

Who's for Kids
And who's just
kidding?

A Legislative Report Card

May 2018

Where's the Plan for Revenue for Public Schools?

The urgent need for reinvestments in our public schools dominated the legislative session. The voices of parents, teachers, and students across the state pushed Governor Ducey and the legislature to alter their budget plans to make a large down payment to public education.

The Red for Ed demonstrations on school campuses, city streets, and at the state capitol showed the depth of Arizonans' distrust of empty political promises. During the teacher walkout, the Governor and lawmakers changed the budget plans again to use more realistic spending and revenue projections, to eliminate some gimmicks like a new lottery game, and to protect some other budget priorities.

Governor Ducey and legislative leaders from both parties have recognized that they can't balance the budget and re-invest in public schools without new revenue. The budget includes a property tax increase of \$19 million for homeowners in 9 school districts and a new \$24 fee for every registered car to help pay for restored funding to schools.



But this leaves Arizona without a full financial plan for public school investments. The budget relies on a lot of temporary maneuvers, like sweeping other funds and using lawsuit settlements. The projections pretend that there will be no more tax cuts, no new spending in any other area, and no slowdown of the economy for the next three years.

Without additional investments, too many students will continue to experience classrooms that are missing permanent teachers, updated textbooks and technology, and the counseling and support they need to succeed. And without a dedicated revenue stream, Arizona politicians have a track record of contradicting court orders and state laws to slash funding for public schools.

It's time to execute a real financial plan to reinvest in our children and our future.

Sincerely,

Dana Wolfe Naimark

President & CEO

Who Voted Yes on Bills Good for Kids?



HB 2449—Higher Child Care Payments for High Quality Early Learning

Sponsored by Representative Udall

Current research shows that children who participate in high quality child care and preschool before they start kindergarten experience lower rates of special education placements, less grade retention, and improved high school graduation rates. Working parents who earn low incomes lose this opportunity because they can't afford high quality care and education. This bill strengthens Arizona's child care assistance to connect more children with higher quality early learning. It requires the state to invest one third of its federal funds for quality child care to provide higher payments to child care that meets higher quality standards. *Signed by Governor Ducey*

SB 1166—Stronger Permanent Guardianship for Abused and Neglected Children

Sponsored by Senator Brophy-McGee

Abused and neglected children can be connected to lifelong families through "permanent guardianship," which allows kids to leave foster care and live with people they already know and trust. State policies for permanent guardians are outdated, leaving critical gaps in support. This bill takes two steps to strengthen guardianship policies and connect families with the supports they need for family stability. It allows permanent guardians to continue getting financial support if they choose to adopt the children. It also allows the Department of Child Safety to determine eligibility for a permanent guardianship subsidy before the court decision. This way families won't have a lag in getting the financial support they count on. *Signed by Governor Ducey*

SB 1390—Sustain Prop. 301 Sales Tax for K-12 Education

Sponsored by Senator Brophy-McGee and Representative Coleman

This bill continues the dedicated sales tax adopted by voters in Proposition 301, a key source of more than \$550 million in annual financial support for K-12 public schools, which was set to expire in June 2021. This bill averts a fiscal cliff and another huge financial blow to public schools. *Signed by Governor Ducey*

Amendments to HB 2659 and SB 1526 to Prevent an Automatic Freeze in KidsCare

Sponsored by Representative Butler and Senator Hobbs

KidsCare now provides affordable health care coverage to 28,000+ children in working families, connecting them with the check-ups, immunizations, treatment and prescriptions they need to grow up healthy. Current state law has a trigger that immediately freezes KidsCare enrollment when federal funding dips to a 90% match in October 2019. HB 2127 removes the automatic freeze and puts control back in the state legislature to determine any state funding for KidsCare and to decide whether enrollment should be frozen.

After the House passed HB 2127 by an overwhelming majority, Senate President Yarbrough and House Speaker Mesnard refused to move the proposal forward to a final vote. During the state budget debate, the House and Senate voted on these proposed amendments that mirrored HB 2127 to prevent the automatic freeze. The amendments failed.

Who Voted No on These Bills That Hinder a Real Financial Plan for Public Schools?

HB 2377—Adds a Tax Credit for Teachers Who Buy School Supplies

Sponsored by Representative Clodfelter

This bill creates a new tax credit to reduce the state income taxes owed by teachers who spend their own money on school supplies. It makes a tax credit an acceptable substitute for the state fulfilling its responsibility to provide public resources for school supplies for every child in every classroom. The bill also appropriates \$8.7 million for school supplies.

