

REFERENCE TITLE: county superintendents; administration; pilot program

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

HB 2717

Introduced by
Representatives Gillette; Biasiucci

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. County school superintendents; school district
3 administration; pilot program; policies;
4 reporting requirements; delayed repeal;
5 definition

6 A. The county school superintendent for each participating county
7 shall conduct a five-year pilot program beginning in fiscal year 2025-2026
8 to provide administrative services and support to school districts that
9 are located within that participating county. Each county school
10 superintendent participating in the pilot program shall establish at least
11 one county office to provide administrative services, including human
12 resources, school budget and finance, accounting, curriculum management,
13 pupil transportation and capital management, to all school districts that
14 are located within the participating county.

15 B. Beginning in fiscal year 2025-2026, for the purposes of the
16 pilot program established pursuant to subsection A of this section, the
17 following powers and duties under state and federal law are transferred
18 from the governing board of each school district that is located within
19 the participating county to the county school superintendent:

20 1. School district budgeting, accounting and other financial
21 matters, including the powers and duties assigned pursuant to title 15,
22 chapters 9, 10 and 10.1 and title 41, chapter 56, Arizona Revised
23 Statutes, subject to the following:

24 (a) The county school superintendent may not adopt a proposed or
25 final budget that exceeds the general budget limit under section 15-947,
26 Arizona Revised Statutes.

27 (b) All revenues of a school district that is within the
28 participating county, including private and grant monies, are under the
29 direction and control of the county school superintendent for the duration
30 of the pilot program.

31 (c) A school district that is located within the participating
32 county is ineligible for accounting responsibility pursuant to section
33 15-914.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, for the duration of the pilot
34 program.

35 2. School district employees, including the powers and duties
36 assigned pursuant to title 15, chapter 5, Arizona Revised Statutes.

37 3. Curriculum management, including prescribing course of study and
38 competency requirements pursuant to title 15, chapter 7, article 1,
39 Arizona Revised Statutes. A school district that is located within the
40 participating county may use a curriculum that is not provided by the
41 county school superintendent pursuant to this paragraph if the curriculum
42 does not generate a financial cost to the district and meets the minimum
43 standards prescribed by law.

44 C. The county school superintendent of a participating county may
45 enter into an intergovernmental agreement or otherwise contract to provide

1 student transportation services for students who are enrolled in a charter
2 school in the participating county.

3 D. Notwithstanding any other law, the county school superintendent
4 of a participating county may use up to ten percent of the total school
5 district monies, excluding private monies, that the county school
6 superintendent manages each fiscal year for administrative costs of the
7 pilot program.

8 E. For the purposes of this section, a school district is within a
9 county if the majority of students who are enrolled in the school district
10 live within the county, regardless of whether the school district's
11 boundaries include territory in more than one county.

12 F. Any powers, duties, rights or obligations that are not listed in
13 subsection B of this section remain with the school administrators or
14 school district governing board, as prescribed by law.

15 G. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, this section
16 does not affect the powers, duties, rights or obligations of any charter
17 school that is located within a participating county.

18 H. The department of education shall develop procedures and
19 guidelines for the county school superintendents of participating counties
20 to implement this section.

21 I. In addition to all other reporting requirements prescribed by
22 law, on or before December 31, 2030, the county school superintendent of
23 each participating county shall submit a report to the department of
24 education describing the implementation and results of the pilot program
25 established by this section, including any changes that the county school
26 superintendent made relating to school district personnel and finances,
27 pupil transportation, school facilities and school district capital
28 management. The department of education shall compile the reports
29 received pursuant to this subsection and submit the compiled reports and a
30 summary of the results of the pilot program to the joint legislative
31 budget committee and the office of the auditor general.

32 J. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2030.

33 K. For the purposes of this section, "participating county" means
34 Mohave and La Paz counties.