



## Arizona Revised Statutes

### A.R.S 15-351 – School Councils: Duties and Membership

- A. The purpose of this section is to ensure that individuals who are affected by the outcome of a decision at the school site share in the decision making process.
- B. Each school shall establish a school council. A governing board may delegate to a school council the responsibility to develop a curriculum and may delegate any additional powers that are reasonably necessary to accomplish decentralization. The school council shall take into consideration the ethnic composition of the local community and, except as provided in section 15-352, shall consist of the following members:
1. Parents or guardians of pupils enrolled in the school. A parent or guardian who is employed by the school district may serve as a member of the school council if the parent or guardian is not employed at the same school where the parent or guardian's child is enrolled.
  2. Teachers.
  3. Non-Certified employees.
  4. Community members.
  5. Pupils, if the school is a high school.
  6. The principal of the school.
- C. Each group specified in subsection B of this section shall select its school council appointees and shall submit the names of its respective representatives to the principal. The initial representatives shall be selected at public meetings held at the school site, and, thereafter, representatives shall be selected by their groups in the manner determined by the school council. Schools shall give notice of the public meeting where the initial representatives of the groups shall be selected, clearly stating its purpose, time and place. The notice shall be posted in at least three different locations at the school site and in the community and shall be given to pupils for delivery to their parents or guardians.
- D. The governing board shall determine the initial number of school council members. Thereafter, the school council shall determine the number. The number of teachers and parents or guardians of pupils enrolled at the school shall be equal. Teachers and parents or guardians of pupils enrolled at the school shall constitute a majority of the school council members.
- E. The school council shall adopt written guidelines that specify the number of school council members and the methods for the selection of school council members.

- F. The principal shall serve as chairman of the school council unless another person is elected by a majority of the school council members.

### **A.R.S 15-352 – Exemptions**

- A. The governing board is not obligated to reconstitute previously formed school councils pursuant to this section if the existing school councils include representation by more than one teacher and more than one parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled at the school.
- B. The governing board may allow an alternative school to establish an alternative school council with members other than those specified in section 15-351 if teachers and parents or guardians of pupils enrolled at the school are represented.
- C. A school district that has only one school or a student population of less than six hundred students may decide by a vote of the governing board to not participate in the decentralization process required by this article. If the governing board votes to not participate, the district is not subject to this article.

### **A.R.S 15-353 – Responsibilities of a Principal**

The principal of every school offering instruction in preschool programs, kindergarten programs or any combination of grades one through twelve is responsible for:

1. Providing leadership for the school.
2. Implementing the goals and the strategic plan of the school.
3. Serving as the administrator of the school.
4. Distributing a parental satisfaction survey to the parent of every child enrolled at the school. The parental satisfaction survey shall be distributed at least once each year and shall be distributed as part of the regular parent communication correspondence.

### **A.R.S. 43-1089.01 – Tax Credit: Public school fees and contributions**

- A. A credit is allowed against the taxes imposed by this title for the amount of any fees or cash contributions made by a taxpayer during the taxable year to a public school located in this state for the support of extracurricular activities or character education programs of the public school, but not exceeding:
1. Two hundred dollars for a single individual or a head of household.
  2. Three hundred dollars in taxable year 2005 for a married couple filing a joint return.
  3. Four hundred dollars in taxable year 2006 and any subsequent year for a married couple filing a joint return.

