

Executive Summary for Parents

Everything new *YOU* need to know about the future of K-12 education and the 2017 AZ Kids Can't Wait! Education Plan

Throughout her first year as your elected Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, Diane Douglas traveled to 15 locations statewide to hear from you about education in Arizona. Superintendent Douglas considers your input a top priority when determining education plans.

All of the comments were the basis of a plan to improve education in Arizona called **AZ Kids Can't Wait!** Superintendent Douglas is committed to implementing the proposals in that document.

Superintendent Douglas then dedicated 2016 to seeking parent input and used that additional feedback to create the 2017 **AZ Kids Can't Wait!** plan. She feels that parents play an extremely important part in the academic success of their children and wants their voices to be heard.

Included in this executive summary is a synopsis of some new proposals that may interest you.

Provide Schools Funding to Excel

- 1) An overall funding increase to basic state aid for school districts and charter schools to better meet the needs of students and teachers.
- 2) Increase classroom teacher salaries to retain current teachers and recruit new teachers.
- 3) Increase rural school transportation funding for greater school bus maintenance costs associated with the longer distances and rougher roads traveled.
- 4) Increase funding for rural schools to provide support for their unique populations.
- 5) Fully fund capital for schools to build new school buildings as needed.
- 6) Fully fund preventative maintenance for school facilities to provide a safer learning environment for students.

Comprehensive School Report Card Enhances Parental Choice

Superintendent Douglas is proposing the development of a more robust school report card designed to provide parents with information about schools beyond a letter grade based primarily on standardized test results.

Reduce Statewide Testing and Promote Local Control

Superintendent Douglas will promote a state menu of assessments available to all schools to test their students' academic achievement through any approved assessment.

Acceleration, Enrichment and Support for Gifted Programs

Superintendent Douglas proposes more support for gifted children and their families by promoting both accelerated learning and enrichment programs.

An Effective Teacher in Every Classroom

In response to the current teacher shortage, it is important to maintain a rigorous, yet streamlined certification process. Superintendent Douglas proposes updates to current Arizona educator certification rules to: 1) Develop a new 'micro-credentialing' system to support and recognize teacher professional growth and expertise., 2) Remove barriers for qualified candidates to enter the teaching profession, and 3) Update certification rules to align with the new federal laws.

Increased School Support for Registered Health Professionals

A student's health is directly related to their ability to learn. It is recommended that school districts and charter schools provide school health services for students by a school nurse. Superintendent Douglas proposes additional training and guidance for schools and school health services providers.

Decrease Youth Disconnection through the ADE Zip Code Project

The Zip Code Project focuses on underserved and disconnected (unemployed and not attending school) youth in high-need communities throughout Arizona. The Zip Code Project partners with community-based organizations to provide assistance to disconnected youth.

Increase Support and Resources for Families on Early Childhood Learning and Learning Disabilities

Reading with your child 20 minutes a day increases chances for academic success and builds lasting relationships. Superintendent Douglas proposes specialized education for families, such as workshops and resources on early brain development, children experiencing learning disabilities, the importance of reading to young children and accessing healthy foods for families and their children in grades K-3.