



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

AMENDED

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1208

dropout recovery programs; revisions

Purpose

Authorizes an alternative school within a school district (district school) or an alternative charter school with a unique entity number that is not an Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) provider to offer a dropout recovery program (DRP) and narrows the prohibition on AOI providers operating a DRP to apply to an AOI online course provider or an online school. Modifies DRP eligibility, administration and reporting requirements.

Background

A school district or charter school that provides high school instruction and is not also an AOI provider may offer a DRP to assist students who left the education system achieve a high school diploma in an alternative setting. The State Board of Education (SBE) must prescribe standards that require a DRP to: 1) provide curriculum aligned to academic standards, required standardized tests and support for students; and 2) meet the state graduation requirements. A school district or charter school may contract with an educational management organization (EMO) that meets prescribed requirements to provide a DRP and may provide curricula online. Schools that operate a DRP are classified as alternative schools.

For the purposes of calculating average daily membership (ADM), a DRP student is in attendance if: 1) in the first month, the student completes DRP orientation; 2) the student makes satisfactory monthly progress in teacher-facilitated courses for the current or previous month; or 3) meets the expectations for DRP reentry. A student who does not make satisfactory progress for two or more consecutive months may not be counted in ADM. *Satisfactory monthly progress:* 1) is progress measurable monthly that, if continued for 12 months would result in the same amount of academic credit awarded to the student as would be awarded to a student in a traditional education program who completes a full school year; and 2) includes a lesser required amount of progress for the first two months that the student participates in the program (A.R.S. §§ [15-241](#) and [15-901.06](#); [ADE](#)).

An *alternative school* is a school whose mission is to serve a specific population of at-risk students that will benefit from an alternative school setting. At least 70 percent of the school's enrolled students must be in at least one of the prescribed population categories ([ADE](#)).

If modifying the qualifications of schools who may offer a DRP or the definition of *satisfactory monthly progress* results in a change to ADM calculated for DRP providers, there may be a change in Basic State Aid costs to the state General Fund.

Provisions

DRP Provider Eligibility and Administration

1. Authorizes each alternative district school and each alternative charter school, rather than a school district or charter school, that provides high school instruction to offer a DRP.
2. Narrows the prohibition on an AOI provider operating a DRP to apply only to an:
 - a) *online school*, which is a school that is selected to participate in AOI and provides at least four online academic courses or at least one online course for the equivalent of at least five hours each day for 180 school days; or
 - b) *online course provider*, which is a school other than an online school that is selected to participate in AOI and provides at least one SBE-approved online academic course.
3. Specifies that, if the school is not an AOI online course provider or online school, an alternative district school or an alternative charter school with a unique entity number may provide a DRP.
4. Specifies that an alternative district school or alternative charter school may submit an application to operate a DRP to ADE in the form and manner ADE prescribes.
5. Directs ADE, within 30 days after receiving the school's application, to determine whether the DRP criteria are met and notify the school district or alternative charter school of the determination.
6. Provides the school district or alternative charter school 30 days to respond and appeal ADE's decision.
7. Requires a school district or alternative charter school that contracts with an EMO to identify the EMO in the application to ADE.
8. Requires the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to:
 - a) create and maintain a list of alternative district schools and alternative charter schools that offer a DRP and the EMO, if any, that provides DRP services to each school; and
 - b) update the DRP schools and EMOs list on a quarterly basis.
9. Directs an alternative district school or alternative charter school that offers a DRP (DRP provider) to notify ADE within 30 days after entering or terminating a contract with an EMO for DRP services.

DRP Student Eligibility and Satisfactory Monthly Progress

10. Adds, to the elements that must be included in a DRP student's written learning plan, whether the student will receive wraparound services or support services, including social work, trauma or food and housing security coaching sessions, that count toward the student's satisfactory monthly progress.
11. Restricts, to only during the student's initial entry into a DRP, the time period in which wraparound services or support services may count toward a student's satisfactory monthly progress and prohibits the services from counting during subsequent entries into the same school's DRP.

12. Specifies that teacher-facilitated courses may be synchronous or asynchronous for determining average daily membership generated by a DRP student making satisfactory monthly progress.
13. Specifies, in the definition of *satisfactory monthly progress*, that the purpose of the two-month period of lesser progress is to establish wraparound or support services according to the student's written learning plan.
14. Redefines *eligible pupil* as *eligible student* and modifies the definition by:
 - a) removing the criteria that the student must be eligible for placement in an alternative school; and
 - b) reducing, from 30 to 10, the number of days the student has been withdrawn from a school district or charter school.

Reporting Requirements

15. Requires, by July 31, each school and EMO that provides a DRP to annually report to ADE, in the form and manner ADE prescribes:
 - a) the total number of students who, during the fiscal year, are continuously enrolled for at least 80 school days and earn either at least four and one-half credits or all the remaining credits that the student needs for graduation; and
 - b) for students enrolled in the DRP by January 31 of the fiscal year who either graduated before January 31 or were enrolled in the DRP on January 31 and needed three or fewer credits to satisfy graduation requirements, including no more than one credit in mathematics:
 - i. the total number of students;
 - ii. the percentage of students who graduated in the fiscal year; and
 - iii. the percentage of students who earned at least one college and career readiness indicator point.
16. Requires ADE's annual report to the Governor and Legislature to:
 - a) be submitted by November 1 and posted on ADE's website; and
 - b) include compiled information submitted by DRP providers, rather than DRP outcomes including the number of participating students and the number of participating students who graduate.

Miscellaneous

17. Redefines *eligible pupil* as *eligible student* and modifies the definition by:
 - a) removing the criteria that the student must be eligible for placement in an alternative school; and
 - b) reducing, from 30 to 10, the number of days the student has been withdrawn from a school district or charter school.
18. Makes technical and conforming changes.
19. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments adopted by Committee of the Whole

1. Reverts the amount of time during which a DRP student's satisfactory monthly progress may include a lesser amount of progress to only the first two months the student participates in the DRP, rather two months each year.
2. Specifies that the purpose of the two-month period of lesser progress is to establish wraparound or support services according to the student's written learning plan.
3. Specifies that teacher-facilitated courses may be synchronous or asynchronous for determining average daily membership generated by a DRP student making satisfactory monthly progress.
4. Replaces the information prescribed for a DRP provider's annual report to ADE.
5. Delays, from October 1 to November 1, the due date for the ADE-compiled annual DRP report.
6. Removes the requirement that ADE must submit a copy of the compiled annual DRP report to the Secretary of State.
7. Makes technical and conforming changes.

Amendments Adopted by the House of Representatives

1. Restricts, to a student's initial entry into a DRP, the time period in which wraparound services or support services may count toward a student's satisfactory monthly progress.
2. Replaces the requirement for a DRP to notify ADE 30 days before operating a DRP with an authorization for a school to apply to ADE to operate a DRP as outlined.
3. Removes the authorization for an ADE-approved alternative school or alternative charter school to start DRP operations 30 days after the school's initial notice to ADE.
4. Makes conforming changes.

Senate Action

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House Action

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Prepared by Senate Research
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LB/slp