

SB 1301: Fact-Checking False/Misleading AEA Claims from 02/12/2025 Senate Education Committee Hearing

The following misleading or false claims about SB 1301 were made by Isela Blanc representing the Arizona Education Association (AEA) in the Senate Education Committee’s 02/12/2025 Public Hearing. Quotes are taken directly from a transcript of the hearing on the AZ.Leg website. The full video can be found [here](#).

To read more about SB 1301, please visit our [Legislative Packet](#), which includes an FAQ.

| AEA CLAIM FROM TESTIMONY (Timestamped) | FACT-BASED RESPONSE |
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| <p>00:38:22</p> <p>“Arizona is at least one of 14 states that has academic standards that include Asian American history. In other words, history is included in our academic standards and is being taught.”</p> | <p>This claim is MISLEADING. Arizona’s social studies standards mentions the term “Asian American” a single time from Kindergarten through 12th grade. It is specifically named in the 3rd grade standard band 3.H1.1. Arizona’s social standards do not mention “Native Hawaiians” or “Pacific Islanders” a single time from Kindergarten through 12th grade.</p> |
| <p>00:38:36</p> <p>“We know this is true because the curriculum is included in the seventh and eighth grade standards. It is also covered at the high school level.”</p> | <p>This claim is FALSE. The term “Asian American” is NOT used in the K-2 Grade Band Standards, the 6-8 Grade Band Standards, or in the History and Social Sciences Standards for High School. Arizona’s social standards do not mention “Native Hawaiians” or “Pacific Islanders” a single time from Kindergarten through 12th grade.</p> <p>Despite Arizona being home to two Japanese American incarceration camps during WWII, Japanese American Incarceration/Internment is mentioned <u>a single time</u> from Kindergarten through 12th grade. It is specifically named in the 3rd grade standard band 3.H3.1. Even within this mention, the descriptor “Japanese” is NOT used. The term “internment” is NOT mentioned anywhere else in the standards. Our coalition includes the Poston Community Alliance, whose mission is to “preserve Poston’s incarceration history in order to uphold</p> |

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| | <p>social justice for all Americans, regardless of race, religion and ethnicity.”</p> |
| <p>00:39:01</p> <p>“It is important to follow a process...Standards go through a process that is multi-layered to create instruction standards...bottom line, we have concerns that this would be another unfunded mandate. It lacks the monetary support that is needed to pay for the resources and more specifically for an educator’s time, [including] the time requirement to learn Asian American history and all the things, especially if we want to have it be robust. That is why [the AEA] believe(s) it is important to include the state board of education...Again, we do believe there is an opportunity for a more robust academic standards, but that needs to be done through the state board of education.”</p> | <p>This claim is MISLEADING. SB 1301 does follow the process by including an implementation date of 2028-2029, which is the next time AZ’s Social Studies Standards will be revised (the last time was 2018 and standards are revised every 10 years). This timing was purposeful so educators can utilize the State Board of Education’s newly revised standards (which would be required by SB 1301 to integrate AANHPI history in a robust way) and accompanying resources to engage in implementation. Arizona has passed legislative mandates for Native American history (2000), financial literacy (2013), mental health curricula (2021), and Holocaust Education (2021). AANHPIs want to be treated the same as other communities.</p> |
| <p>00:41:47</p> <p>“As far as I know, [there has been no discussion with SBE about this bill], and I believe this is the third or fourth year that this bill has been introduced.”</p> | <p>This claim is FALSE. SB 1576 (identical bill filed in 2024) underwent an amendment at the request of the State Board of Education (which testified in last year’s Senate Education Committee hearing that they were “very open to working...on this bill”) that made the bill less prescriptive in nature. This testimony and amendment is in the public record.</p> |
| <p>00:42:01</p> <p>“There has not been a true, authentic stakeholder where people are sitting at the table from what I know.”</p> | <p>This claim is FALSE. 30 local AANHPI AZ-based community organizations have signed a letter of support for SB 1301, including those representing Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Thai, Filipino, and Japanese American communities, as well as College Democrats of AZ, the Arizona Student’s Association, the APIDA Fund, and the University of Arizona’s Asian Pacific American Student Affairs. The Arizona Department of Education RTS’d in support of SB 1576 (identical bill filed in 2024) after a meeting between them, the lead sponsor, and community</p> |

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| | <p>stakeholders. The State Board of Education does not RTS on policies before the legislature, but provided feedback in the 2024 Senate Education Hearing & over the course of multiple meetings/phone calls that has been incorporated into the current version of the bill.</p> |
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