

# Arizona Public Education Governance

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# Education Governance in Arizona

- This document provides an overview of the different federal, state and local agencies that oversee public education in Arizona.
- The intent of the document is to raise awareness and understanding of who and what controls education decisions that affect Arizonans.
- Created by the Arizona Department of Education
- *Revised November 23, 2020*

# Education Governance in Arizona

## Federal

- U.S. Department of Education
- Bureau of Indian Education US Department of Interior – Indian Affairs

## State

- Arizona State Legislature
- Arizona State Board of Education
- Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
- Arizona Department of Education
- Office of Indian Education – Arizona Department of Education

## Local

- School District or Charter Governing Board

# Key Vocabulary

- **Elementary** – refers to schools serving students in kindergarten through grade 8
- **Secondary** – refers to schools serving students in grades 9 through 12
- **Post-secondary** – refers all education that takes place after grade 12.
- **Academic Standards** – refers to benchmark measures that define what students should know at specified grade levels from kindergarten to grade 12.
- **Curriculum** – refers to academic lessons and content taught in school and includes materials such as textbooks, videos, learning programs that help students achieve the academic goals set by curriculum.
- **Local education agencies (LEAs)** – refers to any public school – traditional or charter

# Federal



# U.S. Department of Education



## Acronym: USED

- The federal government's administrative body that establishes policies for, administers, and coordinates most federal assistance to education. For more information on the U.S. Department of Education, visit its website [here](#).
- Establishes policies on federal financial aid and distributes federal funds to the states contingent on requirements met by states and school districts. States cannot use federal funds to pay for what is required by state law, only to supplement eligible supports for schools and students under federal law.
- Enforces federal educational laws on privacy and civil rights (i.e., discrimination and student health information). For more information on the Office of Civil Rights, visit their website [here](#).

# U.S. Department of Education



## Acronym: USED

- Collects data from schools that are required by federal law passed by the U.S. Congress and tied to federal dollars received by local education agencies (LEAs) (i.e. Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA))
- Maintains a federal Office of Indian Education which administers the Indian Education Program of ESSA and provides financial and technical assistance for supporting LEAs, Tribal Nations, post-secondary institutions, and other relevant organizations.
- Establishes and enforces regulations to operationalize and clarify according to federal laws like ESSA and IDEA.
- Manages federal student loans for post-secondary education.

# Bureau of Indian Education - US Department of Interior – Indian Affairs



## Acronym: BIE

The federal agency charged with providing quality education opportunities for Native American students in accordance with the federal trust responsibility between the U.S. Government and tribal nations. For more information on the Bureau of Indian Education, visit its [website](#).

- Funds and operates elementary, secondary, residential, and peripheral dormitories across the country.
- Provides fiscal and programmatic oversight of boarding schools and federally funded schools serving Native American students, including elementary, secondary, and post-secondary.



