

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; attendance; minutes computation

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

HB 2559

Introduced by
Representatives Anderson, Tobin

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-902, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL
FINANCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-902, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-902. Determination of student count

5 A. For a common or a unified school district in which the average
6 daily membership through the first one hundred days or two hundred days in
7 session, as applicable, of the current year has exceeded the average daily
8 attendance through the first one hundred days or two hundred days in session,
9 as applicable, of the current year by more than six per cent, the student
10 count shall be determined by an adjusted average daily membership computed by
11 multiplying the actual average daily attendance by one hundred six per cent.

12 B. For a high school district in which the average daily membership
13 through the first one hundred days in session of the current year exceeds the
14 average daily attendance through the first one hundred days in session of the
15 current year by more than eight and one-half per cent, the student count
16 shall be determined by an adjusted average daily membership computed by
17 multiplying the actual average daily attendance by one hundred eight and
18 one-half per cent. If the high school district which utilized adjusted
19 average daily membership pursuant to this subsection does not qualify for
20 equalization assistance as provided by section 15-971, the computation of
21 additional state aid for education as provided in section 15-972 for that
22 district shall not include in the primary property tax rate the amount of
23 primary property taxes necessary to fund an amount computed as follows:

24 1. Determine the revenue control limit, capital outlay revenue limit
25 and soft capital allocation using the adjusted average daily membership.

26 2. Add the amounts determined in paragraph 1 of this subsection.

27 3. Determine the revenue control limit, capital outlay revenue limit
28 and soft capital allocation using a student count computed by multiplying the
29 actual average daily attendance by one hundred six per cent.

30 4. Add the amounts determined in paragraph 3 of this subsection.

31 5. Subtract the sum determined under paragraph 4 of this subsection
32 from the sum determined under paragraph 2 of this subsection.

33 C. A school district required to utilize adjusted average daily
34 membership as provided in this section may apply to the department of
35 education for a further adjustment if student absences result from any of the
36 following reasons:

37 1. Widespread illness for any period of three consecutive days or
38 more.

39 2. Adverse weather conditions for any period of three consecutive days
40 or more.

41 3. Concerted refusal by students to attend classes for any period of
42 three consecutive days or more.

43 4. Threats of violence against school property, school personnel or
44 students for any period of one day or more.

1 D. All student absence figures shall be submitted by the school
2 district on a school by school basis to the department of education pursuant
3 to subsection C of this section and shall be certified by the governing board
4 of the school district. The department of education shall review the
5 materials and documents submitted and may, if it determines that the absences
6 resulted from the reasons prescribed by this section, further adjust the
7 average daily membership figures of the school district.

8 E. A school district required to use adjusted average daily membership
9 as provided in this section may apply to the department of education for a
10 further adjustment due to absences of pupils with chronic health problems as
11 defined in section 15-346 if the school district is providing services to the
12 pupils during their absence from school.

13 F. A pupil is enrolled if the pupil is currently registered in the
14 school district. In addition, the uniform system of financial records shall
15 contain procedures to ensure that enrollment is determined by all school
16 districts on a uniform basis.

17 G. Any determination of average daily attendance and average daily
18 membership shall be based on the records of the superintendent of public
19 instruction.

20 H. For school districts which maintain an approved year-round school
21 year operation program, an educational program offered on the basis of a four
22 day school week or an alternative kindergarten program offered on the basis
23 of a three day school week, student count shall be based on a computation as
24 prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction on the one hundred
25 seventy-five days' equivalency or two hundred days' equivalency, as
26 applicable, of instructional time as approved by the superintendent of public
27 instruction during which each pupil is enrolled.

28 I. School districts shall be required to record electronically
29 membership and attendance on a school by school basis for each day school is
30 in session. Records shall be certified and forwarded to the department of
31 education electronically within twelve days after the first forty days in
32 session and within twelve days after the first one hundred days in session.

33 J. Absences shall be made part of the attendance record and shall be
34 forwarded electronically by the school district on a school by school basis
35 with other records to the department of education.

36 K. If a new school district is formed by the subdivision of an
37 existing school district as provided in section 15-458, the new school
38 district shall determine its student count, the approved daily route mileage
39 and the number of eligible students transported on the basis of where pupils
40 reside within the boundaries of the new school district when computing
41 assistance as provided in this chapter. The school district shall determine
42 its student count, the approved daily route mileage and the number of
43 eligible students transported on the basis of where pupils reside within the
44 diminished boundaries of the school district when computing a school district
45 budget limit and assistance as provided in this chapter. The combined

1 student count in the new districts may not exceed the student count of the
2 school district which would have existed if the subdivision had not occurred.

3 L. MINUTES OF ATTENDANCE SHALL BE MADE PART OF THE ATTENDANCE RECORD
4 FOR HOMEBOUND PUPILS, HOSPITALIZED PUPILS AND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN AND SHALL BE
5 FORWARDED ELECTRONICALLY BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ON A SCHOOL BY SCHOOL BASIS
6 WITH OTHER RECORDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.