

FY 2025 School District Annual Expenditure Budget

Submission and Publication Instructions

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §15-903(A) requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction in conjunction with the Auditor General to prescribe the budget format to be used by all districts. A.R.S. §15-905 requires districts to prepare and submit budgets in electronic format containing the information and, in the form provided by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The Auditor General and ADE developed the budget format in Microsoft Excel, to incorporate the information districts are statutorily required to include in their annual budgets. This format will help districts comply with budget preparation and submission requirements.

Detailed instructions for preparing the expenditure budget forms and desegregation budget are included on an instructions tab in the related Excel files, along with a summary of significant changes from last year's budget package for applicable line items. All forms have been revised for recent legislation, as needed.

Posting a link to ADE's website

There are several instances in which a district must post a link on its website to allow the public to view submitted files on ADE's website.

Complete the following steps to link to submitted files on ADE's website:

1. After uploading a file to the Budget System and verifying that the file has a status of either "Processed" or "Processed with Warning(s)/Informational", navigate to the following link: Finance Systems - File Submission Status Report (azed.gov).
2. Note: This link is available to the public and all district/charter staff without ADEConnect log-in or permissions.
3. Use the filters to find the file for your district. (If you had to upload multiple files, make sure to choose the correct file.)
4. In the Submission column, right click on the Submission ID.
5. Choose the option to copy the link.
6. Post this link to your website.

Proposed budget

Districts are statutorily required to annually prepare a proposed budget no later than July 5, or the publication date of the notice of public hearing and board meeting to adopt the budget if earlier. The proposed budget must be furnished to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and to the County School Superintendent (CSS), unless waived by the CSS. **The governing board meeting held to propose a budget is subject to the standard 24-hour advance notice of board meetings.** The proposed budget and related summary must be kept on file at the district and made available to the public upon request.

Website requirements

In accordance with A.R.S. §15-905(A)(2), districts that maintain a website must provide a link on their website to ADE's website where the district's proposed budget/summary can be viewed. Districts must also email to the School Finance Budget Team (SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov) a clickable link to their web page where the link to the proposed budget was placed. For audit purposes, districts should retain a copy of the email and a screen shot of their website. The screen shot should **not** be emailed to ADE.

In accordance with A.R.S. 15-903(E), districts must prominently post average teacher salary information on their website separately from their budget. Districts can meet this requirement by posting a screen shot of the average teacher salary information from the budget cover or by separately posting the following information as reported on their budget cover:

- The average salary of all teachers employed by the district for the budget year.
- The average salary of all teachers employed by the district for the prior year.
- The dollar increase in the average salary of all teachers employed by the district for the budget year.
- The percentage increase in the average salary of all teachers employed by the district for the budget year.

Publishing requirements

The district **must** also post, publish, or mail a copy of the proposed budget or Summary and a notice of the public hearing and board meeting to adopt the budget no later than 10 days prior to the meeting to adopt the budget by **1** of the following methods:

- **Posting to ADE's website**—Districts that have a website are required to follow the website requirements above and may choose to meet the publication requirement for the proposed budget by electronically uploading the Hearing Notification and Summary via the School Finance Budget System to ADE for posting on ADE's website.
- **Publishing in a newspaper**—Print the proposed budget or Summary and Hearing Notification in at least 8-point type in a newspaper of general circulation within the district. The publisher's affidavit of newspaper publication must be filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction within 30 days of the publication. To meet this requirement, districts should scan and email the affidavit to SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov.
- **Mailing**—Mail the proposed budget or Summary and Hearing Notification to each household in the district. An affidavit or other documentation of mailing must be filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction within 30 days of mailing. To meet this requirement, districts should scan and email the affidavit to SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov.

Truth in taxation requirements

In accordance with A.R.S. §15-905.01, a district must hold a truth in taxation hearing on or before the adoption of the expenditure budget if the district budgets an amount that is higher than the truth in taxation base limit, levies any amount for adjacent ways pursuant to A.R.S. §15-995, or levies any amount for liabilities in excess of the budget pursuant to A.R.S. §15-907.

