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March 9 - 13, 2015

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#### **AZ Governor Signs Budget Moving State Backwards**

The state budget passed by the Arizona Legislature and signed by Governor Ducey today rejects the values of most Arizona parents and undermines fair and transparent government. This budget slashes \$352 million from district additional assistance, which supports classroom materials, technology, building repairs, and more in neighborhood public schools. Any appearance of additional funding is driven by increased student enrollment and court-ordered inflation money.

[Read AEA's summary of K-12 education budget.](#) [Read AEA's press release.](#)

#### **House Passes Bad Bills**

Wednesday, the House passed HB2250, a voucher expansion bill that had failed on Tuesday and passed on a reconsideration vote 35-24. This bill expands the uses of ESA voucher to fund other purposes. In addition, it forces the Arizona Department of Education to force through applications for the program in an unreasonable time frame, which will allow for more marketing of the program in order to hit the enrollment cap each year. Republicans who voted against it previously – Brophy McGee, Carter, Cobb, Coleman, and Robson – flipped their votes to pass it out of the house. According to the Arizona Capitol Reports, these legislators passed it with great concerns and expect amendments from the Senate. Kudos to the House Democrats and Republican Representative Chris Ackerley for voting no on this bad bill.

Also on Wednesday, the House Passed HB2190, an anti-common core bill that would prohibit the State Board of Education from implementing the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards and requires the redevelopment of statewide academic standards and assessments. AEA opposes this bill and Arizona teachers are upset and concerned about the implications of this legislation so close to the roll-out of the first standardized assessment aligned to these new standards. This bill goes next to the Senate.

Good news is that the House defeated HB2174, another voucher expansion bill that would have expanded eligibility to grandchildren being raised by grandparents.

#### **Senate Defeats Anti-Bond Bill**

In the Senate, we killed HB2079 with the Senate Democrats and Republican Senators Pierce and Dial voting “no” to defeat the bill. This bill would require the ballot language for bond authorization

to describe the bond measure by using the words “property tax measure.” (Current law already requires the phrase “the issuance of these bonds will result in a property tax increase sufficient to pay the annual debt service on bonds,” with this bill applying the additional requirement). This was another attempt to make school funding efforts more difficult for our neighborhood public schools.

### **AEA Bill Tracking List**

[As updated at 8 a.m. March 11, 2015](#)

### **News Links**

[AEA President: The free-market case for district schools](#)

[Report: Inequitable Tax Code Costs Arizonans up to \\$2.74 Billion](#)

[Ducey ready to sign more tax cutting legislation](#)

[AZ lawmakers work all night to pass budget](#)

### **Contact Us**

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