



The 2014 legislative session adjourned with no real education policy of impact passing through the House and Senate. This alone is a victory for educators who have seen past policies handed down with no regard to the effect on the classroom. Success was achieved by working with legislators in both parties to defeat numerous policies that would have further drained state resources to an unaccountable private education agenda. The triumphs listed below would not have been possible without AEA's active lobbying at the capitol in support of public education. Without AEA's direct work with legislators, things would have looked much different for next school year. The 2014 elections bring forth new opportunities to elect pro-public education legislators so that a positive agenda for education can emerge in 2015.

2014 Legislative Session Victories

- Overwhelmingly defeated measures in both chambers that attempted to expand the state's private school ESA voucher program to a majority of students in the state (any students in a Title I school). Even the voucher proponents' scaled back version to permit students in select zip codes to get vouchers was easily defeated in both the House and Senate in the final week of session. Arizona's legislators sided with the AEA saying that these large expansion measures were bad public policy and went too far. *[Defeated HB2291 and SB1236]*
- Defeated the requirement for school districts to sell or lease unused buildings to charter and private schools. *[Defeated SB1100]*
- Stopped attempts to eliminate a school district's ability to seek bond and override approval by voters as well as legislation that would have prevented districts from going back out for bond or override approval after an initial defeat. *[Defeated SB1254 and removed all negative provisions in SB1182]*
- Restored AEA members' ability to pay dues through payroll deduction and eliminated attempts to restrict that personal right. *[Defeated SB1094, SB1354, SB1355 and HB2476]*
- Ensured inflation was funded for 2014-2015 school year. *[Passed in state budget.]* Still await the outcome of AEA's lawsuit to require the base funding level to be reset due to failure to pay inflation in fiscal years 2010 – 2013. This will hopefully result in a \$236.34 increase in additional dollars per student for inflation funding.
- Retained local control by stopping legislation to restrict teacher in-service training to only occurring on a Monday or Friday or the requirement to hold them on Election Days during an election year. *[Defeated HB2290 and HB2596]*
- Passed clarifying legislation so that Superintendent Huppenthal cannot misinterpret statute on the private school ESA program and attempt to give charter additional assistance funds to all voucher recipients. *[Passed SB1237]*

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- Defeated attempt to expand private school voucher program to certain subgroups of students with parents in certain professions. *[Defeated HB2036]*
- Preserved the right of school districts to hire retirees and defeated legislation that prohibited any form of a return to work program once a person retires. *[Defeated SB1240, HB2056 and HB2552]*
- Defeated all attempts to eliminate the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. *[Defeated SB1095, SB1121, SB1156, SB1310, SB1388, SB1395 and SB1396]*
- AEA encouraged Governor Brewer to veto a bill that expanded the corporate tax credit program for private schools (through donations to school tuition organizations). *Governor Brewer vetoed SB1048.*
- Prevented the spread of private school vouchers to higher education. *[Defeated SB1229]*
- Defeated an attempt to arm school employees with firearms as a new school safety program. *[Defeated HB2412]*
- Rejected an attempt to send a ballot referral to the voters which would have jeopardized Proposition 301/Classroom Site Fund dollars. *[Defeated SCR1003]*
- Defeated legislation to prohibit any performance pay (Classroom Site Fund/Proposition 301 monies) from being included in the salary component for the purpose of determining a person's pension benefit. *[Defeated HB2049]*
- Protected the ASRS (retirement system) by rejecting an attempt to create a defined contribution pension program that would have left retirees financially unsecure upon retirement eligibility. *[Defeated HB2090]*
- Rejected an attempt to send a ballot referral to the voters which would have permitted employee retirement contribution rates to increase and allow benefits to be reduced. *[Defeated HCR2001]*
- Prevented a Gilbert School Board proposal to allow school boards to vote to allow their students to be eligible for the state's private school voucher ESA program and retain 25% of each voucher amount per student. *[Defeated HB2256]*
- Defeated attempt to prohibit contract negotiated agreement for union president release time. *[Defeated HB2418]*
- Removed the requirement to make all classified employees hold and pay for a fingerprint clearance card instead of the current requirement for fingerprint background checks. *[Amended SB1391 to make language permissive instead of required of school districts]*
- Prevented retirement contribution rates from increasing by defeating legislation that would have set a cap on salaries. *[Defeated HB2058]*
- Passed legislation that repealed problematic election law changes that attempted to purge voters off the permanent early voter list and hinder the ability of citizens to vote. These changes passed during the previous 2013 legislative session, and the AEA as part of the Protect Your Right to Vote Coalition helped gather signatures to refer this to the November ballot. With the passage of this legislation, the legislators realized they overreached and repealed all the election law changes they had previously passed. This removes the need to engage in a ballot fight over this issue in November. *[Passed HB2196]*