



John Huppenthal
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Exceptional Student Services

2010 - 2011 Special Edition Report

Statewide Professional Development



ESS Delivered Statewide Knock Your Socks Off Service

John Huppenthal, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the new administration set a goal for the Arizona Department of Education of providing statewide “knock your socks off” service to school personnel, students, and parents. The eight sections of the Exceptional Student Services department accomplished that this past year by providing professional development statewide.

ESS provided professional development in 52 cities around the state during 2010–2011. In addition to providing professional development to 199 districts and 630 charter schools, ESS supported those PEAs and others with on-site technical assistance.

The foundation of all professional development is the Standards for Professional Learning of Learning Forward, National Staff Development Council. ESS trainings offer professional learning that leads to more effective teaching practices, supportive leadership, and improved student results. To learn more about the Standards of Professional Learning go to: www.learningforward.org.

ESS on-site technical assistance offers supplemental support in specific areas of need for all Arizona schools.

ESS UNITS

- Alternate Assessment
- Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)
- Data Management
- Dispute Resolution
- Funding
- Parent Information Network (PINS)
- Program Support and Monitoring
- Special Projects



DID YOU KNOW?

Together Exceptional Student Services (ESS) units provide technical assistance to 100% of Arizona’s PEAs every year.

Arizona State Performance Plan (SPP)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 established a requirement that all States develop and submit to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), a performance plan designed to advance the State from its current level of compliance with the statutory and regulatory requirements of the law and to improve the educational and functional outcomes for children with disabilities. This report is known as the State Performance Plan.

Exceptional Student Services provides professional development and technical assistance to PEAs throughout the state to support their efforts in attaining compliance and improving achievement for students with disabilities with the following indicators:

- Indicator 1: Graduation Rate
- Indicator 2: Dropout Rate
- Indicator 3: Participation and Performance on Assessments
- Indicator 4: Rates of Suspension and Expulsion
- Indicator 5: School-Aged Placements
- Indicator 6: Preschool Placements
- Indicator 7: Preschool Outcomes
- Indicator 8: Parent Involvement
- Indicator 9: Racial / Ethnic Disproportionality
- Indicator 10: Racial / Ethnic Disproportionality by Disability
- Indicator 11: Evaluation Timelines
- Indicator 12: Preschool Transition
- Indicator 13: High School Transition
- Indicator 14: Post-High School Outcomes
- Indicator 15: Effective Corrective Action
- Indicator 16: Complaint Investigation Timelines
- Indicator 17: Due Process Hearing Timelines
- Indicator 18: Resolution Session Effectiveness
- Indicator 19: Mediation Effectiveness
- Indicator 20: Reporting Accuracy and Timeliness

DID YOU KNOW?

ADE attained the distinguished determination of “meets the requirements” of Part B of IDEA and the 20 indicators.

**~Lillie Sly,
Associate
Superintendent**

To assist schools that need to improve achievement for students with disabilities and to remain in compliance with the SPP Indicators, the ESS Funding Unit distributes IDEA non-competitive and competitive grants to eligible schools throughout Arizona. There are approximately 20 grant categories, and the unit processes approximately 1,000 applications per year.

The complete SPP report can be found on the ADE website:
www.ade.az.gov/ESS/resources.

Assistive Technology (AT)

The Assistive Technology (AT) unit provided capacity building grants to 12 public education agencies (PEAs) from 7 counties to attend a series of team trainings throughout the year. The teams explored assistive technology topics aligned with content areas and learned how to provide quality AT services for their students receiving special education services. After each training, the teams used a variety of activities and trainings to build capacity at their local sites.

The AT specialists provided regional trainings attended by representatives from 48 PEAs. The training topics were based on the expressed interests of the participants.

During the year, the AT team presented at the following events:

- Arizona Speech-Language and Hearing Association Annual Convention
- Arizona Technology Access Program Annual Conference
- Cochise County Ed Tech Conference
- The Directors Institute
- Leading Change Institute
- The Traumatic Brain Injury Institute
- The Transition Conference

Presentations were given both semesters at Arizona's three main universities to pre-service teachers. They provided AT strategies to both special and general education majors. An additional presentation was given to ASU's Speech and Hearing students.

