



SB 1393 continuing high school program (Boyer)

Under current law, the Division of Adult Education housed within ADE provides services to student 16 years and older not enrolled in a K-12 school to assist students to earn a high school equivalency diploma, connect to job opportunities, transition to post-secondary education, and become proficient in English.

This bill establishes a continuing high school program (Program) to provide adult learners with alternative education services that lead to the issuance of a high school diploma and industry-recognized credentials.

Provisions:

- Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish a continuing high school program and authorize service providers to participate and operate schools through partnerships with school districts, nonprofit charter schools, and CTEDs
- In order to qualify as an approved provider, the organization must:
 - Be a 501c3 nonprofit
 - Have a 10-year history of providing services in Arizona to people over 18 years old who's educational and training opportunities have been limited by educational disadvantages, disabilities and challenges
- Allows a high school diploma issued through this program to an adult learner who meets all of the graduation requirements required by statute and SBE
- Requires a school participating in the Program to meet all applicable legal requirements for a public school, including requirements for student assessments and special education services and prohibition against admission limits based on ethnicity, national origin, gender, income level, disability, language proficiency, or athletic ability
- Prohibits the program from receiving transportation funding or Arizona Online Instruction funding
- Allows a school participating in the program to receive base support level funding and additional assistance in the same manner as a school district or charter school
- Directs the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to develop application procedures, and outlines specific application requirements for potential service providers
- Allows SBE to evaluate applications and approve service providers for no more than two years, initially, with the option for a renewal of no more than four years
 - Specifies that renewal approval should be based on specific performance expectations, including student progression, graduation rates, and earning of industry-recognized credentials
- Requires SBE to revoke a service provider's approval if it fails to meet any requirements or rules in state law or rules set by SBE
- Requires SBE, by July 1, 2022, to adopt performance expectations to evaluate service providers that include measurements of student progress towards a high school diploma, the graduation rates of students earning at least one academic credit and the number of industry-recognized credentials earned.



Arizona School Boards Association

- Requires approved service providers to annually report on:
 - The number of adult learners enrolled
 - The graduation rate of adult learners
 - The average progress of adult learners towards meeting graduation requirements
 - The number and type of industry-recognized credentials earned
 - A summary of the academic, behavioral, and emotional support services provided to adult learners in the school
- Requires, beginning in 2023, ADE to annually submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the Program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Allows SBE to approve program service providers with a total projected ADM of:
 - A maximum of 350 ADM in FY22
 - A maximum of 700 ADM in FY23
 - A maximum of 1400 ADM in FY24 and beyond
- Prohibits SBE from including students under the age of 21 in ADM projections