



Arizona Department of Education FY 2014 Budget Request
Total Request - \$42,339,949

The Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) FY 2014 budget request is divided between two vital needs existing at ADE, and in schools across the state – restoring critical funding and making strategic investments.

Critical Funding Restoration – \$9,420,461 Since FY 2008, ADE's operating and non-formula program General Fund budgets were reduced by over 59%; eliminating entire programs as well as reducing numerous services and supports for schools; while the burden upon the agency and Arizona's schools steadily increased during the same period.

Prop 301 Funding - \$4,700,000 ADE receives \$7 million from Prop 301, intended to support school accountability and SAIS. Historically, \$2.3 million was used to support Achievement Testing. In FY 2010, the entire \$7 million was shifted to Achievement Testing. This allowed for a general fund reduction during the budget crisis but, along with other agency cuts, resulted in far reduced services to schools and limiting ADE's ability to meet statutory mandates

Adult Education - \$4,588,601 State funding for Adult Education was eliminated in FY 2010. These funds served as the requisite match for approximately \$12 million in federal Workforce Investment Act funds. Combined, these funds provide services for over 32,000 adults annually, 60% of which function below the 9th grade level. This funding reduction represents a 25% loss to Arizona's adult education system resulting in decreased availability of services and waiting lists for classes.

ADM Auditors - \$131,860 The Audit Unit ensures compliance with state law and ADE guidelines on funding and programmatic issues by annually conducting audits on selected school districts and charter schools as well as providing guidance and technical assistance. Since FY2010, ADE has returned \$5,448,212 to the General Fund from ADM audits. This equates to a \$5 return on investment for every \$1 expended on ADM auditors. Current funding supports only 2.5 of the 4 appropriated FTEs.

Strategic Investments - \$32,919,488 In order for Arizona schools, educators and students to meet the ambitious goals set by the numerous education reforms adopted over the past four years; strategic investments must be made.

Audit Unit - \$263,730 Add 3.0 FTE to the Audit Unit (see above).

Vocational Education Block Grant - \$3,855,758 Higher levels of responsibility and oversight requirements increased operational costs for our technical support staff, with the associated costs being covered by the federal Perkins grant, leaving less money to flow through to our partner programs. State and federal cuts have heavily impacted CTE programs statewide.

IT Academy - \$5,000,000 Establish IT Academy by partnering with one or more vendors to provide Arizona students statewide, with access to the training, courses and materials leading directly to industry certifications; qualifying graduates for high-demand, high-wage jobs. Industry giants such as Microsoft, Adobe, Oracle and Cisco, among others, are actively seeking these partnerships. States with similar programs are able to offer programs closely aligned with the skills employers require in today's global marketplace (Georgia, North Carolina, Florida...)

Arizona Education & Learning Accountability System (AELAS) - \$23,800,000 Funding needed to continue to design and build the web-based data system to support adopted education reforms such the Arizona Common Core Standards and related assessments and teacher/principal evaluations. Additionally, AELAS will provide all the data necessary to comply with federal reporting requirements, including ESEA flexibility reporting and EDFacts. The enterprise system design is a flexible platform which includes replacing the existing accounting and payment system (SAIS), web-based tools for increased transparency and availability of accurate data, education management information services LEAs can "opt into" (such as Finance, HR etc.), consolidation and upgrades of existing systems to reduce both agency and school administrative burdens, professional development and content management systems to support effective instruction as well as support and capacity to conduct online statewide assessments.