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

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**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Sally Stewart  
602-542-5072  
Sally.Stewart@azed.gov

**Arizona Department of Education Celebrates  
November as Family Engagement Month**

Phoenix, AZ, October 31, 2014 – Arizona’s 1.1 million students all celebrate one commonality: they thrive when their families, schools, and communities are engaged in their education. In coordination with the Arizona Department of Education’s Family Engagement Initiative (Initiative), Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal is pleased to recognize November 2014 as “Family Engagement Month.”

The Initiative’s efforts are based on research that shows a variety of family involvement actions and family, school, and community partnerships influence positive student outcomes. The Initiative is currently working on a draft Arizona Family Engagement Framework to help schools develop and sustain family engagement programs. This evidence-based guide will link capacity-building principles with high-impact strategies to influence student success and cultivate partnerships.

“When parents, grandparents, foster parents, aunts and uncles, and other caring adults are actively involved in a child’s education, the student is more likely to regularly attend school, earn better grades, and be prepared for success beyond high school,” stated Superintendent Huppenthal. “I encourage all family members and school staff to partner for the benefit of every child’s student achievement.”

Superintendent Huppenthal first proclaimed November as Family Engagement Month last year to highlight the importance of a welcoming and safe school environment; ongoing communication between home and school; support for at-home learning; families and school staff working together to establish goals for students’ education; and, community collaboration to strengthen student learning and well-being.

This year’s MEGA Conference, on November 18-20, will deliver high quality professional development sessions around family engagement to Arizona’s Title I schools. Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is excited to present on the recent U.S. Department of Education publication of the *National Family and Community Engagement Framework*. In addition, ADE will welcome partners from WestEd and Read on Arizona to highlight family engagement models and strategies that are directly linked to positive student outcomes. The conference will highlight promising practices that effectively support student achievement and school improvement.

Join ADE in November to promote family involvement. School staff, parents, and other education stakeholders may submit family engagement success stories to [FamilyEngagement@azed.gov](mailto:FamilyEngagement@azed.gov) for ADE’s external newsletter ([Progress Report](#)). To learn more about ADE’s Family Engagement Initiative, please visit: <http://www.azed.gov/parents/familyengagement/>.

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