



Arizona's Constitutional Aggregate Expenditure Limit (AEL)

What is the Aggregate Expenditure Limit (AEL)?

It is a Constitutional Amendment that was passed by Arizona voters in 1980 which created a spending limitation for school districts based on the aggregate expenditure of all districts.

This limitation only applies to public schools as **charter schools are not subject to the AEL.**

Why is AEL Important?

If public school expenditures exceed the AEL, and the Arizona Legislature refuses to act by March 1, 2022, then school districts will be forced to cut their budgets for the current school year by April 1, 2022.

How is the AEL Calculated:

The Economic Estimates Commission is tasked with calculating the AEL. The AEL is based on 1980 base level funding and increases according to student counts and inflation.

What is Impacted by the AEL?

- Maintenance and Operations
- Classroom Site Fund
- Transportation Funding
- District Additional Assistance
- Results Based Funding
- Desegregation Funding
- School Facilities

What Happens if AEL is NOT Overridden?

If the Arizona Legislature does not override the AEL by March 1, 2022, **Arizona public school districts will be forced to cut \$1.15 billion (15.26%) from their budgets, while charter schools will be unaffected.** This will be a catastrophic cut to education funding and will lead to major staff layoffs and operation cuts in the current school year.

What Can be Done to Address the AEL?

The Arizona Legislature must pass a resolution to override the AEL. A two-thirds majority vote of in both the Arizona House and Senate is needed.

The Legislature chose to override the AEL twice in the past—once in 2002 and again in 2008.

EXAMPLE OF ACTUAL CUTS TO DISTRICT FUNDING

	Budget Expenditures Under the AEL	District's At-Risk Budgeted Expenditures
Chandler Unified	\$356,620,591	\$54,431,647
Deer Valley Unified	238,305,000	36,372,924
Flagstaff Unified	80,069,609	12,221,166
Glendale Union HSD	144,483,999	22,052,855
Kyrene Elementary	115,115,737	17,570,323
Phoenix Union HSD	282,570,046	43,129,178
Sahuarita Unified	42,325,474	6,460,214
Scottsdale Unified	177,325,109	27,065,453
Tolleson Elementary	20,657,996	3,153,067
Tucson Unified	381,181,810	58,180,470
Yuma Union HSD	91,708,205	13,997,589

AEL budget reductions for *all* district are available at <https://bit.ly/AEL2022>