



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona Department of Education Statement Regarding Resolution Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights

(Phoenix, Ariz.- August 31, 2012) Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal today released the following statement in response to the Resolution Agreement entered into with the Arizona Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and U.S. Department of Justice.

"It is unfortunate the federal government chose to characterize this agreement as a federal enforcement action. No evidence has been presented proving Arizona incorrectly identified students as proficient in English. Any statement to the contrary is irresponsible. We are moving forward with the voluntary resolution agreement because we are confident the students identified in the agreement are already receiving intervention services to support their instructional needs. The Arizona Department of Education stands behind its assessments, and has never wavered in its commitment to provide an equal educational opportunity to students who are English Language Learners. We are confident in the validity and reliability of the AZELLA assessments used by Arizona to determine the English language proficiency of Arizona students. The Department does not accept the federal government's assertion that Arizona incorrectly identified students as proficient. In an effort to resolve this matter expediently, the department agreed to participate in this voluntary process in order to get back to the business of delivering all of Arizona's students the best education possible."

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