# Bureau of Indian Education - US Department of Interior – Indian Affairs



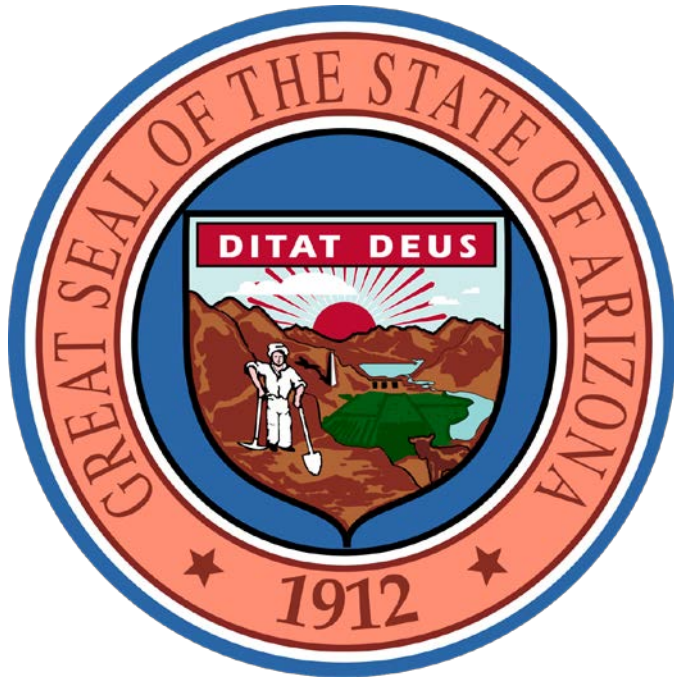
## Acronym: BIE

- Receives funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress and from the U.S. Department of Education for Bureau of Indian Education schools and programmatic and administrative expenses.
- Adopts and enforces rules and policies through the Negotiated Rule Making process.
- Develops standards, assessments, and an accountability system for Bureau of Indian Education schools.
- Participates in tribal consultation with tribal governments prior to making any policy/rule decisions.

# State

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# Arizona State Legislature



The state's legislative body responsible for enacting laws, approving the state's budget, and proposing amendments to the state constitution to be referred to voters. For more information on the State Legislature, visit its website [here](#).

- Approves an annual statewide budget to fund the state's General Fund, where funding for state education formulas and programs is allocated.
- Passes and amends laws to create, adjust, or remove existing education programs or regulations (i.e., school report cards, school letter grades, and the School Safety Program)
- Assigns authority to the State Board of Education or other policy-making bodies, such as the State Board for Charter Schools, Arizona Department of Education, or LEAs to implement laws.

# Arizona State Board of Education



## **Acronym: SBE**

The State Board of Education is constitutionally charged with regulating the conduct of Arizona's K-12 public school system. The State Board of Education is made up of 11 members: the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction and 10 members appointed by the Arizona Governor and confirmed by the Arizona Senate. Appointed and confirmed members serve four-year terms. Positions include: four lay members, president of a community college district, an Arizona university president, a superintendent of a high school district, a classroom teacher, a county school superintendent and an owner/operator of a charter school. The Board's website can be found [here](#). The Board's duties include the following:

# Arizona State Board of Education



## Acronym: **SBE**

- Sets the academic standards for Arizona K-12 students
- Sets the minimum course of study for elementary and secondary students, including the requirements for promotion and graduation
- Selects and sets policy regarding the statewide assessment
- Sets school accountability policy and issues letter grades in accordance with state law
- Reviews and approves district Arizona Online Instruction Programs (AOIs)

# Arizona State Board of Education



## **Acronym: SBE**

- Places and oversees school districts in financial receivership
- Sets policy pertaining to the certification of educators and imposes disciplinary action on educators accused of unprofessional or immoral conduct
- Sets policy on specific educational laws and programs, which are implemented by the Arizona Department of Education: Move on When Reading, School Accountability, Statewide Assessment, Empowerment Scholarship Account Programs

# Arizona State Board for Charter Schools



## Acronym: ASBCS

The state government agency responsible for overseeing public charter schools that operate under a contract with the Board. The State Board for Charter Schools consists of 11 members including the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Governor then appoints six members of the general public and one whom resides on a tribal reservation, two members of the business community, one charter school operator, and one charter schoolteacher who all serve four-year terms upon approval by the Senate. For more information on the State Board for Charter Schools, visit its website [here](#).

# Arizona State Board for Charter Schools



## Acronym: ASBCS

- Supervises the conduct of charter schools that are sponsored by the Board for Charter Schools.
- Adopts administrative rules to assist with the implementation of state laws (i.e., application processes and minimum performance expectations).
- Establishes policies to ensure the compliance of charter schools' academic, financial, and statutory responsibilities.
- Approves applications and grant charters to qualified applicants.
- Monitors the academic performance and fiscal and contractual compliance of charter holders and schools.
- Monitors the adherence to the terms and conditions in the sponsored school's charter contract.



