

REFERENCE TITLE: preschool pilot program; appropriation

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HB 2217

Introduced by
Representatives Terech: Aguilar, Blattman, Contreras P, Crews, De Los
Santos, Gutierrez, Hernandez M, Pawlik, Schwiebert, Travers, Villegas;
Senators Marsh, Sundareshan

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A PRESCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING MONIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Preschool pilot program; application process;
3 reports and summary; delayed repeal; definition

4 A. The department of education shall develop a preschool pilot
5 program for providing early childhood education in up to five school
6 districts in this state during the 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028
7 school years. The preschool programs offered pursuant to this pilot
8 program shall provide educational instruction to eligible students before
9 the school year in which the eligible student is expected to enroll in a
10 kindergarten program in this state.

11 B. The department of education shall:

12 1. Establish application procedures for school districts that wish
13 to apply to participate in the pilot program.

14 2. Select up to five school districts to participate in the pilot
15 program. The selection process shall prioritize school districts that
16 either:

17 (a) Have at least sixty percent of enrolled students who are
18 eligible for free or reduced-price lunches under the national school lunch
19 and child nutrition acts (42 United States Code sections 1751 through
20 1793).

21 (b) Are rural as defined in section 15-249.13, Arizona Revised
22 Statutes.

23 C. The department of education may adopt policies and procedures to
24 carry out the purposes of the pilot program.

25 D. On or before September 30, 2028, each school district selected
26 by the department of education to participate in the pilot program shall
27 submit a report that details the results of the pilot program to the
28 department. The department shall compile the reports submitted by each
29 participating school district and prepare a summary of the results of the
30 pilot program, including the number of school districts that applied to
31 participate in the pilot program. On or before November 30, 2028, the
32 department shall submit the summary and reports to the president of the
33 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the governor and
34 shall provide a copy of the summary and reports to the secretary of state.

35 E. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2028.

36 F. For the purposes of this section, "eligible student" means a
37 child who is eligible for admission to a kindergarten program in this
38 state pursuant to section 15-821, Arizona Revised Statutes, and who has
39 not already completed a kindergarten or preschool program.

40 Sec. 2. Appropriation; department of education; preschool
41 pilot program; exemption

42 A. The sum of \$3,000,000 is appropriated from the state general
43 fund in fiscal year 2024-2025 to the department of education for the
44 purposes of implementing the preschool pilot program established by this
45 act.

1 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
2 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
3 to lapsing of appropriations, except that monies remaining unencumbered or
4 unexpended on December 31, 2028 revert to the state general fund.