

Senate Engrossed

~~school safety; identification system; appropriation~~  
(now: FAFSA; financial aid awareness program)

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

# SENATE BILL 1798

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 15-249.20; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 2, article 2, Arizona Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-249.20, to read:

4 15-249.20. Financial aid awareness program; eligibility  
5 requirements; annual determination; designation;  
6 definitions

7 A. THE FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE  
8 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RECOGNIZE SCHOOLS IN THIS STATE THAT PROVIDE  
9 FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT FOR COMPLETING THE FREE  
10 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE  
11 PROGRAM AND SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS IN  
12 ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM. BEGINNING IN THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR, ANY  
13 SCHOOL IN THIS STATE MAY ELECT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM BY NOTIFYING  
14 THE DEPARTMENT AND BY DEMONSTRATING THAT THE SCHOOL MEETS ALL OF THE  
15 FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

16 1. DESIGNATES AT LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE AS THE SCHOOL'S POINT OF  
17 CONTACT FOR THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID. EACH DESIGNATED  
18 EMPLOYEE SHALL:

19 (a) COMPLETE AN INITIAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR THE FREE  
20 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID THAT IS APPROVED OR RECOGNIZED BY  
21 EITHER THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS OR A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL  
22 STUDENT AID SUPPORT PARTNER. THE DESIGNATED EMPLOYEE MAY RECEIVE  
23 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR:

24 (i) COMPLETING THE ORIENTATION PROGRAM REQUIRED BY THIS  
25 SUBDIVISION.

26 (ii) COMPLETING ANY TRAINING AND EDUCATION AFTER THE ORIENTATION  
27 PROGRAM TO LEARN ABOUT UPDATES TO FEDERAL POLICIES AND PROCESSES RELATING  
28 TO THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

29 (b) PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL  
30 STUDENT AID, INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND  
31 ASSISTANCE, TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES OF STUDENTS.

32 2. ANNUALLY REPORTS TO THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS AND THE  
33 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF EACH EMPLOYEE  
34 WHO IS DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION.

35 3. INCLUDES THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF EACH EMPLOYEE WHO  
36 IS DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION IN THE STUDENT  
37 HANDBOOK AND IN AT LEAST ONE COMMUNICATION FROM THE SCHOOL TO STUDENTS AND  
38 PARENTS OF STUDENTS.

39 4. POSTS THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF EACH EMPLOYEE WHO IS  
40 DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION ON THE SCHOOL'S  
41 WEBSITE.

42 5. DEVELOPS AND IMPLEMENTS A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT  
43 AID AWARENESS STRATEGY THAT IS ALIGNED WITH EDUCATION AND CAREER ACTION  
44 PLAN REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. IF THE SCHOOL  
45 PROVIDES INSTRUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, THE STRATEGY THAT IS

1 DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH MUST PROVIDE, THROUGH THE SCHOOL'S  
2 MESSAGING SYSTEM, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS, EMAIL ACCOUNTS AND STUDENT  
3 INFORMATION SYSTEM PORTAL, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN GRADE-LEVEL  
4 COMMUNICATIONS TO STUDENTS IN EACH OF GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE:

5 (a) THE PURPOSE OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

6 (b) THE BENEFITS OF COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL  
7 STUDENT AID.

8 (c) THE ROLE OF FINANCIAL AID IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND CAREER  
9 PATHWAYS.

10 6. IF THE SCHOOL PROVIDES INSTRUCTION TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS,  
11 PROVIDES, THROUGH THE SCHOOL'S MESSAGING SYSTEM, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS,  
12 EMAIL ACCOUNTS AND STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM PORTAL, THE FOLLOWING  
13 INFORMATION TO THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE IN GRADE TWELVE:

14 (a) THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING THE PARENT OR CONTRIBUTOR PORTION  
15 OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

16 (b) ANY SCHOOL-BASED OR STATEWIDE SUPPORT THAT IS AVAILABLE FOR  
17 COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

18 (c) ANY RELEVANT DEADLINES OR RESOURCES.

19 B. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ANNUALLY DETERMINE WHETHER  
20 EACH SCHOOL THAT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM MEETS THE  
21 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION. THE  
22 DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS TO SUBMIT REPORTS OR OTHER  
23 EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY IN A FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

24 C. A SCHOOL THAT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCIAL AID  
25 AWARENESS PROGRAM AND THAT MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, AS  
26 DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, MAY  
27 INCLUDE THE FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS PROGRAM DESIGNATION IN THE SCHOOL  
28 REPORT CARD REQUIRED BY SECTION 15-746 AND ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE,  
29 COMMUNICATIONS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.

30 D. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

31 1. "FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID" MEANS THE APPLICATION  
32 THAT IS REQUIRED BY 20 UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 1090 FOR INDIVIDUALS  
33 SEEKING TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID.

34 2. "SCHOOL" MEANS A SCHOOL THAT IS OPERATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR  
35 CHARTER SCHOOL.