# Arizona State Board for Charter Schools



## Acronym: ASBCS

- Establishes frameworks for charter schools on academic performance, financial performance, and operational performance.
- Authorizes the closure of Board-sponsored charter schools if the school fails to meet the terms of its contracts and statutory requirements. Monitors the adherence to the terms and conditions in the sponsored school's charter contract.
- Establishes frameworks for charter schools on academic performance, financial performance, and operational performance.
- Authorizes the closure of Board-sponsored charter schools if the school fails to meet the terms of its contracts and statutory requirements.

# Arizona Department of Education



## Acronym: ADE

The state government agency charged as the administrative body that oversees the state's public schools (kindergarten to grade 12). The agency is led by the Superintendent of Public Instruction – an elected official to a four-year term. For more information on the Arizona Department of Education, visit its website [here](#).

- Implements laws passed by the State Legislature and policies established by the State Board of Education.
- Administers and distributes state and federal funds to LEAs according to formulas and regulations set by state and federal law.
- Administers competitive grant programs established by the State Legislature and U.S. Congress (i.e., the School Safety Program and federal school improvement grants).

# Arizona Department of Education



## Acronym: ADE

- Administers and provides technical assistance to schools on statewide assessments (i.e., AzM2 and AZELLA).
- Provides technical assistance, e.g. interpretation of guidance and best practices, for state and federal education programs (i.e., National School Lunch Program and the Arizona Charter School Program).
- Collects data from LEAs on school and student demographics, school finance, and statewide assessments.
- Coordinates with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to administer federal school meal programs.

# Office of Indian Education - Arizona Department of Education



## Acronym: OIE

The Office, established by the State Legislature, serves as the liaison between tribal education departments, public schools serving a large population of Native American students, and the Arizona Department of Education. For more information on the Office of Indian Education, visit its website [here](#).

- Administers federal and state programs such as Johnson O'Malley programs and the Tribal College Dual Enrollment Program.
- Provides schools districts and communities with resources and tools such as cultural training and culturally literate tools.
- Facilitates the Indian Education Advisory Council which advises the Superintendent of Public Instruction about policies and issues facing the specific community that the Council represents.

# Office of Indian Education - Arizona Department of Education



## Acronym: OIE

- Assists with tribal collaboration efforts between the Arizona Department of Education and respective tribal nations while upholding the tribal consultation requirements prescribed by ESSA.
- Convenes strategic partnerships with state agencies and other stakeholders (i.e., tribal education directors and the Bureau of Indian Education) to strengthen relationship building, timely dissemination of information, and create shared visions of success.
- Collaborates with program areas within the Arizona Department of Education to promote cultural literacy and ensure targeted communities have equitable access to educational support and resources.

# Local



# School District or Charter Governing Board

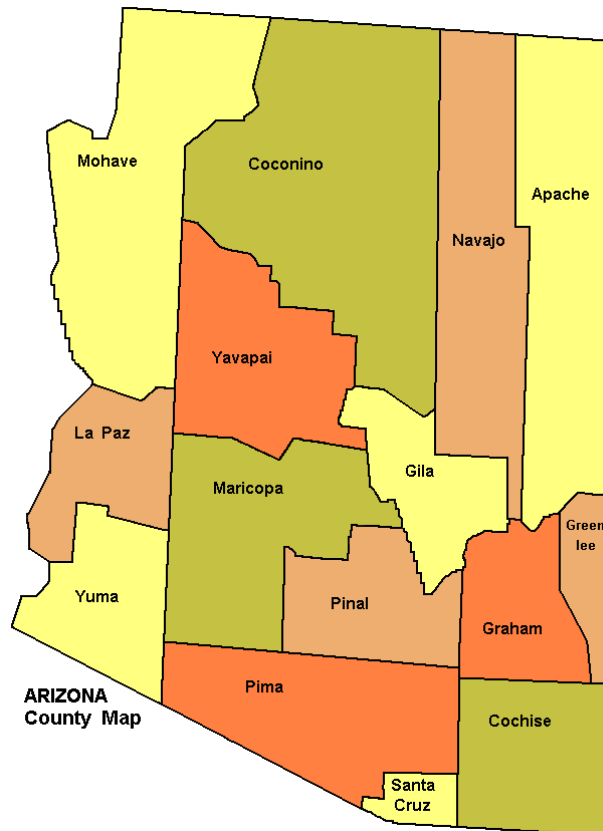
Local school governing boards are the public bodies responsible for prescribing policies and approving financial decisions for its school district or charter school; each LEA has a governing board. School district governing board members are elected officials or may be appointed by the county superintendent of school should a seat remain vacant following an election.

