

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**EMBARGOED FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2009**

### **ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE RELEASES AZ LEARNS AND AYP FOR SCHOOLS – NUMBER OF SCHOOLS EXCEEDING STANDARDS RECORD HIGH**

**EMBARGOED FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2009** -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne announces the release of the AZ Learns profiles for 1,896 schools. The components for evaluating schools in determining their annual AZ Learns profiles are: AIMS/Dual Purpose Assessment (DPA); Measure of Academic Progress; Graduation/Dropout rates (HS); and the reclassification of ELL students.

Horne stated: “We have a record number of schools excelling this year, going from 17% in 2008 to 21% excelling in 2009. We also are seeing an increase in the number of schools in the performing plus designation, moving from 21% in 2008 to 32% in 2009. The AZ learns accountability system is the best way to measure a schools performance from year to year, and gives parents a snapshot as to how their school compares with other schools around the state.”

The number of schools in each category for 2009 are: failing to meet academic standards 19; underperforming 50; performing 577; performing plus 608; highly performing 248; and excelling 394.

The federal accountability system, No Child Left Behind, measures Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) from year to year and has 253 specific points of measurement. The components for evaluating schools in determining their AYP status is: the percents of students passing; the percent of students tested; and graduation rate. If a school fails just one of the 253 categories, the school fails to make AYP.

Arizona schools have maintained a statistically consistent AYP performance. In 2008, 73% of schools made AYP, and in 2009, 74% made AYP.

For more information about your schools profile, go to [www.ade.az.gov](http://www.ade.az.gov) and click on the 2009 AZ Learns profiles in the Hot Topics section of the home page.

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