



PROPOSITION 320

WHAT IT MEANS FOR GESD

This fact page is an overview to accompany the AASBO/ASA/ASBA Community FAQs (2026)

KNOW THE FACTS: Prop 320 is a statewide ballot measure that would require certain districts to spend at least 60% of operational spending on direct instructional expenses. The measure does not apply to charter schools. For districts, meeting the requirement could redirect funds away from local priorities for students. Changing needs could also shift the calculation, pushing a district out of compliance for factors largely outside of its control, including insufficient state funding for facilities and operations. For GESD, declining enrollment, growing special education needs, aging facilities, socioeconomic challenges, and state-created funding constraints could make compliance difficult.

WHY A SINGLE STATEWIDE PERCENTAGE CAN BE CHALLENGING

DECLINING ENROLLMENT

A loss of student enrollment means a loss in revenue.

AGING FACILITIES

Repairs, cooling, utilities, and maintenance count as plant operations.

STUDENT NEEDS

Wraparound services supporting student well-being, attendance and achievement may be affected.

RIISING COSTS

Minimum wage and operational expenses are growing faster than state formula funding.

ESSENTIAL SCHOOL SERVICES OUTSIDE THE 60% CALCULATION



STUDENT SUPPORT

Nurses, psychologists, counselors



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Speech, occupational and physical therapists



SAFE SCHOOLS,

Crossing guards, security and campus monitors



SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Maintenance, custodial and utilities



DAILY ACCESS

Transportation, breakfast and lunch meals

\$11 MILLION To meet the 60% requirement, GESD would be expected to make approximately \$11 million in spending adjustments while simultaneously managing an estimated \$13–14 million reduction in revenue due to declining enrollment.



IMPACT Prop 320 would require reductions in staffing for nurses, psychologists, counselors, crossing guards, security, and campus monitors, speech, occupational, and physical therapists, principals, and assistant principals.



PENALTIES THAT CUT CLASSROOM FUNDING

Penalties begin at 25%, or \$1.9 million, annually to the Classroom Site Fund (CSF) and could be completely reduced up to \$7.5 million. GESD already uses CSF for instruction, so the penalty would reduce the very funding already dedicated to teachers.

The Arizona Legislature referred Proposition 320 to the ballot (SCR 1032, 2026). GESD provides factual information regarding Prop 320 for educational purposes only. For more information, visit gesd40.org.

“NO” VOTE MEANS:

Continued policies that preserve local decision-making and protect the essential health and support services that students depend on every day.

“YES” VOTE MEANS:

Require districts to follow a one-size-fits-all spending model regardless of their unique student and community needs.