Make AT EZ in AZ with ADE!
www.ade.az.gov/ess/at

Data Management

ESS Data Management offered a variety of training opportunities to PEAs that included districts, charter schools, secure care facilities, and state-approved private schools. Regional trainings were available in Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff. Other training opportunities in regard to special education data collection and reporting included utilizing webinars, sharing information at Talk with ADE, and attending a presentation at the 2010 Directors Institute. Total participation was estimated to be 831.

Parent Information Network

Parent Information Network Specialists (PINS) serve every county in Arizona. PINS provided essential information for parents to be active participants in all areas of their child's special education.

PINS provided free clearinghouse resources, trainings, workshops, and consultations. In the past year they traveled to 50 cities throughout the state and provided 186 presentations and workshops for 2,889 participants.

Contact information for the PINS Specialists can be found on the ADE website under the Special Education tab, by calling the toll-free number Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-877-230-PINS (7467), or by e-mailing PINS@azed.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?

AT operates a *free* short-term AT loan library with a current inventory of 2,300 items. For more information, go to www.adeatloan.org.

Secure Care

Secure Care Specialists provided on-site training and technical assistance to all of the secure care facilities throughout the state. All secure care education programs must provide mandatory education for all students age 8–17 years old and for special education students up to age 22 in both short-term and long-term facilities. The Arizona secure care facilities include:

- 14 County Juvenile Detention Schools serving 15 counties
- 15 County Sheriff's Office Education Programs with one in each county
- 2 Facilities for the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
- 7 Arizona Department of Corrections facilities with complete education services
- 8 Arizona Department of Corrections facilities with limited education services

In preparation for 5 on-site monitorings, 9 pre-monitoring training meetings were held. The specialists trained teachers and administrators in how to conduct file reviews.

The Secure Care Specialists presented at:

- ESS Transition Conference
- Arizona Detention Administrators Conference
- Administrative Offices of the Supreme Court
- ESS Directors Institute

DID YOU KNOW?

Capacity building grants were awarded to 26 PEAs located in 13 counties for the Secondary Transition Mentoring Project (STMP).

DID YOU KNOW?

The Surrogate Parent program provides training for volunteers wishing to become surrogate parents, maintains a statewide database of trained individuals, and appoints surrogates when requested by a public education agency.

Assessing Students with Disabilities

All students with disabilities are assessed with the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). For students who cannot participate in this assessment, even with accommodations, there is AIMS A, the alternate assessment. A total of 283 PEAs attended the 13 regional trainings on updates and administering AIMS and AIMS A. Regional webinars for additional information included 77 PEAs. Assessment personnel also presented at the 2010–2011 CEC/AZCASE Conference, Directors Institute, and Leading Change Institute.

Dispute Resolution

The Dispute Resolution unit presented to 126 attendees at the 2010 Directors Institute. The focus was the three formal dispute resolution options available to schools and parents of children with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This unit offers resources for parents and school personnel who require assistance with special education-related disputes. Beginning with the 2011–2012 school year, the unit will be part of the ADE legal department.

Program Support and Monitoring

The Program Support unit provided training and technical assistance to 256 PEAs and approved private special education schools in the state.

Trainings on measurable annual goals were conducted in the fall and spring of 2010–2011 at seven statewide locations. Approximately 500 people attended these trainings, another 100 people registered for two webinars, and 25 charter school personnel attended trainings.

DID YOU KNOW?

An ESS program specialist is assigned to every school district, charter school, and approved private special education school in Arizona.

Secondary Transition

The Secondary Transition unit presented to 484 participants, which represented 131 PEAs from all 15 Arizona counties. Topics focused on helping teachers to prepare students with disabilities for independent living, continuing education, and employment.

Transition specialists offered four sessions at the Directors Institute with 300 people in attendance. Additional transition sessions were offered at the Dropout Prevention and the Career and Technical Education Conferences.