- B. A husband and wife who file separate returns for a taxable year in which they could have filed a joint return may each claim only one-half of the tax credit that would have been allowed for a joint return.
- C. The credit allowed by this section is in lieu of any deduction pursuant to section 170 of the internal revenue code and taken for state tax purposes.
- D. If the allowable tax credit exceeds the taxes otherwise due under this title on the claimant's income, or if there are no taxes due under this title, the taxpayer may carry the amount of the claim not used to offset the taxes under this title forward for not more than five consecutive taxable years' income tax liability.
- E. The site council of the public school that receives contributions that are not designated for a specific purpose shall determine how the contributions are used at the school site. If a charter school does not have a site council, the principal, director or chief administrator of the charter school shall determine how the contributions that are not designated for a specific purpose are used at the school site.
- F. A public school that receives fees or a cash contribution pursuant to subsection A of this section shall report to the department, in a form prescribed by the department, by February 28 of each year the following information:
1. The total number of fee and cash contribution payments received during the previous calendar year.
  2. The total dollar amount of fees and contributions received during the previous calendar year.
  3. The total dollar amount of fees and contributions spent by the school during the previous calendar year.
- G. For the purposes of this section:
1. "Character education programs" means a program described in section 15-719.
  2. "Extracurricular activities" means school sponsored activities that require enrolled students to pay a fee in order to participate including fees for:
    - × Band uniforms.
    - × Equipment or uniforms for varsity athletic activities.
    - × Scientific laboratory materials.
    - × In-state or out-of-state trips that are solely for competitive events.

**\*Extracurricular activities do not include any senior trips or events that are recreational, amusement, or tourist activities.**

## A.R.S. 38-431.02 – Notice of Meetings

- A. Public notice of all meetings of public bodies shall be given as follows:
1. The public bodies of the state shall file a statement with the secretary of state stating where all public notices of their meetings will be posted and shall give such additional public notice as is reasonable and practicable as to all meetings.
  2. The public bodies of the counties, school districts and other special districts shall file a statement with the clerk of the board of supervisors stating where all public notices of their meetings will be posted and shall give such additional public notice as is reasonable and practicable as to all meetings.
  3. The public bodies of the cities and towns shall file a statement with the city clerk or mayor's office stating where all public notices of their meetings will be posted and shall give such additional public notice as is reasonable and practicable as to all meetings.
- B. If an executive session will be held, the notice shall be given to the members of the public body, and to the general public, stating the specific provision of law authorizing the executive session.
- C. Except as provided in subsections D and E, meetings shall not be held without at least twenty-four hours' notice to the members of the public body and to the general public.
- D. In case of an actual emergency, a meeting, including an executive session, may be held upon such notice as is appropriate to the circumstances. If this subsection is utilized for conduct of an emergency session or the consideration of an emergency measure at a previously scheduled meeting the public body must post a public notice within twenty-four hours declaring that an emergency session has been held and setting forth the information required in subsections H and I.
- E. A meeting may be recessed and resumed with less than twenty-four hours' notice if public notice of the initial session of the meeting is given as required in subsection A, and if, prior to recessing, notice is publicly given as to the time and place of the resumption of the meeting or the method by which notice shall be publicly given.
- F. A public body which intends to meet for a specified calendar period, on a regular day, date or event during such calendar period, and at a regular place and time, may post public notice of such meetings at the beginning of such period. Such notice shall specify the period for which notice is applicable.
- G. Notice required under this section shall include an agenda of the matters to be discussed or decided at the meeting or information on how the public may obtain a copy of such an agenda. The agenda must be available to the public at

least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting, except in the case of an actual emergency under subsection D.

- H. Agendas required under this section shall list the specific matters to be discussed, considered or decided at the meeting. The public body may discuss, consider or make decisions only on matters listed on the agenda and other matters related thereto.
- I. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, notice of executive sessions shall be required to include only a general description of the matters to be considered. Such agenda shall provide more than just a recital of the statutory provisions authorizing the executive session, but need not contain information that would defeat the purpose of the executive session, compromise the legitimate privacy interests of a public officer, appointee or employee, or compromise the attorney-client privilege.
- J. Notwithstanding subsections H and I, in the case of an actual emergency a matter may be discussed and considered and, at public meetings, decided, where the matter was not listed on the agenda provided that a statement setting forth the reasons necessitating such discussion, consideration or decision is placed in the minutes of the meeting and is publicly announced at the public meeting. In the case of an executive session, the reason for consideration of the emergency measure shall be announced publicly immediately prior to the executive session.
- K. Notwithstanding subsection H, the chief administrator or presiding officer of a public body may present a brief summary of current events without listing in the agenda the specific matters to be summarized, provided that:
  - 1. The summary is listed on the agenda.
  - 2. The public body does not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action at that meeting on any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.