



### **SB 1683 schools; transportation support; programs; appropriations (Boyer)**

This bill establishes the Transportation Support for Enrollment Options grant program (“Program”) beginning in school year 2021-2022 to allow parents to apply for monthly transportation grant funds.

#### **Provisions:**

- Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish the Transportation Support for Enrollment Options grant program and adopt rules to administer the program.
- Allows a parent to apply to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for monthly transportation grants that may not exceed \$80 per month if both of the following apply:
  - The child attends a school district via open enrollment or charter school
  - The parent needs financial support for transportation services or lives within 20 miles of the school district boundary of the selected school but there is no bus program available to pick up the student from their neighborhood
- Allows a school district or charter school to use transportation funding to provide these transportation grants to parents of students in that school or district.
- Requires each participating school district and charter school to report to ADE on a monthly basis the amount of grant monies awarded for the program.
- Allows SBE to appoint a Transportation Solution Committee consisting of any combination of county school superintendents, parents, community advocates, and education and regional transportation policy experts.
- Allows the Transportation Solution Committee to assist in developing grant applications, grant procedures, selecting grant recipients, and approving approaches to aid students in accessing safe and affordable transportation.
- Repeals this section on July 1, 2031.

#### **Appropriations**

- Appropriates \$10M from the state general fund in FY22 to SBE to distribute as follows:
  - \$5M to school districts and charter schools as public school transportation modernization grants.
  - \$3M to school district and charter schools as family transportation stipend grants
  - \$2M to municipalities as improved municipal bus route grants.
- Requires at least at least 25% of the public school transportation modernization and family transportation grant funds support rural and remote proposals unless there are an insufficient amount of these proposals.
- Allows modernization grant monies to be used for any of the following purposes:
  - Transportation resource sharing with school district and charter schools.
  - Developing or contracting with rideshare programs.
  - Options to address personal challenges.
- Allows family transportation stipend grant monies cover the cost of any of the following:



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- Driving students to school.
- Neighborhood carpools.
- Bus fares.
- Allows municipalities use grant monies for any of the following purposes:
  - Construction of bus stops in front of municipality and low-income housing.
  - Reevaluation of bus routes with school district and charter school leaders.
  - Development of partnerships with public schools in the municipality and community partners.