The transition specialists also presented information on the Arizona's Post Secondary Outcome Survey data collection at the National Secondary State Planning Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Transition Conference

The Special Projects unit hosted their Tenth Annual Transition Conference, *Designing the Future*. This event provided pertinent transition information to over 850 participants, including personnel from 80 PEAs, state and local public service agencies, family members, and youth and young adults with disabilities.

A dynamic array of 98 presenters, including 20 national speakers, provided over 90 sessions that included content from the following strands: community partnerships, secure care education, career and job development, family voice, legal implications, medical and social empowerment, assistive technology, youth and young adult empowerment, curriculum, and instruction.



Arizona's Tenth Annual Transition Conference

Designing the Future
Be Anyone You Want to Be

Addressing the Transition Needs of Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities

September 20-22, 2010

Talking Stick Resort
9800 East Indian Bend Road • Scottsdale, AZ 85250
(480) 850-7777 or (877) 724-4687

Sponsored by:

- Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services
- Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Arizona Department of Economic Security, Rehabilitation Services Administration/Vocational Rehabilitation
- Arizona Secure Care Education Consortium

Photo: Clark Demard, Camelback High School

Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)

The Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) unit supports all Arizona districts and charter schools with teacher recruitment, retention, and professional development for improving the knowledge, skills, and services of staff to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. CSPD staff provided professional learning opportunities to 1,867 participants from 215 PEAs during the 2010–2011 school year. Capacity building grants were awarded to school teams to assist schools in attending trainings. Expenses were covered for five team members from each school; the teams included a special education teacher, a general education teacher, and a site administrator. CSPD’s goal is to give school staff the training necessary to make systemic change and improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

BEHAVIOR

To improve state outcomes on the State Performance Plan (SPP) for Indicators 4 (suspension and expulsion rates) and 5 (placement of school-aged children in the least restrictive environment), ESS provided 20 school teams with capacity building grants to attend the two-year Arizona High Achievement for All (AHAA) training.

The AHAA school teams implemented effective differentiated instruction and individualized intervention strategies coupled with positive behavior supports. Together, the participating schools demonstrated one significant change. There was a 73.5% decrease of suspensions for students with disabilities that allowed students more quality time in the classroom. During the 2011–12 school year, CSPD will offer a new three-year training called Multi-Tier Behavior Supports.

DID YOU KNOW?

All 15 counties were represented at the 2010 Directors Institute.

MATH

Arizona Students Achieving in Mathematics Academy (ASAMA) training was offered to 22 schools that did not meet the SPP Indicator 3 standard in math for third grade students with disabilities. Each of those schools received a capacity building grant for a team representing grades K–3 to attend the two-year academy.

Hands-on instructional strategies aligned with the Arizona Math Standards and Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) methods were taught to all participants. By recognizing the need to implement differentiated instruction for all students but especially for those students with disabilities, 68% of the schools demonstrated an increase in meeting the standard in math for third grade students with disabilities.

During the 2011–12 school year, new math trainings will be offered. Two of the trainings will focus on grades K–2 and grades 3–5. In addition, the CSPD unit partnered with the School Improvement unit to offer training for middle and high schools to help increase math achievement for students with disabilities.

READING

The Systemic Change in Reading (SCR) training was offered to 26 schools that did not meet Indicator 3 (reading performance on statewide assessments) for third grade students with disabilities.

This two-year training provided school teams with strategies to improve reading achievement for students with disabilities. By using ongoing individual student data within the Response to Intervention (RTI) framework, teams learned how to assess and monitor reading difficulties and implement specific intervention strategies that matched individual student needs.

School-wide implementation of the instructional changes led to a 54% increase of third grade students with disabilities meeting or exceeding the standard in reading on the AIMS.

During the 2011–12 school year, a new training will be offered for middle school and high school teams.

CAPACITY BUILDING COACHING

The Capacity Building Coaching trainings were attended by school personnel from all areas of Arizona. Participants developed individual and team coaching skills to support teachers and student learning in their schools. Learned skills included how to facilitate teams, how to build group consensus, how to resolve conflicts, and how to deal with difficult people.

