

Arizona Department of Education (ADE)



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ADE Priorities

AzAEYC
Early Childhood
Public Policy Forum
March 7, 2020



ADE Values

- ✓ Ensuring every student and family has access to a high-quality school and excellent education
- ✓ Respectful, safe, and inclusive environments for students, families, and educators
- ✓ A robust, statewide teaching profession where educators can grow and thrive professionally and personally
- ✓ Providing the public with transparent, reliable data and factual information



Priority Issues

❖ School & Student Academic Success

- Close achievement gaps and improve performance of ALL schools
- Promote effective teaching and learning frameworks

❖ Elevate the Teaching Profession

- Increase funding to recruit and retain high-quality teachers
- Advance professional development and optimal working conditions

❖ School Safety & Social Wellness

- Implement Arizona's school safety grant program, and promote an evidence-based multidisciplinary team approach
- Develop policies and guidance based on recommendations from the School Safety Taskforce and Social Wellness Committee

❖ Multilingual Education

- Develop effective models and frameworks for language immersion
- Create certification policies for needed teacher workforce

❖ Data Governance & Technology Systems

- Provide clear, transparent, and reliable data to the public
- Modernize technology systems for collecting and reporting data, grants management, and school finance



Overview of Legislative Process

100-day Session
Started on January 13th

Senators and Representatives
sponsor and file bills

Speaker, President, and Committee
Chairs decide which bills to assign
and hear in committee

If bills are not heard in committee,
members may strike language onto
other bills or include in budget
process

Bills that move through committee
proceed to the floor, then cross over
to the other chamber where
additional amendments may be
added.

Final bills go to the Governor to be
signed into law

Bills go into effect 90 days after the
Legislature adjourns, unless the bill has
an emergency clause



ADE's Role in Legislative Process

- Submit agency budget request on Sept. 1st
- Track and monitor education-related bills
- Review language with relevant staff across ADE and stakeholders
- Discuss intent of bill with sponsors and recommend technical changes
- Decide to support, oppose, stay neutral, or be silent
- Advocate for budget request throughout the legislative session



Considerations for Policy & Legislation

- Can outcome be accomplished without the letter of the law? (e.g. through an existing program)
- What in the current law (or lack thereof) is prohibiting the outcome?
- Can the policy be implemented? Does it clash with federal law?
- Do we need money from the state general fund to reach an outcome? Could funding be found elsewhere?
- Could this likely move through the legislature given political implications?
- Is there bipartisan support, and a potential sponsor from the Majority party?



Key Legislation for ADE

Bill	Overview
HB 2110	Educator Discipline – expands scope for disciplinary action to non-certificated employees
HB 2626	Gifted Education – statewide program funding & reporting
HB 2684	Crisis Management Team
HB 2762	Project Rocket Program – school improvement for C, D, & F school
HB 2806	Preschool Development Grant Restoration
HCR 2001	English-Only Removal (ballot referral)
SB 1060	SPED Funding – increase Group B weight & Extraordinary Special Education Needs Fund
SB 1491	Dyslexia – support universal screening implementation through early literacy framework



Early Childhood Education Related Bills

Bill	Overview
SB 1170 HB2727	AHCCCS dental care for eligible pregnant women
SB 1290	Establishes the Maternal Mental Healthy Advisory Committee
SB 1315	Kinship stipend for foster families
SB 1504	Fingerprint clearance for child care employees
SB 1552	Reimbursement increases for developmental disability services
SB 1571	Increases fee for operating Newborn Screening Program
HB 2104	Revises requirements to provide child care assistance
HB 2386	Library taxing \$ eligible for early literacy and school readiness programs



FY21 Budget Requests

Program	Governor	House GOP	Senate GOP	House Dems	ADE
Adult Education State Match	370,500			1,200,000	1,200,900
Empowerment Scholarship Account Team Expansion	961,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,200,000	3,200,000
Investigations Unit Expansion	430,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	556,000
School Finance Payment System (IT Project Transfer)	3,000,000				3,000,000
Office of Indian Education				200,000	150,000
School Improvement				4,500,000	4,450,000
	4,761,500			9,700,000	12,556,900

Additional Assistance	135,594,200	135,000,000	135,000,000	135,500,000
Results Based Funding	34,740,300			(68,600,000)
School Safety Grant Program	38,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	38,000,000
College Credit by Examination Incentive Program	2,118,400			(5,000,000)
College Placement Exam Fee Waiver	1,186,800			1,200,000
Gifted Education	1,000,000		1,000,000	55,900,000
Alternative Teacher Development	500,000			
Jobs for Arizona Graduates	400,000			400,000
Eliminating Teacher Certification Fees			2,300,000	2,300,000
Extraordinary Needs/Gifted/Dyslexia			7,200,000	5,000,000
Pre-School Development Grants				21,000,000
K-3 Reading Program				1,380,000
Certified Instructional Support Staff 20% Pay Increase				72,600,000
Green School Campuses Tree Planting Program				400,000
Project Rocket	45,000,000			
Total amount of additional funds for education	\$260,301,200		\$162,100,000	\$265,080,000



PDG in Arizona

- From **2015 and 2018**, the federal government awarded AZ a **Preschool Development Grant**
- **\$20 million annually for four years** - \$80 million total
 - 65% for program slots and 35% for infrastructure and systems building
 - \$4600 per child
- Programs applied annually through a **competitive application** process with ADE.
- **Sub-grantees reported data to ADE on an annual basis**, used to assess the quality of the program and whether students met age-level standards.
- **Bachelor's degree or higher was encouraged**, eligible to use portion of the grant to aid teacher's postsecondary education costs.
- Total of **9,505 4-year-olds served**, 74 programs/providers selected in final year, 22 legislative districts impacted
- **Received initial PDG Birth-Five Grant (\$20 million)** for statewide comprehensive needs assessment but AZ was not chosen for the grant renewal (December 2019).
 - Based on five key areas: childcare deserts, inclusion, early language and literacy, workforce development, effective transitions for all children.



PDG B-5 Feedback for Arizona

Final Score of 96 out of 109

Nationally competitive grant – only 20 states were awarded

Strengths

- Detailed strategies for professional development and higher education for ECE teachers
- Clear and detailed plan to improve quality, expand access to existing programs, and develop new programs – both statewide and locally
- Increase access to high-quality early care and education slots using a clear rubric with scoring criteria

Weaknesses

- Lack of alignment of funding streams
- Lack of detail on improving services in rural areas and for homeless
- Degree to which data can be linked across programs
- Lack of collaboration between state agencies



ECE Policy Development

- **Framework for Sustainability, Accountability, and Coordination**
 - Dedicated, renewable funding
 - Data collection and analysis (via Quality First)
 - Cross-government and sector collaboration
- **Increase access and quality** through systematic approaches
- **Improve pipelines of ECE educators**, including grow-your-own programs
- Policies that make sense for **urban, suburban, rural, and remote** communities
- **Comprehensive funding** to ensures families have access to high-quality, preschool and full-day kindergarten that will build a bridge to for K-12 and beyond.

