



May 10, 2010

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

Re: Arizona Race to the Top Phase II Application

Dear Governor Brewer:

Arizona Charter Schools Association is a membership association providing "advocacy for choice and resources for quality." The Association is dedicated to high student achievement through quality charter schools. Parents are choosing charter schools in record numbers. Total enrollment in Arizona has grown from 1,043,298 students in 2005 to 1,083,408 students in 2009, a 4% gain. Enrollment in charter schools during the same time period has grown from 85,683 to 113,393, a 32% gain, according to the Arizona Department of Education's October 1st enrollment figures. Charter students now make up more than 10% of Arizona's public K-12 students, and the 509 charter schools are 25% of Arizona's public schools.

Please consider this letter as written support for Arizona Race to the Top Phase II Application. Arizona is working diligently on transforming its educational system to ensure that all students receive the highest quality education and reach student achievement goals that will result in students graduating with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary education and careers. The State is setting goals and working on education reform in standards and assessments, data systems to support education, great teachers and leaders, and turning around the lowest-achieving schools. The Arizona Charter Schools Association fully supports Arizona's vision for better education in Arizona.

I would ask that you give strong consideration to Arizona's application.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen Sigmund
President and CEO
Arizona Charter Schools Association