



How State Legislators Voted on School Funding in 2015 and 2016





AZ Schools Now is a group of dedicated volunteers, teachers, parents, school board members, education leaders and advocates focused on the next steps to reinvest in public schools. Arizona voters are united in their strong support for reinvestments in public schools to boost student achievement, develop an extraordinary workforce, and build a strong economy for our future.

Proposition 123 settles the lawsuit over inflation funding. But it provides only 18 percent of the state resources that have been cut from Arizona public education since 2008. Many other decisions by our state lawmakers have affected appropriations for public schools. This guide summarizes the voting record of all current state senators and state representatives on key public school funding legislation in 2015 and 2016. These votes include:

- proposals to cut state funding for district and charter schools
- proposals to restore state funding
- proposals to expand private school tax credits, expand school vouchers (empowerment scholarship accounts) and shrink state revenues through tax cuts.
- Without replacement revenue, these policies all drain funding away from public education.

Looking forward, **AZ Schools Now** asks lawmakers to make steady progress to increase funding each year for three specific goals in public education:

1. Sustain a workforce of qualified teachers with competitive compensation and professional support.
2. Provide critical tools for classrooms with supplies and updated textbooks and technology.
3. Repair and maintain school facilities to give students safe, clean, and functional places to learn .

AZ SCHOOLS NOW! PARTNERS



Voting Record on Public Schools Funding 2015 Bills

SB 1476 – K-12 education budget cuts

Cut public school funding by \$146 million overall, including \$113 million for textbooks, technology and other school supplies and \$3 million for charter school additional assistance. Sponsored by Senator Biggs.

Senate vote: Ayes: 16 Nays: 13 Not Voting: 1. *House vote:* Ayes: 32 Nays: 27 Not Voting: 1.
Signed by Governor Ducey



HB 2153 – Expansion of corporate private school tax credits

Expands the private school corporate tax credit program to S Corporations and Limited Liability Companies. This expansion will ensure that donations to private school scholarship programs will grow as the cap increases by 20 percent every year. In FY2017, this tax credit is projected to divert \$61.9 million from state revenues that could be used to fund public schools. Sponsored by Representative Olson.

Senate vote: Ayes: 16 Nays: 13 Not Voting: 1. *House vote:* Ayes: 34 Nays: 25 Not Voting: 1.
Signed by Governor Ducey



SB 1188 – Business tax cuts

Increases the income tax deduction for certain business expenses at a cost to the general fund of \$31 million a year beginning in FY 2015, providing less revenue to invest in public education in future years. Sponsored by Senator Lesko.

Senate vote: Ayes: 16 Nays: 13 Not Voting: 1. *House vote:* Ayes: 32 Nays: 27 Not Voting: 1.
Signed by Governor Ducey



SB 1332 – Expansion of private school vouchers (ESAs)

Diverts resources from the general fund to expand private school vouchers (ESAs) to all students who live within the boundaries of Native American lands (this is over 70,000 students). The value of the vouchers would not cover the cost of tuition at most private schools. Sponsored by Senator Begay.

Senate vote: Ayes: 20 Nays: 10 *House vote:* Ayes: 31 Nays: 28 Not Voting: 1.
Signed by Governor Ducey



Good for public schools



Hurts public schools

Voting Record on Public Schools Funding 2016 Bills

HB 2676 – Sales tax exemption for manufacturing or smelting businesses

Provides utility companies with a sales tax exemption for certain sales of electricity or natural gas, reducing general fund revenue by \$7 million starting in FY2017 and ballooning to \$20.9 million annually starting in FY2018. Leaves less revenue to invest in public schools in future years. Sponsored by Representative Rivero.

Senate vote: Ayes: 21 Nays: 8 Not Voting: 1. *House vote:* Ayes: 36 Nays: 24.

Signed by Governor Ducey



SB 1279 – Expansion of private school vouchers (ESAs)

Would expand the availability of empowerment scholarship accounts to all children who qualify for the federal free and reduced price school lunch program (about half the students in the state). Does not provide any way to make sure those dollars are being spent wisely. A massive amount of new voucher accounts could be created, cutting funding to public school classrooms and teachers even more deeply.

Senate vote: Ayes: 17 Nays: 13.

Not voted on in House



SB 1280 – Expansion of private school vouchers (ESAs)

Diverts resources annually from general fund revenue used to fund public schools in order to expand the uses and eligibility of private school vouchers for certain students with disabilities. Sponsored by Senator Lesko.

Senate vote: Ayes: 17 Nays: 13. *House vote:* Ayes: 33 Nays: 23 Not Voting: 4.

Signed by Governor Ducey



SB 1525 – Restoration of JTED funding

Restores the funding for JTED (Joint Technical Education Districts) courses that was cut in 2015 and establishes additional audits, accountability measures and reporting requirements. Sponsored by Senator Shooter.

Senate vote: Ayes: 29 Nays: 0 Not Voting: 1. *House vote:* Ayes: 60 Nays: 0.

Signed by Governor Ducey



SB 1538 and HB 2707 – Floor amendments to restore education funding

Would have restored \$116 million of cuts to public education for classroom supplies, textbooks and technology to the 2016-2017 budget. Senate floor amendment sponsored by Senator Bradley. House floor amendment sponsored by Representative Meyer.