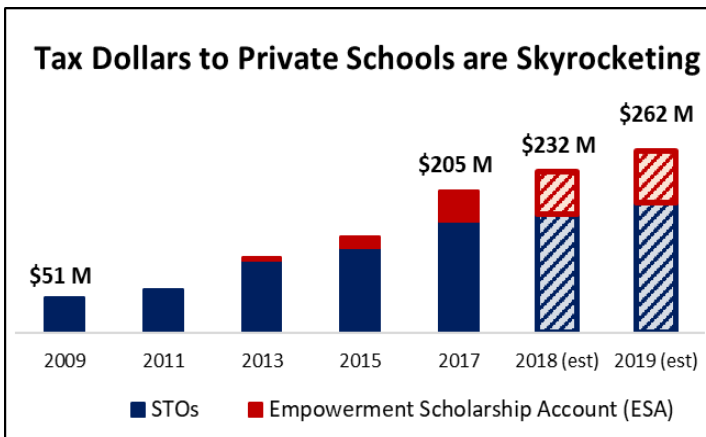
Passed the House; didn't get a vote in the Senate.



HB 1467—Expands Private School Tax Credits

Sponsored by Senator Yarbrough

This bill expands tax credits that divert public funding to private schools that can turn away any child for any reason—learning style, religion, academic level, special needs, and family circumstances. The bill allows Student Tuition Organizations to raise the private school scholarship amounts above the amount we invest in public school students. The bill: increases the maximum scholarship amount faster every year; expands subsidized tuition to more children who never attended Arizona public schools; and continues to grow the corporate private school tax credit maximum



cap by 20 percent every year. *Passed the Senate; didn't get a vote in the House.*

How to Use This Guide

CAA believes that every lawmaker has the responsibility to vote for kids. Our legislators should be held accountable and measured on their performance. This report card tracks 5 votes in the House of Representatives and 5 votes in the Senate in 2018. During the legislative session, Children's Action Alliance analyzed and took a stand on these bills, asking lawmakers to vote "yes" or "no" for kids.

In the chart, a ★ is shown for each vote for kids that corresponds to our recommendation. "NV" for "not voting" indicates that the legislator did not vote or was absent. If the legislator cast a vote contrary to what's best for kids, the vote box is left blank. "NV" votes are not counted in the legislator's overall percentage score.

★ = a vote for kids

blank = no vote for kids

NV = not voting or absent

State House Representative	HB 2377	HB 2449	SB 1166	SB 1390	HB 2659 KidsCare	2018 Grade
CAA Position	★=No	★=YES	★=YES	★=YES	★=YES	
Final Result	No Senate Vote	Signed by Gov	Signed by Gov	Signed by Gov	FAILED	
John Allen (LD 15 - North Phoenix)	★	★	★	★		80%
Lela Alston (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)		★	★	★	★	80%
Richard C. Andrade (LD 29 - W Phoenix, Glendale)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Brenda Barton (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff)		★		★		40%
Wenona Benally (LD 7 - Northeast Arizona)	NV	★	NV	★	★	100%
Isela Blanc (LD 26- Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Reginald Bolding Jr. (LD 27 - South Phoenix)		★	★	★	★	80%
Rusty Bowers (LD 25 - Mesa)		★		★		40%
Paul Boyer (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)	NV	★	★	★		75%
Kelli Butler (LD 28 - Northeast Phoenix)		★	★	★	★	80%
Noel Campbell (LD 1 - Anthem, Yavapai County)		★	★	★		60%
Mark Cardenas (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)		★	★	★	★	80%
Heather Carter (LD 15 - North Phoenix)	NV	★	NV	★		67%
Cesar Chavez (LD 29-West Phoenix, Glendale)		★	★	★	★	80%
Ken Clark (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Todd Clodfelter (LD 10-East, Central Tucson)		★	NV	★		50%
Regina Cobb (LD 5 - La Paz & Mohave Counties)	★	★	★	★		80%
Doug Coleman (LD 16 - Apache Junction, E Mesa)		★	★	★		60%
David Cook (LD 8-Pinal County)		★	★	★		60%
Eric Descheenie (LD 7-Northeast Arizona)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Tim Dunn (LD 13-N. Yuma Co., West Maricopa Co.)		★	★	★		60%
Kirsten Engel (LD 10-East, Central Tucson)		★	★	★	★	80%
Mitzi Epstein (LD 18-Ahwatukee, Chandler, Tempe)		★	★	★	★	80%
Diego Espinoza (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)		★	★	★	★	80%
Eddie Farnsworth (LD 12 - Gilbert)	★	★				40%
Charlene Fernandez (LD 4 - S. Yuma & W. Pima Co.)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Mark Finchem (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)		★	★	★		60%
Randall Friese (LD 9 - Midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Rosanna Gabaldón (LD 2 - S Tucson, Santa Cruz Co.)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Sally Ann Gonzales (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	100%

