

REFERENCE TITLE: **repeal; results-based funding; schools; appropriation**

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

## **SB 1231**

Introduced by  
Senators Marsh: Alston, Burch, Diaz, Epstein, Fernandez, Gabaldón,  
Gonzales, Miranda; Representative Terech

AN ACT

REPEALING SECTION 15-249.08, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING SECTION 15-249.09, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO EDUCATION FINANCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Repeal

3 Section 15-249.08, Arizona Revised Statutes, is repealed.

4 Sec. 2. Section 15-249.09, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
5 read:

6 15-249.09. Early literacy program fund; report; definitions

7 A. The early literacy program fund is established to provide  
8 support to improve reading skills, literacy and proficiency for  
9 PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AND students in kindergarten programs and grades  
10 one, two and three in addition to monies received pursuant to section  
11 15-211. The fund shall be administered by the department of education.  
12 The state board of education shall develop policies and procedures to be  
13 administered by the department of education.

14 B. Subject to review and approval by the state board of education,  
15 the department of education shall award monies to eligible schools based  
16 on available monies on a per pupil basis. The per pupil amount shall be  
17 calculated using the student count for pupils in kindergarten programs and  
18 grades one, two and three.

19 C. Eligible schools that receive monies pursuant to this section  
20 shall submit data on expenditures and results and other information  
21 required by subsection E of this section.

22 D. Eligible schools may use monies for eligible expenses to  
23 increase the reading proficiency of PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AND students  
24 in kindergarten programs and grades one, two and three. Eligible schools  
25 may also use monies to provide a full-day kindergarten program that is  
26 structured to increase reading proficiency. Monies must be used to  
27 expand, enhance and support the components included in a school's reading  
28 program plan submitted pursuant to section 15-211.

29 E. Subject to review and approval by the state board of education,  
30 the department of education shall include a report on the early literacy  
31 program in the K-3 reading program plan required by section 15-211. The  
32 report shall contain the following:

33 1. A description of the monies awarded each year.

34 2. A summary of the funded activities.

35 3. Information on the recipient schools' progress toward  
36 achievement goals.

37 4. Specific findings on strategies and activities and their level  
38 of effectiveness in improving reading proficiency in the recipient  
39 schools.

40 F. IN ADDITION TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF MONIES PRESCRIBED IN  
41 SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE  
42 GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS FOR PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS FOR THE PURPOSES  
43 PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

1 ~~F.~~ G. For the purposes of this section:

2 1. "Eligible expenses" means expenses for evidence-based strategies  
3 and interventions designed to improve the reading proficiency of  
4 **PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AND** students in kindergarten programs and grades  
5 one, two and three pursuant to sections 15-211 and 15-704, including  
6 literacy coaches and literacy specialists, reading curricula, kindergarten  
7 readiness assessments, summer programs or tutoring programs.

8 2. "Eligible school" means a public school with at least ninety  
9 percent of students who are eligible for free and reduced-priced lunches  
10 under the national school lunch and child nutrition acts (42 United States  
11 Code sections 1751 through ~~1785~~ 1793).

12 3. "Student count" means the average daily membership for pupils in  
13 kindergarten programs and grades one, two and three, as prescribed in  
14 section 15-901 for the current year.

15 Sec. 3. Appropriation; early childhood development and health  
16 fund

17 The sum of \$68,600,000 is appropriated from the state general fund  
18 in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the early childhood development and health  
19 fund established by section 8-1181, Arizona Revised Statutes.

20 Sec. 4. Intent

21 The legislature intends that the \$68,600,000 appropriation in the  
22 baseline budget dedicated to results-based funding instead be redirected  
23 to the early childhood development and health fund established by section  
24 8-1181, Arizona Revised Statutes, to provide additional opportunities for  
25 children to receive a high quality early education.