Once participants completed the training, their skill levels were assessed to determine their eligibility to work as coaches for CSPD. Trained coaches were paired with teams in trainings to help facilitate deeper thinking and reflection.

DID YOU KNOW?

The secured AZRTI database accepts DIBELS and AIMSweb data and is a *free* resource for all Arizona districts and charters.
www.azrti.com

AUTISM

The Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) training is two years of training available to schools that have five or more students with autism spectrum disorders. Capacity building grants for school teams to attend the training were awarded to 22 schools.

Participants built skills in the areas of evaluation, instruction planning and strategies, and environmental design to address the communication, academic, behavioral, and social needs of students. School teams were expected to share the training information with their entire school staff.

The team members implemented specific strategies for improving the behaviors of students with ASDs at their school sites. The improved behaviors resulted in students' increased ability to be included successfully in general education classrooms.

DID YOU KNOW?

CSPD reading, math, and behavior team trainings include information on how to implement changes within a response to intervention (RTI) framework.

Autism

For Autism Awareness Month, CSPD sponsored three regional workshops held in Yuma, Tucson, and Phoenix. Over 400 professionals and parents received information and strategies on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), social skills, secondary transition, and assistive technology.

Principals Institute

The CSPD's Principals Institute was offered regionally in the fall and spring. Administrators from 77 districts and charter schools attended. They received information on current law and available strategies to alleviate legal problems surrounding specific issues.

Directors Institute

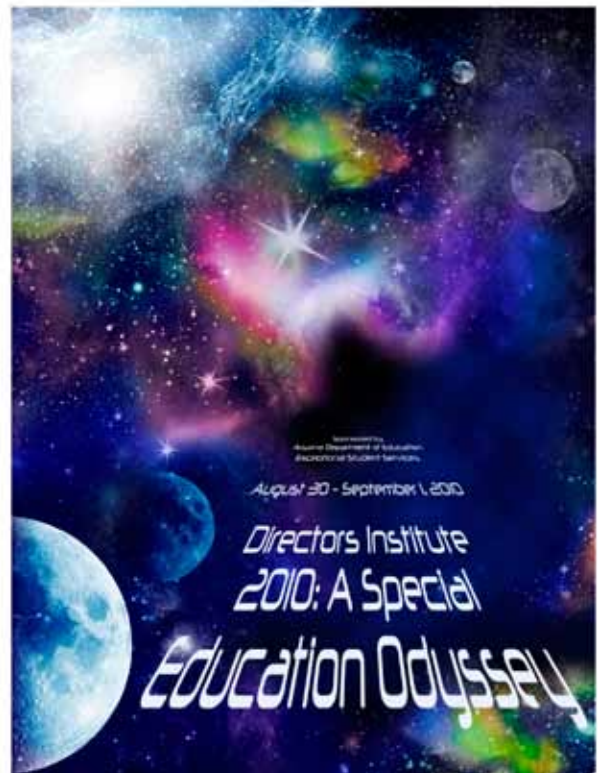
Over 675 people attended the 2010 Directors Institute: A Special Education Odyssey. The three-day institute offered 80 sessions, which were provided by 18 national presenters and selected ESS staff. All sessions were related to special education requirements and covered SPP Indicators, curriculum, behavior, and the legal aspects of providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for every student with disabilities. Important topics for everyone in special education were provided each day.

The sessions that drew the most participants provided information on:

