

## **The Facts about Senate Bill (SB) 1463: Special Education; Transition Services; Requirements**

### **What does SB 1463 do?**

SB 1463 establishes an Individualized Education Program Advisory Council within the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) Division of Special Education, including at least:

- one special education director
- one parent of a child with a disability
- one student who is a child with a disability

The Council will develop and approve a statewide template for Individualized Education Program (IEP) plans that:

- is written in plain and concise language;
- is designed and structured in a clear and logical manner that is easily understandable;
- meets all federal requirements; and
- includes the postsecondary education transition planning form developed by the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council will conduct an annual review of the statewide template to determine what changes, if any, are needed.

### **When should plans for students with disabilities begin?**

SB 1463 requires Arizona public schools to begin transition planning for students with disabilities by grade nine or age 16 whichever comes first. The schools will have to notify parents of the anticipated graduation date one year prior and if the parent/student disagrees the school must prove that the credits awarded are fully aligned to the standards.

### **Why is this issue important?**

Some parents report that public school districts and charter schools graduate students with disabilities who have IEPs once they have completed their minimum required credit hours for graduation. Some parents say that allowing students/parents to express their concerns to the schools helps them work together to better meet the needs of the student.