

## Legislative attacks on public education and Arizona voters continue

### Attacking Arizona schools

Despite statewide voter outrage, out-of-state voucher expansion bill SB1224 continues to progress. The final committee hearing in House Appropriations is scheduled for Wednesday; a floor vote (and passage to the governor's desk) could come as soon as Thursday. ***If passed, every Arizona taxpayer will be forced to subsidize private, religious schools in five other states.***

Lawmakers beholden to out-of-state dark money interests claim the bill is “only about helping kids,” but the Indigenous community continues to speak out against being used as pawns to advance a national privatization agenda. Last week, a pair of powerful OpEds called out lawmakers for “[exploiting our challenges](#) to promote private school vouchers” and condemned out-of-state ESA voucher expansion as “[offensive to the legacy](#) of Navajo families.”



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### Attacking Arizona voters

Attacks to the citizen's initiative process also continue to move forward, with HCR2032 scheduled to be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee. This measure would require initiatives to stick to a “single subject,” limiting Arizona voters' Constitutional right to make our own laws at the ballot box. Our lawmakers have already proved they **don't listen to the will of voters** and are doubling down by threatening direct democracy.

### Calls to Action!

- Help us make history with the Save Our Schools Act! Sign up to circulate petitions - we need **350,000** signatures by the end of June. EVERY SIGNATURE COUNTS! [Sign up here to collect signatures, and ask your family and friends to do the same.](#)
- Contact **both your own House representatives.** Ask them to oppose SB1224 and HB2898 because it's not what their constituents want done with our tax dollars. No amount of meaningless “reforms” justify sending our tax dollars out of state.



# Bills in motion:

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## SB 1224



Oppose

empowerment scholarships; qualified schools; reservations

### Expands ESA vouchers across state lines

Sen. Sylvia Allen

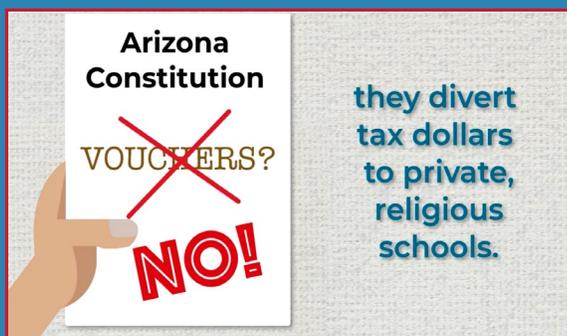
Would expand ESA vouchers outside of state lines to New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and California, making Arizona the only state in the nation using taxpayer funds to pay for private religious vouchers in other states. The bill was also amended to strip oversight funding from the program; to transfer fraud oversight to the State Board of Education, an appointed body with few employees; and to widen allowable spending on goods to include computers, big-screen TVs, and just about anything else. The existing ESA voucher program already drains more than \$110 million per year in state funding directly from Arizona's public schools, and is rife with accountability and misspending issues. No Arizona student should have to leave the state to get a great education, and Arizona tax dollars should remain in Arizona. Scheduled for House Appropriations, Wednesday.



CLICK HERE  
Learn more  
about  
the  
Save Our  
Schools Act

### What is an ESA voucher?

Click the image to watch the video



## SB 1060



Support

special education; group B weights

### Allows districts to apply for grants for ultra high cost students

Sen. Sylvia Allen

This bill would allow school districts to request extra funding from the Department of Education's Extraordinary Special Education Needs Fund for students whose education costs more than 3 times the statewide per-pupil funding average. The bill also contains modest increases for a few special education weights: Speech Language Impairment, Other Health Impairment, and Self-Contained Severe Intellectual Disability. It's far from enough, but it's a respectable step toward better funding for students with special needs, the vast majority of whom choose public schools. Passed House Education Committee unanimously; waiting for House Appropriations.



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# SB 1177



Support

appropriation; Ganado School Loop Road

**Allots \$900,000 for repairs to Ganado School Loop Road in northeastern AZ**

**Sponsor: Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai**

The Ganado School Loop Road, built in 1991, hasn't been maintained or upgraded for 27 years. It is the only point of access both to the K-12 schools for 1,388 students and 93 teachers and for the community hospital, as well as for the school buses, parents and community members. The road is hazardous in winter snow and turns to mud in the spring, and the poor drainage is eating away at neighboring farmlands. The requested funding would also add a sidewalk and other safety mechanisms, as the vast majority of Ganado students walk to school. The county will fund \$400,000 toward the road's repair; this type of matching funding is rare. Awaiting House first reading and committee assignment. See mirror bill **HB2198** (sponsor: Rep. Arlando Teller).

RTS

# SB 1234



Support

additional assistance; restoration  
**Accelerates DAA restoration for FY2020-21**

**Sen. Sylvia Allen**

This bill would invest \$135 million of the state's current budget surplus toward restoring [District and Charter Additional Assistance](#), which was severely cut during the last recession and still not fully re-stored. DAA and CAA are flexible funding for district and charter schools that can be used for building improvements, textbooks, classroom materials and technology, as well as to supplement staff salaries. With schools statewide in crisis, the money can't come soon enough. Since 2009, schools have lost out on over \$2 billion in DAA funds, leaving them unable to purchase updated materials, maintain aging buildings or replace old school buses. Passed the Senate unanimously; scheduled for House Appropriations Committee, Wednesday.

RTS

# HCR 2032



Oppose

initiatives; single subject; title  
**Requires ballot initiatives to hew to a single subject**

**Rep. Anthony Kern**

Would ask voters to amend Arizona's Constitution to require initiatives be limited to a single subject expressed in the title; if it's not in the title it's void. In 2017, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce sued to knock the minimum wage increase initiative off the ballot, arguing that its dual wage and sick leave provisions violated the single-subject rule. The Arizona Supreme Court rejected that argument, saying voters could do as they liked. If passed, this bill would restrict voters' ability to make their own laws. Passed the House on party lines; scheduled for Senate Judiciary Committee, Thursday.

## 2020 Session Timeline

*Monday, 2/24 CrossoverWeek begins; the expected start of this year's budget bill work*

**Friday, 3/27 Last day for a bill to get out of committees in its crossover house**

**Friday, 4/17 Last day for conference committees, which iron out differences in bill versions passed by separate houses (date set by legislative rule; can be changed)**

**Saturday, 4/25 100th Day of Session (the magic ending point we hope for; can be changed)**