# School District or Charter Governing Board

- Hires and evaluates the school district's superintendent which is the only employee that the board directly oversees.
- Reviews regulations for compliance with local, state, and federal policies and laws.
- Approves the LEA's budget and purchases and allocates resources accordingly.
- Monitors the LEA's academic, financial, and operational performance.
- Sets and approves the terms of employee contracts, including salaries.



# Arizona County School Superintendents



Established by the Arizona Constitution, the county school superintendent's office is elected every four years by voters for each of the 15 counties to work closely with the school district governing boards and provide needed services. County school superintendents are required to collaborate with county election offices to execute any district-related elections (i.e., school board members and bonds/overrides), monitor district revenue and expenditures, handle affidavits for caregivers who intend to homeschool their kids, and educate youth in juvenile detention by hiring teachers and setting curriculum. These elected officials also have discretionary responsibilities that vary widely depending on county needs. Some of those discretionary duties include acting as education service agencies by offering professional development, training substitute teachers, and employing individuals for specialized services to rotate between schools. It is important to note that county school superintendents do not have direct authority over districts. Please visit your local county school superintendent's website for more information.

# **Additional Public Bodies**



# Arizona Board of Regents



## **Acronym: ABOR**

The governing body for the state's public universities (Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and University of Arizona) that provides policy guidance in relations to academic and student affairs, financial programs, and tuition and fees. The Arizona Board of Regents consists of 12 members including the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and two student regents. For more information on the Arizona Board of Regents, visit its website [here](#).

# Arizona School Facilities Board



## Acronym: SFB

The state government agency responsible for managing state funding appropriated for K-12 school district facilities. SFB administers programs such as the Building Renewal Grants, Emergency deficiencies Correction, and New School Facilities. School districts may apply for these funds depending on what time of facility construction they are looking to complete. For example, a school district may apply for the Building Renewal Grant if a school district is planning on major renovations or upgrades to systems that will extend the life of a building. The School Facilities Board consists of 10 members: one elected member of a school district governing board, one private citizen, one member with experience in public procurement, one registered professional architect, one member with experience in demographics, one teacher, one professional engineer, one owner or officer of a private construction company, and the superintendent of public instruction. For more information on the School Facilities Board, visit its website [here](#).

# Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind



## **Acronym: ASDB**

Designated public schools responsible for serving persons from birth to age 22 who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, multisensory disabled or deafblind. The Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind operate two schools for the deaf, one school for the blind, a statewide birth-to-three early childhood and family education program, and five regional cooperatives. The Board consists of the governor, the superintendent of public instruction, one member from the commission for the deaf and the hard of hearing, one member from the governor's council on blindness and visual impairment, and six appointive members. For more information on the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind, visit its website [here](#).

# First Things First



## **Acronym: FTF**

The state government agency, established by a voter-approved initiative, charged with supporting the development, health, and early education of children birth through age five. First Things First is governed by the First Things First Board of Directors consisting of nine members, including the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security. First Things First is also comprised of 28 local Regional Partnership Councils that determine which early childhood services will be funded in their communities. For more information on First Things First, visit its website [here](#).