



David Howell
Director
State Government Relations

MAC 54101-142
100 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85003
602 378-1894
602 378-4428 Fax
dave.a.howell@wellsfargo.com

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The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

I write this letter in support of the Arizona Plan currently being submitted for "Race to the Top" funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The ability of Arizona's public schools to produce graduates prepared to compete in today's global economy and to be active, responsible citizens of our great state and nation is the foundation upon which Arizona's future will be built.

I have been actively involved as a parent, supporter and advocate in public education in Arizona since my wife and I moved with our four children to Phoenix more than 24 years ago. I know Arizona public schools can deliver an excellent education because our family has experienced it, but we've also seen the weaknesses in the system that make those pockets of excellence too much the exception and not the rule.

The Arizona Plan offers us the opportunity to encourage innovation and provide the framework for growth that our schools will need in the incredibly complex and competitive world in which we now live. The reforms and initiatives envisioned in the plan will help us identify, develop and reward the best of our professional educators. They will ensure that all children throughout the state have the opportunity to learn from the best and to receive a world class education. It provides specific steps for intervening in the most struggling of our schools.

The Plan commits Arizona to holding its students and its public education system to the highest of standards, and it commits to building and utilizing a comprehensive and transparent data system to guide our decision making.

The elements of the Arizona Plan will form the foundation for transforming Arizona's K-12 public schools, but more importantly it provides the foundation for transforming the future for Arizona's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Howell".

David Howell