★ = a vote for kids

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State House Representative	HB 2377	HB 2449	SB 1166	SB 1390	HB 2659 KidsCare	2018 Grade
CAA Position	★=No	★=YES	★=YES	★=YES	★=YES	
Final Result	No Senate Vote	Signed by Gov	Signed by Gov	Signed by Gov	FAILED	
Travis Grantham (LD 12- Gilbert)	★	★	★			60%
Daniel Hernandez (LD 2- S. Tucson, Santa Cruz Co.)		★	★	★	★	80%
Drew John (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)	NV	★	★	★		75%
Anthony Kern (LD 20 Northwest Phoenix)	★	★				40%
Jay Lawrence (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)		★	NV	★		50%
Vince Leach (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)	★	★	★	★		80%
David Livingston (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)		★	★	★		60%
Ray Martinez (LD 30- West Central Phoenix)		★	★	★	★	80%
J.D. Mesnard (LD 17 - Chandler)		★		★		40%
Darin Mitchell (LD 13 -N. Yuma, W. Maricopa Co.)		★		★		40%
Paul Mosley (LD 5 -S. Yuma, West Pima Counties)	NV	★				25%
Tony Navarrete (LD 30 -West Central Phoenix)		★	★	NV	★	75%
Jill Norgaard (LD 18 -Ahwatukee, Chandler, Tempe)		★	★	★		60%
Becky Nutt (LD 14 -Southeast Arizona)		★	★	★		60%
Kevin Payne (LD 21- Peoria, Sun City)		★		★		40%
Geraldine Peten (LD 4-S. Yuma, W. Pima Counties)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Pamela Powers Hannley (LD 9 -Midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Rebecca Rios (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Tony Rivero (LD 21 - Peoria, Sun City)		★	★	★	NV	75%
Macario Saldate, IV (LD 3 - West Tucson)		★	★	★	★	80%
Athena Salman (LD 26-Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
T.J. Shope (LD 8 - Pinal County)		★	★	★		60%
David Stringer (LD 1-Anthem, Yavapai County)		★	★	★		60%
Maria Syms (LD 28-Northeast Phoenix)		★	★	★		60%
Bob Thorpe (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)		★	★	★		60%
Ben Toma (LD 22-Surprise, Sun City West)	★	★	★	★		80%
Kelly Townsend (LD 16 - Apache Junction, East Mesa)		★	★			40%
Michelle Udall (LD 25-Mesa)	NV	★	★	★		75%
Michelle Ugenti (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)	★	★	★			60%
Jeff Weninger (LD 17 - Chandler)		★	★	★		60%