If a hearing is required, districts must either publish or mail a notice at least 10 days, but not more than 20 days before the hearing. The notice must be published in a section other than the classified or legal advertising section in a newspaper of general circulation in the district or mailed to each registered voter within the district (statute does not allow districts the option of posting the truth in taxation hearing notice on ADE's website). The notice must be at least one-fourth page in size, surrounded by a solid black border at least one-eighth inch in width, with the headline in at least 18-point type. The sample truth in taxation hearing notice is provided to assist districts in complying with these statutory requirements. **The parenthetical remarks in the sample notice are included to assist districts in preparing the notice and should be removed prior to publishing or mailing the notice.** In addition to publishing or mailing the notice, the district must also issue a press release containing the truth in taxation hearing notice to all newspapers of general circulation in the district. Within 3 days after the hearing, the governing board must mail a copy of the truth in taxation hearing notice, a statement of its publication or mailing, and the result of the governing board's vote to the Property Tax Oversight Commission established by A.R.S. §42-17002. The mailing address is Property Tax Oversight Commission – Econometrics, 1600 West Monroe, 9th Floor, Phoenix, AZ, 85007. Districts may combine the notice of budget adoption hearing with the truth in taxation notice and hearing if the budget notice and hearing is published or mailed (combining notices is not possible if notice of budget adoption is posted to ADE's website). Refer to A.R.S. §15-905.01 for further information on the truth in taxation notice and hearing.

Budget adoption

Districts must adopt a budget no later than July 15 and electronically upload via the School Finance Budget System to the Superintendent of Public Instruction no later than July 18. In accordance with A.R.S. §15-905(E), districts that maintain a website must provide a link on their website to ADE's website where the district's adopted budget/summary can be viewed. Districts must also email to the School Finance Budget Team (SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov) a clickable link to their web page where the link to the adopted budget was placed. For audit purposes, districts should retain a copy of the email and a screen shot of the page on their website. The screen shot should **not** be emailed to ADE.

Budget revision

On or before December 15—If a district is notified by ADE that the adopted budget is in excess of the General Budget Limit (GBL) or Unrestricted Capital Budget Limit (UCBL) by 1% or more of its GBL, the adopted budget **must** be revised so as not to exceed the GBL or UCBL on or before December 15. For required December 15 revisions, the district must publish a notice of a public hearing and board meeting to revise the budget **no later than 10 days prior to the meeting**. The district may use any of the 3 publishing methods described in the Proposed Budget section above. If the district is notified by ADE that the adopted budget is in excess of the GBL or UCBL by less than 1% or more of its GBL, the district is not required to prepare a December 15 revision, but **must** adjust the current year budget before May 15.

Before May 15—All districts that revise their FY 2025 adopted budget including revisions of the GBL, UCBL, Classroom Site Fund Budget Limit (pages 7 and/or 8), Maintenance and Operation Fund budget (page 1), Unrestricted Capital Outlay Fund budget (page 4), or Classroom Site Fund budget (page 3), as allowed by statute **must** have final revisions completed and approved at a Governing Board meeting before May 15. For these revisions, the district should post the

standard 24-hour advance notice of the board meeting and hold a public hearing. A.R.S. §15-905

Budget submission

Districts must submit their budget as described below.

Type of Budget	Submit No Later Than	To Superintendent of Public Instruction	To County School Superintendent
Proposed	July 5	Yes	Yes, unless waived
Adopted	July 18	Yes	No
December Revision	December 18	Yes	No
May Revision	May 18	Yes	No

ADE will only accept FY 2025 budget forms and work sheets submitted electronically using either the Excel forms with the 5/24 revision date or software that produces an electronic file in a format approved by ADE. Districts may download a copy of the Excel forms from the Auditor General’s website at www.azauditor.gov/reports-publications/school-districts/forms.

Districts must upload the completed forms and work sheets via the School Finance Budget System, on ADE’s website at <https://adeconnect.azed.gov/> starting on June 15, 2025. ADE can not submit the files on behalf of the district. After uploading the files, districts should verify the files have processed by checking their file submission page at <https://adeconnect.azed.gov/>. If the files did not process, districts should click on the error message link. If unable to correct the error, districts should contact ADE by emailing SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov for assistance. For School Finance Budget System password information or help, districts should contact the ADE Support Center at (602) 542-7378 [outside the Phoenix area call (866) 577-9636] or email adesupport@azed.gov.

The information on the left side of the cover page must be updated when the budget is proposed, adopted, or revised, and the cover page should be printed out for signatures. Each time the forms are electronically submitted to ADE through the School Finance Budget System, (1) the date should be recorded and (2) **Governing Board Members, the Superintendent, and the Business Manager should sign where indicated**. Within 5 days of the electronic submission to ADE, the district should scan and email the signed cover page to SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov. ADE will only accept electronic/scanned copies of the cover page.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Arizona Auditor General’s Office, Accountability Services Division at (602) 977-2796 or asd@azauditor.gov, or ADE, School Finance at (602) 542-5695 or SFBudgetTeam@azed.gov.