Senate vote: Ayes: 12 Nays: 17 Not Voting: 1. *House vote:* Ayes: 24 Nays: 36.

Failed votes in both House and Senate.




Good for public schools



Hurts public schools

How Arizona State Senators Voted

State Senators	LD	1476	2153	1188	1332	1538	2676	1279	1280	1525	Votes For Public Schools	Score
Sylvia Allen	6									✓	1	11%
Nancy Barto	15									✓	1	11%
Carlyle Begay	7		✓	✓						✓	3	33%
Andy Biggs	12									✓	1	11%
David Bradley	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	100%
Judy Burges	22									✓	1	11%
Olivia Cajero Bedford	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Lupe Contreras	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	100%
Andrea Dalessandro	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	100%
Jeff Dial	18	✓		✓						✓	3	33%
Susan Donahue	5	X	X	X						✓	1	17%
Adam Driggs	28					NV		✓	✓	✓	3	38%
Steve Farley	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	100%
David C. Farnsworth	16									✓	1	11%
Gail Griffin	14									✓	1	11%
Katie Hobbs	24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	100%
John Kavanagh	23									✓	1	11%
Debbie Lesko	21									✓	1	11%
Barbara McGuire	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	NV	7	88%
Robert Meza	30	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	89%
Catherine Miranda	27	✓	✓	NV		✓		✓	✓	✓	6	75%
Lynne Pancrazi	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	8	89%
Steve Pierce	1	NV								✓	1	13%
Martin Quezada	29	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	100%
Andrew C. Sherwood	26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	100%
Don Shooter	13		NV							✓	1	13%
Steve Smith	11									✓	1	11%
Bob Worsley	25									✓	1	11%
Steve Yarbrough	17									✓	1	11%
Kimberly Yee	20									✓	1	11%

 = A vote for public schools NV = Not voting or absent
 blank = A vote that hurts public schools X = Legislator not in office at time of the vote

How Arizona State Representatives Voted

State Representative	LD	1476	2153	1188	1332	2707	2676	1280	1525	Votes For Public Schools	Score
J. Christopher Ackerley	2	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	5	63%
John M. Allen	15								✓	1	13%
Lela Alston	24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Richard C. Andrade	29	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Brenda Barton	6								✓	1	13%
Jennifer D. Benally	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV		✓	6	86%
Reginald Bolding Jr.	27	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	7	100%
Sonny Borrelli	5						NV		✓	1	14%
Russell "Rusty" Bowers	25								✓	1	13%
Paul Boyer	20								✓	1	13%
Kate Brophy McGee	28	✓		✓					✓	3	38%
Noel W. Campbell	1								✓	1	13%
Mark A. Cardenas	19	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	6	75%
Heather Carter	15	✓		✓	✓				✓	4	50%
Ken Clark	24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Regina Cobb	5							NV	✓	1	14%
Doug Coleman	16		✓	✓	✓				✓	4	50%
Diego Espinoza	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	NV	✓	6	100%
Karen Fann	1								✓	1	13%
Eddie Farnsworth	12								✓	1	13%
Charlene R. Fernandez	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Mark Finchem	11								✓	1	13%
Randall Friese	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Rosanna Gabaldón	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Sally Ann Gonzales	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
David M. Gowan Sr.	14								✓	1	13%
Rick Gray	21								✓	1	13%
Albert Hale	7	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	NV	NV	✓	5	100%
Anthony Kern	20								✓	1	13%
Matthew A. Kopec	9	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	100%
Jonathan R. Larkin	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Jay Lawrence	23								✓	1	13%
Vince Leach	11								✓	1	13%

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State Representative	LD	1476	2153	1188	1332	2707	2676	1280	1525	Votes For Public Schools	Score
David Livingston	22								✓	1	13%
Phil Lovas	22								✓	1	13%
Stefanie Mach	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Debbie McCune Davis	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Juan Jose Mendez	26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Javan D. "J.D." Mesnard	17				NV				✓	1	14%
Eric Meyer	28	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Darin Mitchell	13								✓	1	13%
Steve Montenegro	13								✓	1	13%
Jill Norgaard	18						✓		✓	2	25%
Justin Olson	25								✓	1	13%
Lisa A. Otondo	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Warren H. Petersen	12								✓	1	13%
Celeste Plumlee	26	X	X	X	X	✓	NV	✓	✓	3	100%
Franklin M. Pratt	8								✓	1	13%
Rebecca Rios	27	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Tony Rivero	21						NV	NV	✓	1	17%
Bob Robson	18	NV		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	5	71%
Macario Saldate	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%
Thomas "T.J." Shope	8								✓	1	13%
David W. Stevens	14								✓	1	13%
Bob Thorpe	6								✓	1	13%
Kelly Townsend	16								✓	1	13%
Michelle B. Ugenti-Rita	23				NV				✓	1	14%
Ceci Velasquez	29	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	7	88%
Jeff Weninger	17								✓	1	13%
Bruce Wheeler	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8	100%

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