



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1054

middle school students; civics; instruction

Purpose

Establishes the Arizona Civics Education and Leadership Development Program (Civics and Leadership Program) within the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the Arizona Civics Education and Leadership Development Fund (Fund). Outlines instructional service provider eligibility requirements, authorized uses of Fund monies and reporting requirements. Appropriates \$300,000 in FY 2024 from the state General Fund to the Fund.

Background

The State Board of Education (SBE) must prescribe a minimum course of study and competency requirements for common schools and high schools that incorporate academic standards in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. SBE-adopted social studies standards for common schools include civic standards for each grade. High school social studies standards must include American civics (A.R.S. §§ [15-701](#) and [15-701.01](#); [SBE](#)). On Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day, public schools must dedicate most of the day to civics education ([A.R.S. § 15-710.01](#)).

The SBE must work with specified entities to develop high school civic education standards that include instruction on the founding principles of the United States and civic-minded expectations of desirable citizenry. To obtain a high school diploma, a high school student must pass a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. A seventh or eighth grade student may take the civics test and does not have to retake the test in high school, if the student receives a passing score (A.R.S. §§ [15-701.01](#) and [15-718](#)).

S.B. 1054 appropriates \$300,000 in FY 2024 from the state General Fund to the Fund.

Provisions

1. Establishes the Civics and Leadership Program within ADE to provide civics education and leadership development training to middle school students enrolled in a school district, charter school or private school in Arizona.
2. Requires ADE to develop procedures for eligible nonprofits to apply to be instructional service providers for the Civics and Leadership Program and allows ADE to approve an application if the eligible nonprofit demonstrates that the organization:
 - a) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit;
 - b) has provided American civics education instruction to students who are at least 10 years old for at least five years;

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- c) advances American democracy through multigenerational civics education, civil discourse and civic engagement; and
 - d) can provide instruction on civics education and leadership training to middle school students enrolled in a school district, charter school or private school.
3. Requires the provided instruction and training to promote civil service, prepare students for the duties of citizenship, provide opportunities to identify and debate issues relating to democracy and include instruction on any of the following:
 - a) the history of the United States of America, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights;
 - b) the Declaration of Independence;
 - c) the composition of the branches of local, state and federal government; and
 - d) the roles and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.
4. Establishes the Fund, administered by ADE and consisting of legislative appropriations, gifts, grants and donations.
5. Appropriates \$300,000 in FY 2024 from the state General Fund to the Fund and specifies that the appropriation is exempt from lapsing.
6. Directs ADE to administer and distribute Fund monies to eligible nonprofits and requires the nonprofits to use the monies for:
 - a) stipends for civics leaders and counselors and wages for program staff;
 - b) educational materials and transportation; and
 - c) food, beverages and clothing.
7. Specifies that Fund monies are continuously appropriated and exempt from lapsing.
8. Requires each approved nonprofit to annually submit a report to ADE by November 1 describing the number and types of activities conducted, number of students served and outcomes achieved.
9. Directs ADE to compile the reports and submit the compiled reports to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Secretary of State.
10. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

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LB/KT/slp