiness.

9 5. Assess whether the oversight and accountability programs and
10 systems enacted by this state are aligned with improving student outcomes
11 rather than compliance with federal laws or regulations.

12 6. Identify barriers to academic innovation that otherwise prevent
13 school districts from adopting effective teaching or instructional models.

14 7. Develop recommendations for the legislature to improve academic
15 standards, statewide assessments, high school graduation requirements,
16 school accountability and the public school finance formula.

17 8. Conduct a comprehensive study to determine the feasibility of a
18 trade pathways diploma program for high school students who seek to enter
19 a construction, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, utility-infrastructure
20 or other in-demand trade. The commission shall:

21 (a) Identify any barriers to developing and implementing a trade
22 pathways diploma program described in this paragraph and recommend how to
23 address each barrier.

24 (b) Recommend minimum course of study and competency requirements
25 for a trade pathways diploma program described in this paragraph,
26 including requirements that align the program with industry demand and
27 high-demand career fields.

28 9. If sufficient monies are available, contract with third-party
29 service providers as necessary to discharge the commission's duties.

30 G. On or before December 1, 2027 and each year thereafter, the
31 commission shall submit a report to the governor, the speaker of the house
32 of representatives, the president of the senate, the chairperson of the
33 education committee of the house of representatives, or its successor
34 committee, and the chairperson of the education committee of the senate,
35 or its successor committee, and shall provide a copy of the report to the
36 secretary of state, that contains the following:

37 1. The status of the commission's work.

38 2. Recommendations for statutory, regulatory and fiscal reforms
39 that the commission believes will support teachers, maximize student
40 resources and improve student outcomes.

41 H. On or before December 1, 2032, the commission shall submit a
42 final report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
43 the president of the senate, the chairperson of the education committee of
44 the house of representatives, or its successor committee, and the
45 chairperson of the education committee of the senate, or its successor

1 committee, and shall provide a copy of the final report to the secretary
2 of state, that contains the following:

3 1. All studies, data and information that the commission gathered
4 and that relate to the K-12 education system in this state.

5 2. Recommendations for statutory, regulatory or fiscal reforms that
6 the commission believes will improve the K-12 education system in this
7 state.

8 I. The state board of education and department of education shall
9 collect and provide any data or information requested by the commission
10 for the purposes of this section.

11 J. This section is repealed from and after June 30, 2033.

12 Sec. 2. Appropriation; Arizona commission on student
13 outcomes; exemption

14 A. The sum of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from the classroom site
15 fund established by section 15-977, Arizona Revised Statutes, in each of
16 fiscal years 2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029, 2029-2030 and 2030-2031 to
17 the Arizona commission on student outcomes. The commission may use up to
18 \$500,000 per year on employee-related expenses.

19 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
20 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
21 to lapsing of appropriations, except that any unexpended and unencumbered
22 monies remaining on June 30, 2033 revert to the classroom site fund.

23 Sec. 3. Intent

24 The legislature intends that:

25 1. The Arizona commission on student outcomes conduct a
26 comprehensive and objective review of this state's K-12 education system
27 to identify opportunities to improve student achievement and to strengthen
28 accountability.

29 2. The review by the Arizona commission on student outcomes guide
30 future decisions and long-term structural improvements to this state's
31 public education system.