



Vote **YES** on HB2405 / SB 1393: **CONTINUING HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

More than 720,000 working-age adults in Arizona do not have a high school diploma, and the costs to the State of Arizona are immense. Lower earnings, fewer job opportunities, and a higher reliance on public assistance; including AHCCCS, add up to millions in state spending.

Proven Success, Support additional workforce development solutions for Arizona.

HB 2405 / SB 1393 will authorize “adult high schools” modeled after the successful Excel Center schools operated by Goodwill regions across the country. These schools are designed to allow adult learners to earn a high school diploma and workforce credentials.

What makes these schools successful is:

- Earning a **high school diploma** leads to higher earnings than an equivalency certificate.
- **Workforce training** leading to credentials and/or college credit.
- **Partnerships** with non-profit community organizations with workforce development experience.
- **Eliminating barriers** to success by providing free childcare, transportation, and life and career coaching

Proven Success: More than a decade of research supports the adoption of Excel Center schools.

- 97% graduate with workforce credentials, certifications or college credits.
- 70% find employment and earn a 50% wage increase; many go directly in to college.

Economic Value: A high school diploma puts former dropouts on a path to job success and career growth. Research has shown:

- Individuals with a high school diploma make an average of \$1,600 more a month, or \$19,200 more a year than individuals holding a GED certificate (Source: US Census Bureau).
- The state’s investment in an Excel Center graduate is repaid in less than one year, through higher wages and reduced public assistance.
- An Arizona economic analysis conducted by Rounds Consulting Group, shows Arizona will yield more than \$50 million in additional state revenues by year ten.

Accountable: HB 2405 / SB 1393 proposes slow growth and thorough legislative oversight.

- State Board of Education application, oversight, and annual reporting.
- Renewal based on performance on student progress, graduation rates, and the number of earned industry-recognized credentials.



TOP 10: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EXCEL CENTERS

1. Excel Centers are public high schools serving adults in brick and mortar facilities through direct teacher instruction.
2. Excel Center graduates earn an Arizona high school diploma and workforce credentials.
3. Excel Centers support students with academic, social, and employment supports; including childcare, career and life coaching, relevant academic content, employment assistance, etc.
4. House Bill 2405 / SB 1392 is necessary to allow for public high schools serving adults.
5. The need is great, as more than 720,000 adults in Arizona do not have a high school diploma.
6. Excel Centers are a proven solution; started over a decade ago, they have proven to increase salaries, reduce reliance on public assistance, assist in anti-recidivism, and drive economic value to the state and local communities.
7. Research of Excel Centers has shown a \$12,000 average wage increase for Excel Center graduates who went directly into the workforce (Univ. of Notre Dame, LEO).
8. Excel Centers have demonstrated a direct impact on the academic success of the children of Excel Center graduates; 70% reporting improvement in their children's school performance.
9. House Bill 2405 / SB 1392 would establish the "Continuing High School Program", the process and accountability for authorizing adult high schools; and limits on student enrollment.
10. Excel Centers now successfully operate in five states across the country and Washington D.C: Indiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas.

BONUS

- Excel Centers are a true public private partnership bringing together public education and the workforce development experience of Goodwill.
- Excel Centers are NOT a traditional adult education high school certificate programs; Excel Centers are public high schools.
- Excel Centers are NOT online schools; they rely on direct instruction and brick and mortar facilities.