

**ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL**

*Kathy Hrabluk*

**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE** April 22, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of a \$20,000 Grant Award from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) for Arizona's Participation in the State Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) Project

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kathryn Hrabluk, Associate Superintendent, High Academic Standards

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has been granted an award of up to \$20,000 from the Council of Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) to support Arizona's participation in the State Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) Project. The KEA initiative is a two-year technical assistance project funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The award is based on the ADE's plan to implement a statewide KEA effort in collaboration with First Things First, Head Start and the Helios and Virginia E. Piper Foundations, including a formal process to evaluate the merits of currently-available tools and a field test of selected tools in a diverse sample of Local Education Agencies.

The funding will be used to support Arizona's KEA initiative, consultation with assessment experts, and the opportunity to participate in an Early Childhood Assessment Learning Community. The intended outcomes of the project are improved learning opportunities and achievements for young children in Arizona, and a more effective overall system to assess and improve early childhood and kindergarten-grade 3 education programs.

At the conclusion of the project, Arizona will prepare a short report on our accomplishments, lessons learned and how the grant funds were used to support our efforts.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [ ] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW:**

Accept the \$20,000 Grant Award from the Council of Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) for Arizona's Participation in the State Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) Project.

**ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO [ ]**