

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE OF ARIZONA

SCHOOL FINANCE MEMORANDUM 09-064

To: Superintendents, Business Managers, Administrators, ELL Coordinators

From: Yousef Awwad, Director of School Finance

Date: April 20, 2009

Subject: ELL Student Count for Group B Funding

In a recent internal review of our process, it was discovered that ELL Student count for Group B funding has not been calculating consistent with Arizona Revised Statutes.

Currently English Language Learners (ELL) Student count is calculated based on three census dates throughout the fiscal year. However, Arizona Statute requires that ELL Student count be calculated based on ADM from enrollments that cover a valid ELL participation. ADM from enrollment that does not cover a valid ELL participation interval shall not contribute to the ELL count. (A.R.S. 15-943 and A.R.S. 15-901-A-14.)

An ELL Student is defined in statute as "*English Language Learners who do not speak English or whose native language is not English, who are not currently able to perform ordinary class room work in an English language education program pursuant to sections 15-751, 15-752, 15-753 and 15-756*" (A.R.S 15-901-B-8).

Calculating Student count that is consistent with statute will be effective July 1, 2009 for fiscal year 2009-2010. This memo should answer the majority of your questions regarding the upcoming change.

Question: When will it take effect?

Answer: July 1, 2009 at the beginning of fiscal year 2009-2010.

Question: How will this affect the LEA's when reporting their ELL student count?

Answer: The LEA's will not be required to do anything different when reporting ELL data. There will be added information on some of the reports that are used to reconcile fundable ELL data.

Question: Will there be training?

Answer: Yes, discussion on the new reports will be included in the beginning of the fiscal year 09-10 workshops.

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We want this to be a smooth transition for the LEA's and will work with you to ensure that this happens. Please call me if you have any questions at 602-542-5695.

c: Margaret Dugan
Vicki Salazar
John Stollar
Don Houde