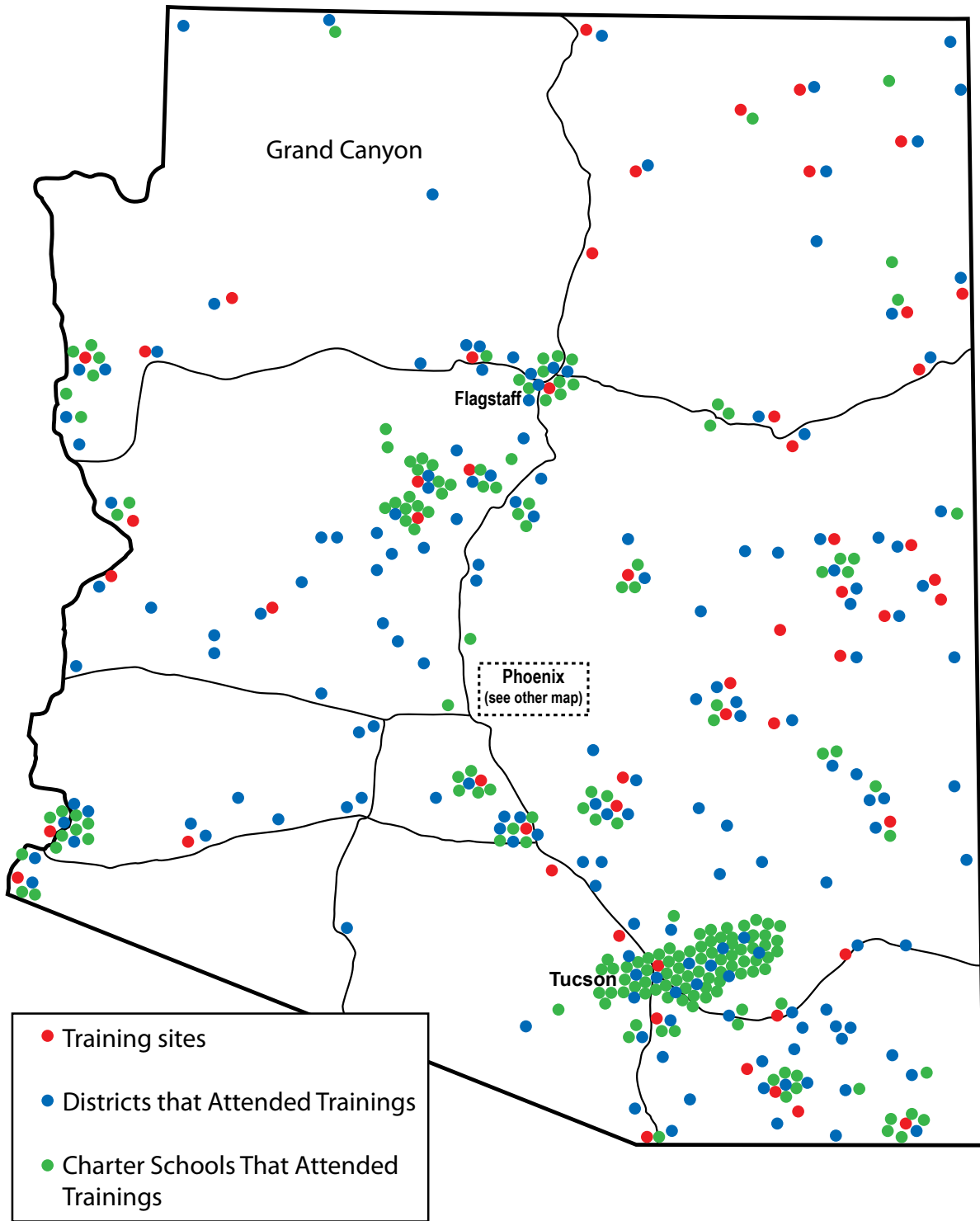
- Processes involved in conducting the functional behavior assessments (FBAs) for students with ASDs that will result in long-term behavioral change
- Significant special education decisions issued by the Ninth Circuit, United States Court of Appeals, which are legally binding in Arizona
- Accommodations and/or modifications to enhance the school experience for kids who learn differently

The annual Directors Institute is presented for special education professionals who rely on the critical information to improve the education of all students with disabilities in Arizona. Topics are chosen to represent the special education directors' expressed needs.

It also serves as a venue for peers to share experiences and gain insight from other special education directors and meet with their ESS program specialists.



