

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION &
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION

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Race to the Top Review Committee
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

President:
Dr. Vicki Balentine

Vice President:
Jacob Moore

**Superintendent of
Public Instruction:**
Tom Horne

Members:

Dr. John Haeger

Eileen Klein

Gregory Miller

Jaime Molera

Dr. Karen Nicodemus

Diane Ortiz-Parsons

Thomas Tyree

Dear Committee Members:

As a member of the Arizona State Board of Education, I am writing this letter to convey my strong support for Arizona's Race to the Top application for Round Two.

Arizona's application mirrors the Arizona Legislature educational reforms in many ways. Arizona looks to transform our educational system into one of excellence. Our focus is directed towards enhancing student achievement and accountability. Our ultimate goals are to prepare students for higher learning and supply them with the skills needed to enter the job market.

Arizona's stakeholders are committed to moving forward with this agenda. Arizona lawmakers have curtailed social promotion by implementing a basic reading proficiency for third graders. Legislators have also expanded sources for new charter schools. We have added opportunities for experts in math, science and other areas to share their knowledge without first getting a teaching certificate from the college of education. The Arizona Department of Education is also developing a teacher and principal evaluation that include student performance.

Yes, Arizona is getting scheduled for an "Educational make-over." We understand the importance of this work and are eager to see the plan through. Your financial support would expedite this "Educational facelift." I appreciate your consideration of Arizona's Race to the Top application.

Sincerely,

Diane Ortiz-Parsons

Diane Ortiz-Parsons
Member, Arizona State Board of Education