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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NEW MODELS FOR TEACHING ENGLISH VINDICATED – RATE OF RECLASSIFYING STUDENTS AS ENGLISH PROFICIENT MORE THAN DOUBLES IN TWO YEARS

PHOENIX (Tuesday, June 23, 2009) -- State Superintendent Tom Horne announced that the new requirements for teaching students at least four hours of intensive English Language Development have been vindicated, in that the state's rate of reclassifying students as English proficient has more than doubled in the last two years, from 12% to 28.6%. The following chart gives the numbers:

State Reclassified			
Year	Number ELL Reclassified	Total ELL Students	Percent Reclassified
2007	17,813	151,303	12%
2008	38,329	174,824	22%
2009	39,072	143,225	28.6%

SEI Models adopted on September 15, 2007

Horne stated: "Before we adopted the new models, students were receiving on average of between ½ hour and one hour of intensive English Language instruction. Under the new models, they must receive at least four hours of intensive English Language instruction, including one hour of grammar. The added time for intensive English Language instruction has produced results. The percentage of students being reclassified as English proficient has more than doubled in the two year period since the models were adopted. Since there were many in the Education establishment that were extremely critical of these new models, the vindication in these test results is especially gratifying."

The models were adopted two years ago, at which time implementation began, and became required for all districts this year.

The numbers for 2009 are subject to some revision, as appeals by districts will be held in mid July.

The numbers stated above are those reported by the schools, which was the only method used in the past two years, and therefore was the only method for which comparisons are possible. However, The Arizona Department of Education has initiated a new data collection system that will more accurately reflect the outcomes of the student assessment data by having test scores reported directly to ADE. This system reflects a reclassification rate of over 30%.

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