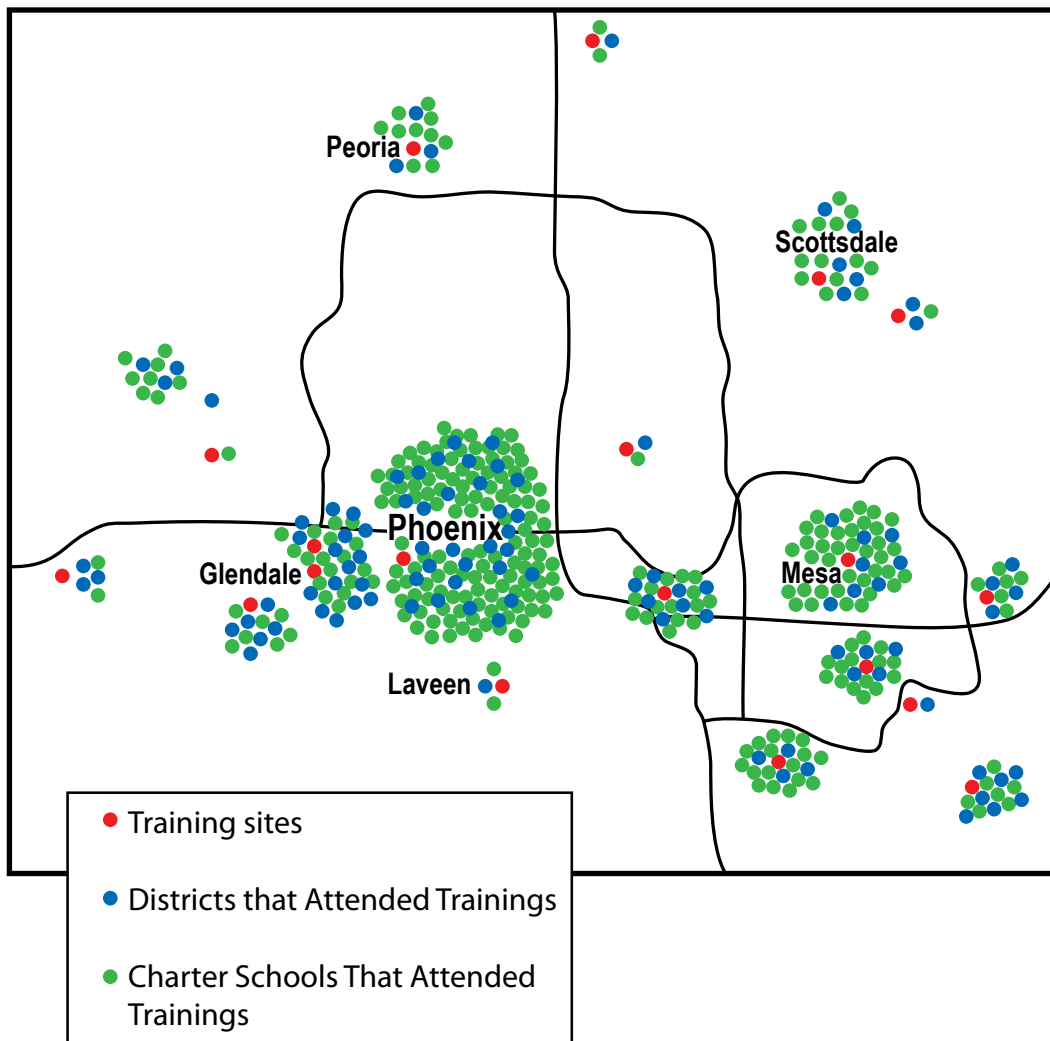
ESS STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Phoenix metro area map on next page

ADE/ESS supports offices in Flagstaff and Tucson to offer the best service possible to PEAs. The Flagstaff office assists special education programs in northern Arizona's school districts and charter schools in Apache, Coconino, Gila, Mohave, Navajo, and Yavapai counties. The Tucson office assists special education programs in southern Arizona's school districts and charter schools in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, southern Pinal, and Santa Cruz counties. The main ESS office is located in Phoenix.

ESS STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Phoenix Metro Area



The contents of this publication were developed with funds allocated by the U.S. Department of Education under individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997 (P.L. 105-17)

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