



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

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Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

## **CHARACTER EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE FACT SHEET - 2008**

### **Vision**

To develop youth to act and live with positive character values.

### **Mission**

To inspire and support parents, educators and others who touch the lives of youth to instill in youth the traits of positive character.

### **Character Education Defined**

Character education teaches universally-accepted values, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, and motivates youth to incorporate these values into their lives. Character education should be non-partisan and non-religious.

### **Program Overview**

Arizona will be a leader and model state for character education by: providing voluntary education and training on the core values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship to educators, leaders of youth nonprofit organizations, children and their families in Arizona. This will be made possible through collaborations with businesses, educators, community organizations, the State of Arizona, state and local agencies that deal with parents and youth, Sovereign Nations, all other levels of government, youth sports programs and all stakeholders that work with youth.

### **Statistics Related to Arizona Children and Schools**

Number of Public and Charter Schools: 2,151

Number of Students: 1,163,190

Approximately 82,063 public high school students reported being harassed or bullied on school property in 2005.<sup>1</sup>

Approximately 95,849 public high school students reported having property such as a car, clothing, or book stolen or deliberately damaged on school property.<sup>1</sup>

Fourth graders reading below grade level: 44%<sup>2</sup>

Eighth graders reading below grade level: 35%<sup>2</sup>

Children living in poverty in 2006: 20%<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Arizona Department of Education 2007 School Safety Study

<sup>2</sup> Annie E Casey Foundation KIDS Count 2007