



arizona business & education coalition

ABEC ISSUE BRIEF

JOINT TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISTRICTS (JTEDs)

REQUESTED ABEC ACTION:

Information only.

BACKGROUND & CURRENT STATUS:

In order to facilitate the delivery of Career Technical Education courses that required expensive equipment and continued certification, a system was developed in 1990 called Joint Technological Education Districts (JTEDs). These districts were set up to allow public school districts to cooperate together, share common facilities, centralize expensive equipment and specialized instructors so students could have the best career and technical education possible.

In 2002 the chair of the House Education Committee requested a special performance audit of these programs citing concern that they had been in place for over ten years and had never been formally reviewed. In addition, in 2002, the legislature placed a temporary prohibition on the formation of new districts or additions to existing districts due to concerns over their dramatic growth.

The audit was released in December 2004 and contained many valuable recommendations. After much debate throughout last year's legislative session most of the issues were addressed (HB 2418) however some were done for one year only. The bill also created a Task Force on Joint Technological Education Districts in order to fully address the remaining issues.

The taskforce is in place, chaired by Representative Mark Anderson and Senator Bob Burns. A draft set of recommendations has been prepared and forwarded from Representative Anderson to the JTED superintendents for feedback, with intentions of bringing legislation in the upcoming session.

SUPPORTERS:

Nine of the ten current superintendents of JTEDs are meeting as a group to develop recommendations to resolve the issues raised in the Auditor General's report. North Valley Education Consortium (NVEC) has listed JTED legislation as #2 in their legislative agenda.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

JTED superintendents commissioned a study by WestEd in response to the Attorney General report to analyze the JTED program and offer recommendations. The recommendations from the superintendent group will reflect WestEd findings and issues from the Auditor General.

OPPONENTS:

The Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA) has reacted to the Auditor General report with concern about how JTEDs are funded and the existence of the satellite programs. Their belief is that satellites were never part of the intentions of the JTED concept.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

- Significant revenues are passed through to member districts.
- Significant differences exist in terms of quality and rigor between the central courses and satellite courses.
- Overlapped funding with students counting for more than 1 ADM (double and triple counting) as well as being included in the calculation of community college full time student enrollment counts.
- Ultimately, the session law cap needs to be addressed

IS THE ISSUE CONSISTENT WITH ABEC'S PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT?

ABEC's Principles of Agreement contain many references to ensuring "the quality of the future workforce", advancing student achievement, enabling Arizona students to compete in a global economic environment and creating a workforce of the future. As an element of workforce preparation, the Joint Technical Education Districts provide rigorous instruction for students in industries that require current certifications and expensive, up-to-date equipment. Review of and assurance that this concept is efficient and transparent as well as meeting the needs of the workforce and the student, aligns with ABEC's Principles of Agreement.

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