★ = a vote for kids

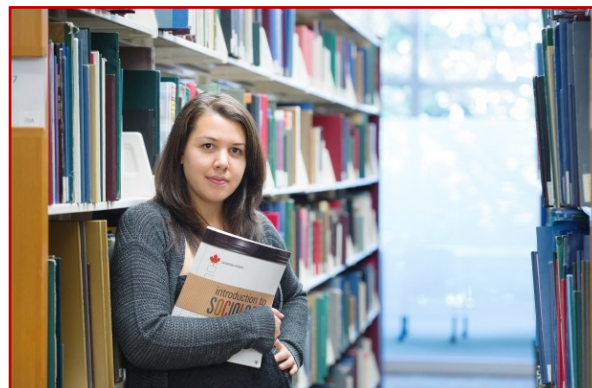
blank = no vote for kids

NV = not voting or absent

State Senator	SB 1166	SB 1390	SB 1467	HB 2449	HB 1526 KidsCare	2018 Grade
CAA Position	★ = YES	★ = YES	★ = NO	★ = YES	★ = YES	
Final Result	Signed by Gov	Signed by Gov	No House Vote	Signed by Gov	FAILED	
Sylvia Allen (LD 6 - Sedona, Flagstaff, Snowflake)	★	★		★		60%
Nancy Barto (LD 15 - North Phoenix)	★	★		★		60%
Sonny Borrelli (LD 5 - North Phoenix)	★	★		★		60%
Sean Bowie (LD 18 - Chandler, Ahwatukee, Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
David Bradley (LD 10 - East, Central Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Kate Brophy-McGee (LD 28 - Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Judy Burges (LD 22 - Surprise, Sun City West)	★			★		40%
Olivia Cajero Bedford (LD 3 - West Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Lupe Contreras (LD 19 - Avondale, Tolleson)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Andrea Dalessandro (LD 2 - S. Tucson, Santa Cruz Co.)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Karen Fann (LD 1 - Prescott, Chino Valley)	★	★		★		60%
Steve Farley (LD 9 - Midtown Tucson)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
David Farnsworth (LD 16 Apache Junction, E. Mesa)	★			★	NV	50%
Rick Gray (LD 21– Peoria, Sun City)	★	★		★		60%
Gail Griffin (LD 14 - Southeast Arizona)	★	★		★		60%
Katie Hobbs (LD 24 - Central and East Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
John Kavanagh (LD 23 - Scottsdale, Fountain Hills)	★	★		★		60%
Sine Kerr (LD 13 - N. Yuma Co., W. Maricopa Co.)	★	★		★		60%
Juan Mendez (LD 26– Tempe)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Robert Meza (LD 30 - West Central Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Catherine Miranda (LD 27 - South Phoenix)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Lisa Otondo (LD 4– S. Yuma County, W. Pima)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Jamescita Peshlakai (LD 7– Northeast Arizona)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Warren Petersen (LD 12 - Gilbert)	★			★		40%
Frank Pratt (LD 8- Pinal County)	★	★		★		60%
Martin Quezada (LD 29 - West Phoenix, Glendale)	★	★	★	★	★	100%
Steve Smith (LD 11 - Marana, Oro Valley)	★			★		40%
Bob Worsley (LD 25 - Mesa)	★	★		★		60%
Steve Yarbrough (LD 17 - Chandler)	★	★		★		60%
Kimberly Yee (LD 20 - Northwest Phoenix)	★	★		★		60%

Tuition Waivers Continue for Youth Who Have Lived in Foster Care

Youth who have lived in foster care face major challenges as they transition into adulthood, sometimes without any family they can count on. Due to the chaos in their lives and the challenges of moving from school to school, foster youth are much less likely to earn a college degree than their peers.



Arizona has had a successful pilot program to expand opportunities for higher education by providing these young adults with waivers for tuition at our state universities and community colleges. The waivers give young men and women a chance to get a college education and build a future of hope and opportunity, despite the trauma in their past. 37 students have already graduated thanks to the tuition waivers that started in 2013.

As the pilot was set to expire in June 2018, state lawmakers made the waivers permanent in one of their final votes on a higher education bill (SB 1527). Arizona can continue to connect adults who grew up in foster care with a chance for educational and economic success.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE!

Advocacy can often have a major impact by defeating policy proposals that would put children at risk. Thank you for helping us stop these threats to health, education and security before they got a final vote:

- **HB 2535** would prohibit the Department of Child Safety from enforcing any rules for gun safety or storage for foster parents, putting guns in the path of children who have already been victims of abuse or neglect.
- **SB 1406** would give most foster parents a “perpetual license,” eliminating the oversight to re-evaluate their home’s safety and suitability during license renewal.
- **HB 2479** would exempt a list of digital transactions from the sales tax, shrinking resources in the Classroom Site Fund for teacher pay and school operations – in addition to shrinking revenues to the state general fund and cities and towns.



azchildren.org

Children’s Action Alliance (CAA) is an independent voice for Arizona children at the state capitol and in the community. CAA works to improve children’s health, education and security through information and action.

2019 STATE BUDGET

No Financial Roadmap



- *ADDS \$240 M TO SCHOOLS; SCHOOL BOARDS EXPECTED TO RAISE AVERAGE TEACHER PAY BY 10%**
- *RESTORES \$100 M TO CLASSROOMS**
- *RESTORES \$23 M TO BUILDING REPAIR, EARLY LITERACY GRANTS, AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

- NEW \$24 VEHICLE FEE FOR EVERY CAR OWNER**
- PROPERTY TAX INCREASES FOR HOMEOWNERS IN NINE SCHOOL DISTRICTS**
- MORE THAN \$150M IN ONE-TIME SHIFTS, SWEEPS**
- \$55 MILLION FROM ENFORCEMENT OF TAX COLLECTIONS**



- *NO DEDICATED REVENUE SOURCE TO PAY FOR PROMISED FUTURE TEACHER RAISES AND CLASSROOM FUNDING**
- *IMAGINES NO ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, NO NEW SPENDING AND ONLY \$2 MILLION IN TAX CUTS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS**

- AUTOMATIC FREEZE ON KIDSCARE OCTOBER 2019**
- NO INVESTMENTS TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**
- \$56 MILLION IN FEDERAL CHILD CARE FUNDS WILL SIT UNSPENT WHILE CHILDREN GO WITHOUT SAFE AND QUALITY CHILD CARE**
- LEAVES PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH LARGE CLASS SIZES AND MISSING TEACHERS, TEXTBOOKS, AND SUPPORT**

