



# ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-fifth Legislature  
Second Regular Session

Senate: ED DPA 8-0-0-0 | 3rd Read 28-0-2-0

House: ED DPA 10-0-0-0

## **SB 1682: juveniles; educational classes; discretionary**

**Sponsor: Senator Gonzales, LD 3**

**Caucus & COW**

### **Overview**

Authorizes a committed youth who has not received a high school diploma to take the general equivalency diploma (GED) test or an approved equivalency test.

### **History**

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) maintains a state educational system to educate committed youth. Statute requires this state educational system to provide appropriate education to committed youth as required by state and federal law, including an appropriate education to all committed youth who have not received a high school diploma or a high school certificate of equivalency. Upon entering and exiting the state educational system, a committed youth is administered a basic skills examination to determine their educational needs and to assess the youth's progress while enrolled in the system. The Director of ADJC and the Superintendent of Public Instruction select a superintendent to oversee the system ([A.R.S. § 41-2831](#)).

If a committed youth is confined in a secure care facility and has not received a high school diploma, a high school certificate of equivalency or an exception from the Director of ADJC, the committed youth must attend school full time and make satisfactory progress in educational classes. A committed youth who has a high school diploma or high school certificate of equivalency may participate in regular classes or educational programming as deemed appropriate by ADJC ([A.R.S. § 41-2822.01](#)).

### **Provisions**

1. Allows a committed youth who is at least 16 years old, has not received a high school diploma, a high school certificate of equivalency or an exception from the Director of ADJC and who is functionally literate to take at any time:
  - a) The GED test; or
  - b) An equivalency test approved by the State Board of Education (SBE). (Sec. 1)
2. Stipulates a committed youth may be required to complete and pass a practice test in order to request administration of the GED test or an SBE-approved equivalency test. (Sec. 1)
3. Makes technical changes. (Sec. 1)

### **Amendments**

#### *Committee on Education*

1. Specifies an eligible committed youth may take the GED test or an SBE-approved equivalency test prior to release from a secure care facility.
2. Details a committed youth may be required to demonstrate readiness for the GED test through an assessment or by completion of a practice test.

<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 105 (45 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 108 (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Note
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