



**Arizona Department of Education**  
Office of Unique Populations  
(OELAS, Homeless, Migrant and Foster Care)

January 21, 2021

Dear Superintendents, Directors, and Coordinators:

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! I hope that as you have returned from break and welcomed back students and teachers, whether in-person, hybrid or distance learning, that you have stayed safe and healthy. I'm excited to share with you some news and updates from Unique Populations.

- Laura Alvarez has been appointed as the new Deputy Associate Superintendent of Unique Populations. Many of you may know her and have perhaps had the opportunity to work with her in her previous role as Director of Special Populations. Mrs. Alvarez officially transitioned into her new position on January 11. She will be a tremendous advocate for all students, relentlessly supportive of all of you in the field and is prepared to lead the work that has been and will need to be done with English Learner, Migratory, Homeless and Foster Care student programs and policies.
- FY 2022 Migrant, Title III LEP, Title III Consortium and SEI Budget Comprehensive grant applications open on March 1. LEAs must submit applications to ADE before the May 1 deadline to be considered. Consortia membership intentions for FY 2022 must be communicated to [TitleIII@azed.gov](mailto:TitleIII@azed.gov) by January 25, 2021.
- With the newly revised SEI Course Framework, approved by the State Board of Education on September 28, 2020, ADE's online SEI Course and all other Approved Course Providers must revise their courses to align with the new SEI Course Frameworks. If you, or the teachers you work with, need an SEI Endorsement Course currently, please visit the [SEI Endorsement page](#) of the OELAS website for approved courses available. The approved courses provided will be valid towards certification until:
  - March 31, 2021 for individual and corporate providers
  - December 31, 2021 for higher education institutes

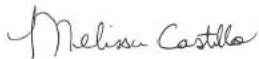
More information surrounding ADE's online SEI Course, future offerings, and registration details will be coming late Spring 2021. If you have any questions surrounding course revisions, please email [SEICourseReview@azed.gov](mailto:SEICourseReview@azed.gov).

*Equity for all students to achieve their full potential*

- OELAS is continuing to offer virtual professional learning opportunities focused on AZ's Language Development Approach, the new ELP Standards, SEI Models and Teaching Reading Effectively to English Learners. For more information, read our [OELAS Professional Learning Opportunities December 2020](#).
- There are only 2 days left to register for our upcoming Virtual Practitioners of Unique Populations Meeting (previously known as PELL) taking place on January 28, 2021. Limited seats are still available; click [here](#) to register.
- Unique Populations continues to provide resources to educators that could be especially helpful for leaders to reference as they continue to implement, monitor and support teachers in meeting the needs of all students. Our latest resources are below.
  - [Maintaining Integrity of Language-Instruction Educational Program Models For English Learners During Remote and Hybrid Learning](#)
  - [Fostering Shared Responsibility for English Learner Education](#)

I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in my new role as the Associate Superintendent of High Academic Standards for Students as does Laura Alvarez and the rest of the Unique Populations team. Please be sure to reach out if we can be of any assistance to you or your educators.

Sincerely,



Melissa Castillo, Ed.D.  
Associate Superintendent  
High Academic Standards for Students  
Arizona Department of Education

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