

REFERENCE TITLE: education workforce innovation; pilot program

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

HB 2838

Introduced by
Representative Weninger

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Education and workforce innovation pilot program;
3 eligibility; reporting requirements; delayed
4 repeal

5 A. The education and workforce innovation pilot program is
6 established within the state board of education to develop and test
7 innovative models of education that are aligned to student outcomes,
8 attainment and workforce readiness. The state board of education shall:

9 1. Administer the pilot program.

10 2. Establish an advisory committee that is composed of not more
11 than seven total members who are appointed by the executive director of
12 the state board of education. The advisory committee must include members
13 who represent the state board of charter schools and members who represent
14 the state board of education. Advisory committee members are not eligible
15 to receive compensation but are eligible for reimbursement of expenses
16 pursuant to title 38, chapter 4, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes. In
17 the first meeting of the advisory committee, the advisory committee shall
18 select one member to serve as chairperson. The state board of education
19 shall provide staff and meeting space for the advisory committee
20 established pursuant to this paragraph. The advisory committee members
21 shall do all of the following:

22 (a) Develop and recommend to the state board of education:

23 (i) Policies, procedures and guidelines for the pilot program.

24 (ii) An application for school districts and charter schools to
25 apply to participate in the pilot program.

26 (b) Review all applications to participate in the pilot program
27 that are submitted by school districts and charter schools and recommend
28 qualified applicants to the state board of education.

29 (c) Monitor each public school that participates in the program to
30 ensure that the public school protects student rights, safety and equity.

31 (d) On or before December 1, 2026, prepare a report on the
32 implementation of the program and submit the report to the state board of
33 education.

34 (e) On or before November 30, 2027 and November 30 of each year
35 thereafter, prepare and submit to the state board of education an annual
36 report that includes at least the following:

37 (i) A description of the program implementation and progress.

38 (ii) Program outcomes during the immediately preceding year and
39 since the pilot program began.

40 (f) On or before November 30, 2030, submit to the state board of
41 education a final report that includes policy implications of the pilot
42 program, findings and legislative recommendations.

43 3. Select not more than five public schools that are recommended by
44 the advisory committee to participate in the pilot program for a term of

1 three school years. The public schools selected pursuant to this
2 paragraph must include at least one of each of the following:

3 (a) A public school that is rural as defined in section 15-249.13,
4 Arizona Revised Statutes.

5 (b) A public school that is located in an urban area.

6 (c) A school district.

7 (d) A charter school.

8 4. On or before December 30, 2026 and December 30 of each year
9 thereafter, review the reports submitted by the advisory committee
10 pursuant to paragraph 3, subdivisions (d), (e) and (f) of this subsection
11 and approve each report, in whole or in part, and submit each approved
12 report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives and
13 the president of the senate, and submit a copy of the report to the
14 secretary of state.

15 B. A school district or charter school may apply to participate in
16 the pilot program by submitting at least the following information in the
17 application that is developed pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 2 of
18 this section:

19 1. A description of the proposed innovative model and the expected
20 outcomes.

21 2. A request for an exemption, waiver or modification of specific
22 state laws, rules or policies, together with an explanation of the reason
23 for the request. An applicant may not request an exemption, waiver or
24 modification of federal law.

25 3. Specific goals and all methods that the applicant will use to
26 evaluate progress and outcomes.

27 4. A timeline for implementing the innovative model.

28 5. A plan for each of the following:

29 (a) Sustaining the innovative model after the termination of the
30 pilot program.

31 (b) Terminating the innovative model on termination of the pilot
32 program, or as directed by the state board of education.

33 6. A list of the opportunities to earn college credits or credits
34 that lead to a workforce certification or license, or both, that the
35 applicant will provide to students.

36 C. This section is repealed from and after July 1, 2031.