
COALITION CORNER

Monthly Newsletter of the Arizona Coalition of School Board Members

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Update on Universal ESAs

During the 2022 Legislative Session House Bill 2853 was passed. This bill expanded access to Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA) to every family in Arizona. Families would receive over \$6,500 per year per child for private school, homeschooling, 'learning pods,' tutoring, or any other kinds of educational service that would best fit their students' needs. This bill ensured that all families have the freedom to choose whatever form of education best fits their child. HB2853 was supposed to go into effect September 24th.

After the bill was passed, opponents of school choice began to circulate petitions for placing the new law on the ballot by the initiative process. The group submitted their signatures September 23rd, placing a halt on over 11,000 applicants to the ESA program.

It has been discovered the the group fraudulently overestimated the number of petition pages and signatures that they submitted to the Secretary of State. According to statute, Secretary Hobbs has 20 days to validate the signatures. However, due to the vast overrepresentation of the number of signatures, Gov. Ducey, Senate President Fann, Majority Leader Toma, and many others have urged Secretary Hobbs to expedite the counting process.

Friday, September 30th, Secretary Hobbs put out a statement that the ballot measure had failed to gather the statutorily required signatures.

ESAs for all is now a reality in Arizona!

Join us for our upcoming events!



11th: Discussion Title IX (6:30 PM)



19th: New School Board Member Orientation (10 AM - 2 PM)

Discussion: Title IX

Virtual discussion with the Child and Parental Rights Campaign regarding the proposed changes to Title IX. Join us to learn the history of Title IX, recent changes from the Trump and Biden administrations, and the consequences of those newly proposed changes.

Save the Date: New School Board Member Orientation

Please save the date for an orientation for our newly elected school board members. Topics will include setting an agenda, board policy creation and discussion, budgeting, and more. While this training is directed at our newly elected school board members, all are welcome to attend. Location, sign up, and more information to come. There will be two more orientation sessions in February!

Sign up to attend on the member event page or click [here!](#)

New Law Spotlight

HB 2161

PARENTAL RIGHTS; SCHOOLS; EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

This state, political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, and any official of any governmental entity acting under color of law are prohibited from interfering with or usurping the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their children. A parent is authorized to bring suit against a governmental entity or official based on any violation of the statutory rights of parents, and to raise a violation as a claim or a defense. In any such action brought by a parent, the governmental entity or official has the burden of proof to demonstrate both that the interference or usurpation is essential to accomplish a compelling government interest and that the method of interference or usurpation used by the government is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by a less restrictive means. Parents are required to have access to all written and electronic records of a school district or school district employee concerning the parent's child. Parents are authorized to file suit against a school district or charter school for violations, and may recover declaratory relief, injunctive relief, attorney fees and costs, and any other appropriate relief.

Highlights:

- Ability for parents' to bring suit against a government entity or official if their parental rights have been violated. Burden of proof falls on the government.
- Requires parents' to have access to all records, written and electronic, pertaining to their child.
- Removes the requirement to only be notified/opt out of surveys if they are kept longer than a year.
- Removes the ability for a school to provide a blanket approval to all surveys for a year. Must provide opt out form for each survey.

Click [here](#) to read the full text of the bill. Thank you to Representative Kaiser for running this bill!



Accessing Your District's Academic Data Training, Tricks, and Tools

Did you miss our Using Your District's Academic Data Training? The recorded video is now available on the Resources section in the Member's Portal.



You can find the PDF walkthrough of the Training [here](#).



How to Get Involved

Next Steps

Now that you are a member, you may be wondering what the next steps are to help us put students first. We want to help make that easy for you!



Attend a Training

We have a variety of trainings coming up over the next few months. Sign up to attend on the member event page or click [here](#)! Remember, our training events are for our members. If you have friends who are interested in a training, please have them contact Katie at Katie@azcoalition.org!



Review Our Model Policies

If you are looking for policies to present at/to your school board on important issues like Parental Rights and Curriculum Transparency, search no further! Our policies are compliant with statute. We will be providing an updated version shortly, as the session has finally ended! Click [here](#) to view.



Sign Up for an Account on RTS

Request To Speak (RTS) is a system utilized by the Arizona Legislature to support or oppose bills as they go through the legislative process. RTS is an online, thumbs up, thumbs down system where you can express your support or opposition to a bill. please sign up by clicking [here](#)!