

FAMILY ISSUES FACT SHEET

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Academic Transparency

SB 1058 Schools; Access; Learning Materials; Activities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SB 1058 ensures parents have reasonable access to review available 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 available information on its website.

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

SB 1058 ensures parents with children in district or charter schools have access to review available instructional materials used in their child’s school, and establishes that the materials be reasonably accessible.

On or before July 1 of each year, each school operated by a school district and each charter school that has procedures or processes in effect for lesson plan approval would be required to prominently display on a publicly accessible portion of its website:

- 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
- The lesson plan or learning materials and activities used for student instruction at the school

If no procedures or processes are in effect for staff review and approval, the school must clearly state that on the website.

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

Activities:

- Presentations
- Assemblies
- Guest 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, without burdening school staff with a lot of extra work. 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 available 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.