

# **FAMILY ISSUES FACT SHEET**

No. 2021-03 (January 2021)

## **Academic Transparency**

### **SB 1058 Schools; Access; Learning Materials; Activities**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

SB 1058 ensures parents have reasonable access to review instructional materials and activities used in their child's school, including textbooks (print or digital), reading materials, websites, videos, and online applications used for student instruction. This also includes presentations, assemblies, and lectures.

Arizona law currently allows parents to review instructional materials (A.R.S. §15-730), but restrictions by school districts and charter schools have made it difficult for many parents to access these materials. SB 1058 requires public schools to increase curriculum transparency by prominently displaying the information on its website.

#### **WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?**

SB 1058 ensures parents with children in district or charter schools have access to review the instructional materials currently used or being considered for use in their child's school, and establishes that the materials be reasonably accessible.

Each school that is operated by a school district, and each charter school, would be required to prominently list on a publicly accessible portion of its website on, or before, July 1 of each year:

1. The learning materials and activities that were used for student instruction at the school during the prior school year, organized at a minimum by subject area and grade.
2. Any procedures in effect for the principal, administrators or teachers to document, review or approve the learning materials and activities used for student instruction at the school.

Materials used for students participating in remedial or special education services, districts with fewer than 500 students, and schools with fewer than 50 students are exempt.

The bill also provides a detailed definition of "learning materials" and "activities". They include:

#### **Learning Materials:**

- Textbooks and reading materials
- Videos
- Digital materials
- Websites
- Online applications

Contact: Cathi Herrod, President, Center for Arizona Policy, Inc. This Fact Sheet may be reproduced without change and in its entirety for non-commercial purposes without prior permission from Center for Arizona Policy, Inc. © 2021 CAP. All rights reserved.

Activities:

- Presentations
- Assemblies
- Lectures
- Other educational events facilitated by the public educational institution's staff, including those conducted by outside individuals or organizations.

## TALKING POINTS

1. **Since parents are fundamentally responsible for the upbringing of their children, it makes sense they have access to materials being taught at their children's school. It should be reasonably easy to access the information.**
2. **Current law providing for parental review of material is meaningless if parents can't readily access the material.** SB 1058 breaks down onerous restrictions and allows more transparency. Everyone wants transparency.
3. **Parents can already easily access grades, financial and enrollment information, graduation and dropout stats, and more on a school's website. It should be just as easy for parents to access materials being used to teach their children.**

## CONCLUSION

SB 1058 ensures parents have reasonable access to review instructional materials and activities used in their child's district or charter school, including textbooks (print or digital), reading materials, websites, videos, and online applications, used for student instruction. This also includes presentations, assemblies, and lectures.