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### Stop the Expansion of Vouchers and STOs [TAKE ACTION](#)

This week the Arizona House is voting on several bad bills that would take money from students in public schools and funnel it to private schools through vouchers and Student Tuition Organizations (STO). [Contact your legislator today and ask them to vote NO on House Bills \(HB\) 2174, 2537, 2152 & 2153.](#)

HB 2174 expands eligibility of ESA vouchers to grandchildren being raised by their grandparents. Vouchers and STOs drain taxpayers' money from the general fund and funnels it to unaccountable private schools. In addition, due to policy decision made by the Arizona Department of Education last year, it now costs the state more money to fund a student's private school voucher education than it would if that same student were in a traditional public school. According to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee's baseline budget report, this change in policy is costing the state budget an additional \$1.6 million this fiscal year.

HB2537 will unfairly advantage charter schools with even more dollars in their budget to pay teachers. Charter schools already receive funds in their charter additional assistance funding which are meant to provide for issues like the teacher experience index.

HB2152 and HB2153 expand the companies eligible to contribute to the corporate tuition tax credit program. The state's corporate STO cap increases by 20% every year and is pulling money out of underfunded schools. The projected growth of this runaway program is expected to hit over \$660 million by 2030 if left unchecked.

Tell legislators to support our students, 80% of which are enrolled in their neighborhood public schools, and keep our public schools public. [Ask them to vote NO on these bills today and then ask your colleague, friends, and family to ask their legislators to vote NO.](#)

### Stop Anti-Public Education Bills in Senate [TAKE ACTION](#)

Today the Senate is voting on a number of bills that will negatively impact our public schools – 1173, 1406, and 1458. Of biggest concerns are SB1173 which will make it more difficult for districts to pass bonds and overrides due to information out of context being placed in voter publicity pamphlets. In addition, SB1458 is yet another attempt to blow up the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. [Contact your senators today and ask them to stand up for Arizona's students and vote NO on these bills.](#)

### Big Bad Bill List

Many bills are on the move this week. [Check out AEA's big bad list of bills](#). The House is moving all House bills to the Senate and vice versa. This means everything is coming up for a vote in their chamber of origin this week. Keep checking [AEA's Legislative Action center](#) for bills needing action.

### **Education Budget TAKE ACTION**

Last week [school superintendents spoke out on Governor Ducey's budget cuts to education](#) and the impact it will have on students and the community. [Dark money backing Ducey in the 2014 election responded with robocalls to East Valley parents making false claims](#) against Mesa Superintendent Mike Cowan and urging parents to call in support of Ducey's budget. Social media lit up over the weekend and [parents have become outraged over the cuts and are planning a protest at the capitol on Wednesday](#). Budget discussions are taking place right now in small group meetings. [Contact your elected officials to make public education a priority and support schools over prisons and protect student health and safety](#).

### **News Links**

[New Law Repeals AIMS Graduation Requirement](#)

[Proposed bill could settle Douglas-Ducey spat](#)

[Ducey Education Budget a Shell Game?](#)

[Unbridled School Choice a Race to the Bottom](#)

[233 Arizona superintendents ask legislators to not cut K-12 school funding](#)

### **Contact Us**

Please contact Sheenae Shannon, AEA Communications Organizational Consultant, [sheenae.shannon@arizonaaea.org](mailto:sheenae.shannon@arizonaaea.org) with questions and comments.