



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 28, 2022

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: H.B. 2866 K-12 education; 2022-2023

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

Today, I signed H.B. 2866. This legislation, in conjunction with the historic investments made in the General Appropriations Act (H.B. 2862), provides major increases and improvements to Arizona's K-12 education system.

In total, this year's education budget includes an estimated per pupil funding increase of just over \$704 of ongoing resources for schools. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average Arizona classroom has 23.5 students — this means that average classroom will see an influx of an additional \$16,550 per year.

And to be clear, the classroom is exactly where this new funding should be directed by each school's governing board. The top priority should be to increase teacher pay, especially for entry level teachers so that Arizona can attract and retain high quality professionals dedicated to serving our students. To that end, Section 24 of H.B. 2866 contains language stating that the governor and the legislature intend that school districts increase the total percentage of classroom spending over the previous year's percentages. Arizona schools must ensure they allocate funds in this manner, and parents and the public should hold them accountable to this expectation.

Lastly, and very importantly, the FY23 budget makes a significant investment in school safety. H.B. 2862 appropriates \$50 million to the School Safety Program, allowing schools to access grants to hire school resource officers.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann
The Honorable Rusty Bowers
The Honorable Regina Cobb
The Senate Secretary
The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Arizona News Service