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**Arizona Department of Education**  
**Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane M. Douglas**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Superintendent Diane Douglas Declares November Family Engagement Month**

(Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 2, 2015) – Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas today declared November as Family Engagement Month, marking the start of increased efforts to build and strengthen partnerships between families, schools, and communities.

Driven by the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE's) Family Engagement Initiative, a cross-functional group of ADE employees that work together year round to enhance parent and family involvement in schools, Family Engagement Month brings additional awareness to the benefits of active family participation in a child's education.

"As a strong believer in the vital role parents and families play in our education system, I am excited to kick off Family Engagement Month this November," said Superintendent Douglas. "I am convinced that the people who have the greatest impact on a child's education are parents, close family members and classroom teachers. This month allows us to emphasize that impact and is part of my plan to make Arizona a national leader in parent and family engagement."

Family Engagement Month highlights 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.

At ADE's [MEGA Conference](#) Nov. 17-19, national family engagement expert Dr. Joyce Epstein will deliver a keynote address to Title I directors and school leaders on the benefits of research-based programs of family and community involvement. ADE is a member of Dr. Epstein's [National Network of Partnership Schools](#), which provides valuable resources that help staff at the Department work with schools to improve family engagement.

All Arizonans are invited to 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) or connect with ADE via [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). To learn more about ADE's Family Engagement Initiative, please visit: <http://www.azed.gov/parents/familyengagement/>.

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