



A-F Accountability: *We Have Our Letter Grade, Now What?*

Dear Education Leaders:

At the request of Superintendent Huppenthal, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is reaching out to the educational community to help answer the number one question it receives on the A-F Evaluation: "**Now that we have our letter grade(s), *where do we go from here?***"

Join ADE staff and your local K-12 colleagues at one of the many A-F Accountability Town Halls being held across the state during the second week of November and on November 17 at the Wigwam Resort, immediately following ADE's Mega Conference. At each town hall, you will have the opportunity to engage in an open and frank discussion of how to do the following:

- 1.) Use the new A-F School Accountability Letter Grade System to drive academic success,
- 2.) Strategically leverage existing resources to meet your unique challenges and
- 3.) Proactively engage with school, parent and community stakeholders to help ensure and sustain your success.

You will leave with specific ideas and support materials designed to help you move forward in your efforts. Please take a moment to review the agenda and list of town hall dates and locations below.

Collaborating with you to improve educational outcomes for all students is our top priority. We look forward to personally visiting with you at one of our A-F Town Halls, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

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A-F Accountability Town Hall Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions *(John Stollar)*
- II. Overview of the Meeting *(John Stollar)*
- III. Communicating with Your Constituents: Style and Substance *(Ryan Ducharme)*
- IV. Now that You have Your Letter Grade, How to Develop Strategies to Improve Results
 - Building and sustaining a belief system and culture supporting *(Peter Laing)*
high expectations for accelerated learning and growth for all students
 - Improving reading results: school wide vocabulary lesson *(John Stollar)*
 - Instructional strategy: Language Arts and STEM *(John Balentine)*
 - Research-based information and ADE resources available for these strategies *(All)*
 - Implementation Framework: The missing link between research *(Angela Denning)*
and practice
- V. Regional Lighthouse Districts: Testimonials and Profiles
- VI. Town Hall Open Discussion, Q&A
- VII. Conclusion



A-F Accountability Town Hall Locations and Dates

Yuma - November 7, 2011 (1:30-4:30PM)

Kofa High School - *Main Auditorium*

3100 Avenue A
Yuma, AZ 85364
928-502-5400

Tucson - November 8, 2011 (8:30-11:30 AM)

Ironwood Ridge High School - *Library Training Room*

2475 West Naranja Drive
Tucson, AZ 85742
520-696-3902

Casa Grande - November 8, 2011 (1:30-4:30PM)

Vista Grande High School – *Agora Staff/Lecture Hall Room*

1556 North Arizola Road
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
520-876-9400

Flagstaff - November 9, 2011 (1:30-4:30PM)

Sinagua Middle School - *Main Auditorium*

3950 East Butler Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
928-527-5500

Holbrook – November 10, 2011 (8:30–11:00AM)

Navajo County Instruction for Success High School (NCIS)

294 West Carlos
Holbrook, AZ 86025
928-524-1821

Phoenix Metro - ADE MEGA Conference – November 17, 2011 (2:00-5:00PM)

The Wigwam Resort – *Conference Center, Sachem West*

300 Wigwam Blvd.
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340



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FAQs

Q1: Are these town halls just a rehash of the state superintendent's town hall?

A: Not at all. The focus of these town halls will be on how to use the metrics determining your grade to drive academic success at your school; how to explain to parents and educators what the scores mean and to explain what resources are available to help you.

Q2: Is there a fee to attend an A-F Accountability Town Hall?

A: No.

Q3: To attend the town hall at the Wigwam do we have to be registered for the Mega Conference?

A: No. They are separate events.

Q4: Do we need to RSVP?

A: No, but we do appreciate it as it helps us better plan to accommodate our guests needs. To RSVP to secure your spot please contact Laura Dudzik at laura.dudzik@azed.gov or 602.364.1851. Sign-up sheets will also be provided at each town hall.

Q5: What materials will be provided?

A: Copies of the A-F Letter Grade Guide for Parents and Educators in both English and Spanish; support materials for each of the topics discussed; and technical manuals which go into the nuts and bolts of the A-F evaluation.