



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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Arizona Department of Education Confident in Cambium Learning Group's Integrity and Professionalism

Audit of Tucson Unified School District's Mexican American Studies Department Curriculum Set to Commence

Phoenix, AZ, March 18, 2011– As part of its investigation into the Tucson Unified School District's (TUSD) Mexican-American Studies program compliance with the requirements of A.R.S. § 15-112, that went into effect on January 1, 2011, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) recently contracted a nationally recognized independent educational firm, Cambium Learning Group, based in Dallas, Texas, to conduct an impartial, unbiased curriculum audit.

Upon learning one of the lead investigators, Dr. Steve Gallon was involved in questionable activities while serving as a superintendent in New Jersey, both ADE and Cambium Learning agreed that the integrity of the audit team should not be called into question.

Cambium Learning Group assured ADE that Dr. Gallon is not and has never been an employee of Cambium Learning Group. He is no longer working on the Arizona Audit Team selected to review TUSD's Mexican American Studies program. Further, it is ADE's understanding that Dr. Gallon's relationship with National Academic Education Partners has also been discontinued. National Academic Education Partners is a firm that partners with Cambium Learning Group to create and provide highly-focused, research-based school turnaround and transformation services that produce results.

"The Department was very pleased Cambium Learning Group immediately responded to the questions raised regarding Dr. Gallon," said Andrew T. LeFevre, ADE's Director of Public Relations. "With this level of responsiveness, ADE continues to have full confidence in their ability to conduct an impartial, unbiased and thorough curriculum audit of TUSD's Mexican-American Studies program."

The Cambium Learning Group's curriculum audit will culminate in a comprehensive, written report to ADE. Upon receipt of the investigative results, ADE will review the report and draw its conclusions concerning TUSD's compliance with A.R.S. § 15-112 and take appropriate action.

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