

2022 Advocacy Goals & Priorities

Keep public funds in public schools.

- Prevent a \$1.2 billion cut to public district school budgets by passing an override of the K-12 Aggregate Expenditure Limit by March 1, 2022; support a long-term solution by allowing Arizona voters to permanently repeal the limit
- Protect current voter-approved funding streams (Prop 301, Prop 208, etc.)

Increase accountability for public funds spent on education

- Cap the growth of private school vouchers; prevent any future expansions
- Establish transparency and accountability measures for all institutions and individuals that accept public funds, including the recovery of improperly spent or unspent public funds from private and for-profit organizations

Adequately and equitably fund Arizona's K-12 public schools to at least the national median

- This includes capital funding; low-income, rural and remote schools; educator and staff pay; student transportation; CTED, extracurriculars, specials and arts; and technology and internet access
- Reduce existing tax carve-outs; halt any additional tax deductions or credits

Improve student outcomes and educator working environments

- This includes anti-discrimination policies; social-emotional wellness measures; an accurate and honest teaching of history, civics, literature and art; and recognition and respect for teaching as a profession

Protect Arizona's constitutional direct democracy system

- Defend direct democracy measures such as citizen initiative and referendum
- Protect the legal authority of local, nonpartisan elected school boards, including their authority to approve curriculum

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Our Goals

In 2022, Save Our Schools Arizona is focusing on these 5 priority issues:

- Adequately and equitably fund Arizona's K-12 public schools to at least the national median
- Keep public funds in public schools.
- Increase accountability for public funds spent on education
- Improve student outcomes and educator working environments
- Protect Arizona's constitutional direct democracy system

Who we are

Save Our Schools Arizona is a nonpartisan, community-based organization fighting for strong public schools for a strong Arizona.

Why we fight

Arizona consistently ranks at the bottom nationwide for public school funding, teacher pay, and teacher retention – and the trend is worsening. Despite our state's growing population and the continuously growing number of students in today's classrooms, Arizona's public schools receive nearly 15% less funding now than they did 10 years ago. Diverting public funds away from public schools toward private schools only exacerbates the crisis. This negatively affects students and families, leaving the next generation unprepared for success and risking our state's future.

Arizona must invest in its public schools in order to create the workforce of tomorrow and ensure economic prosperity for its citizens. With 95% of Arizona families choosing public schools, our state must invest its resources in those students in order to succeed.