

Arizona's *Race to the Top*

State Finalist Presentation

Washington, DC

August 11, 2010



Environment for Reform

Commitment

Capacity

Courage



Meet Our Team



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**Executive Director
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**Dr. Michael
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**Superintendent
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**Dr. Karen
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**Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education**



Jacob Moore

**Managing Partner
Generation 7 Strategic Partners**



**Rebecca Gau
(alternate)**

**Vice President
Arizona Charter Schools Association**

Arizona's Next 100 Years



Diverse Settings – Diverse Students

Variety of Local Education Agencies

- 230 Traditional School Districts
- 509 Charter Schools (no caps)
- 13 JTEDs
- 34 Virtual Schools (no caps)

2,107 Total Schools



Meeting the Needs of Arizona's Students



- *More than 1,000,000 K-12 Students*
- *54% Students in Poverty*
- *2nd highest increase in school enrollment*
- *Ethnic Diversity*

Arizona's Goal

Ensure that students graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college and careers in the new economy by providing effective instruction to all students year after year.



Measures of Success

Increase High School Graduation Rate

**Raise Reading, Math and Science Proficiencies
at all Grade Levels**

**Reduce Achievement Gaps Between Groups at
all Levels**



Leader in Bold Reforms

1990 Career Ladders & Performance Compensation

1990 Joint Technology Education Districts (JTED)

2000 Charter Accountability

2002 AZ READS K-3 Reading Initiative

2005 Advanced Placement Initiative

2010 Alternative Teacher Certification

2010 Move on When Reading

2010 Move on When Ready

2010 Teacher/Leader Evaluations & Tenure

1990

1994 Charter Schools

1994 Open Enrollment

1996 Standards & Assessments

2000

2006 Structured English Immersion

2006 Early Childhood Initiative

2008 STEM


2010

1980 Equalized M&O

1998 Equalized School Facilities Funding

2000 Prop 301 Education Sales Tax

2010 Prop 100 Education Sales Tax

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a red shirt, is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. He is in a classroom setting, with other children and colorful decorations visible in the background. A blue semi-transparent box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing text.

“Arizona’s reform plan is built on a deceptively simple charge: Focus everything on the effectiveness of instruction.”

- *Arizona Application page 130*

Focus on Instruction

Standards & Assessments

...built off of high clear and well articulated **standards** and aided by robust formative and summative **assessments**

Data Use

... guided by continuous adjustments by regular review of **timely actionable data** using longitudinal data systems and local instructional improvement systems

Effective Instruction Will Be...

...of greatest supply and demand in the state's **highest need schools**: with highest **concentrations of students in poverty**, **farthest from meeting standards** and **consistently lowest in student achievement**

Struggling Schools

... delivered by **teachers** who are rigorously recruited, selected, prepared in effective programs, **rewarded for strong performance**, and supported with **professional development**.

...the focus of strong **leadership**, **developed and evaluated** with an eye toward **improving classroom instruction**.

Great Teachers & Leaders

Focus on Instruction – Foundation



Standards & Assessments

- State standards and assessment since 1996
- Development of formative assessment item bank
- Member of Achieve and American Diploma Project

Data Use

- Data warehouse
- Web-based professional development and monitoring tools

Struggling Schools

- Authority of State to intervene
- Three-tiered system of support
- Experience in State intervention

Great Teachers & Leaders

- Teacher Performance: Career Ladder and Proposition 301 Initiative
- Alternative pathways to certification
- AZ LEADS Leadership Initiative

Focus on Instruction – Momentum



Standards & Assessments

- Revising new mathematics standards and assessment
- Adopting Common Core
- Governing State in the PARCC Assessment Consortia

Data Use

- Unique student and teacher identifier
- Arizona Growth Model
- Operationalize Data Governance Commission

Struggling Schools

- Implementing State School Improvement Grant
- Strengthening and expanding authority of State to intervene

Great Teachers & Leaders

- Reforming tenure & seniority
- Evaluations linked to achievement
- Opening teacher/principal pipeline to additional providers
- Achieving Equity in Teacher Distribution initiative

Focus on Instruction – Plan



Standards & Assessments

- Transition to the Core Standards
- Transition to a comprehensive assessment system

Data Use

- Train users in data-driven decision making
- Complete data quality elements
- Establish the use of instructional management systems

Struggling Schools

- Establish Turnaround Academy
- Focus on instruction within context
- Engage local community
- Use regional centers to provide local support & assistance
- Study & disseminate what's working

Great Teachers & Leaders

- Establish framework for teacher and principal evaluation
- Increase the quality teaching pipeline in the highest need schools
- Provide systemic support for teachers and principals



“A plan for education reform is only as strong as its persistent attention to implementation and progress monitoring.”

- *Arizona Application page 54*

Implementation: Two-Pronged Delivery System

Web-based Technologies

- IDEAL - professional development portal
- ALEAT – planning & monitoring tool

Regional Centers for Innovation & Reform

- Six 5-member teams
- Consistent support, locally responsive, sustainable

Theory of Action

RTTT Board + ADE + P20 Council = Governance

Delivery & Support

Web-based Technologies

Regional Centers for
Innovation & Reform

University
Research
Centers

Arizona
Department
of Education

Teachers
&
Principals

Informed
Parents &
Prepared
Students

Data Systems

Arizona's Commitment

Education, business, tribal and philanthropic stakeholders have demonstrated a sustained and innovative commitment to the future of education

MOUs represent 92% of Arizona's students, teachers' union, school administrators and school boards' association

Despite one of the worst budget situations in the country – Arizona has held the Maintenance of Effort requirements for education funding





Commitment

Capacity

Courage