



## **ACADEMIC STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT FY23**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Mission:** We are a service organization committed to raising academic outcomes and empowering parents.

### Academic Standards

Learning begins at birth and continues throughout every stage of life. The Academic Standards team oversees the standards for learning for children and students in Arizona from birth to high school graduation to their postsecondary paths. The Academic Standards team leads standards work across the state by writing, revising, and implementing the standards with different stakeholders. This team provides professional learning opportunities, resources, guidance, and technical assistance to build educator and caregiver capacity in best practices across the birth through twelfth grade through the postsecondary continuum. The Academic Standards team leads state-level work related to early childhood, literacy, computer science, educational technology, English Language Arts, history and social sciences, math, physical and health education, science, world and native languages, and post-secondary initiatives.

### FY23 Professional Learning

Focus Area	Number of PD Hours Provided	Number of Educators Trained
Computer Science	68	715
Early Childhood	529	6794
Educational Technology	33	371
English Language Arts	334	5192
Mathematics	212	3804
Health and Physical Education	62	1012
Postsecondary Initiatives	60	1831
Science and STEM	296	2771
Social Studies	173	2374
World and Native Languages	39	630
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,803 Hours of PD Provided</b>	<b>25,494 Educators Trained</b>
<b>Percent Change from Previous Fiscal Year</b>	<b>98.5% Increase</b>	<b>40.4% Increase</b>
<b>Students Impacted: 662,844</b> (*Estimated class size of 26 students per teacher)		

## FY23 Funding Provided to the Field

Focus Area	Amount of Funding Provided
Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant	\$2,666,931.94
Computer Science Professional Development Grant	\$240,157.62
Dyslexia Designee Training Grant	\$1,254,330.57
Early Literacy Grant	\$12,000,000
ESSER RFGA Funding Process	\$180,000,000
High Quality Early Learning Grant (HQEL)	\$76,140,000
HighScope	\$1,600,000
LETRS for Early Childhood Educators	\$1,500,000
Make Way For Books Grant	\$1,200,000
Move On When Reading	\$53,648,639
P3 Coaching Grant	\$490,870.14
Pre-School Development Grant (PDG)	\$6,548,000
Pyramid Model	\$240,000
State Tutoring Grant – paid to LEAs	\$24,154.28
State Tutoring Grant – paid to Tutoring Providers	\$288,849.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$337,841,933.11</b>

### Academic Standards Grants

The Academic Standards Team oversees and distributes a variety of federal and state funds through several grants.

### FY23 Standards Revision

No standards were revised in FY23.

### Highlights

#### Computer Science

Team: Sarah Sleasman and Alecia Henderson

The Computer Science team leads the implementation of the Computer Science Standards, providing training in best practices in teaching the standards to over 700 educators. To support the teaching of the Computer Science Standards, the team oversees the Computer Science Professional Development Grant (CSPD). This grant provides up to \$25,000 to high schools to provide high-quality professional learning in computer science for educators to then provide new computer science courses within two years. The grant supports the expansion of computer science courses, such as cybersecurity and coding, and targets rural schools. In FY23, the CSPD grant allotted almost half a million dollars in funding to schools, with the majority being awarded to rural schools. This grant allows rural students equitable access to technology courses, opening new opportunities for the future.

This year, the Computer Science team worked closely with the Arizona Computer Science Teachers' Association to facilitate Computer Science Professional Development Week, a week-long learning opportunity for educators from across the state. Additionally, the team helped lead the charge in planning and executing the first Computer Science Four Corners Convening.

#### Early Childhood

Team: Brooke Colvin, Laura Lee, Patsy Rethore-Larson, Alexis Horne, Caris Hall, Chelsea Rousseau, Lourdes Johnson, Rhonda Finding, Wendy Flynn, Wendy Lodge

The ADE Early Childhood team provides high-quality training and focused technical assistance in best practices in working with early learners, teaching the Arizona Early Learning Standards, informing educators about the Infant and Toddler Developmental Guidelines, technical assistance with EQUIP and EMAC, and delivering early literacy professional learning.

The Early Childhood team works closely with early childhood organizations around the state, including First Things First, the Department of Economic Security, Head Start, and Make Way for Books to maximize impact. Their work focuses on ensuring that Arizona's most vulnerable young learners have access to high-quality early learning environments.

In FY23, the Early Childhood team:

- Implemented and coordinated statewide training for the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) in
  - The effective use of a KEA
  - Formative assessment practices, which lead to increased student achievement and agency
  - Best practices in the key domains of early learning assessed by the KEA
- Used \$95,000,000 in funding from DES to open seats for vulnerable children in high-quality early learning environments through the following grants and programs:
  - High Quality Early Learning Grant: \$76,140,000 allocated for total ISA, \$35,000,000 disbursed in 2023. HQEL subgrantees represent a mixed delivery early childhood system and include public Pre-K, private centers, Head Start sites, and family childcare programs. Sites are spread out over 9 Arizona counties with Maricopa and Yuma making up nearly 80% of the sites. There are a total of 63 sites and 1,591 full-day seats.
  - Make Way for Books: \$1,200,000 spent on early childhood coaching, leveraging evidence-based practices anchored in the science of reading and grounded in Jim Knight's seven coaching partnership principles. Beginning January 2023, 108 educators/staff participated. Wave 2 cohort for coaching begins in August 2023.
  - LETRS (ECE): \$1,500,000 provided vital training in the science of reading for early childhood educators. The first wave of cohorts for LETRS for HQEL sites began in January 2023 with a total of 144 educators/staff participating. A total of 98 Early Childhood cohorts (40 participants per cohort) participated in or will be participating in LETRS for ECE.
  - HighScope: \$1,600,000 provided trainings in social-emotional development, language, and literacy. The first wave of cohorts trained by HighScope began in March 2023 with 150 educators/staff participating and a second cohort beginning in August 2023.
  - Pyramid Model: \$240,000 provided for a collaborative, multi-agency State Leadership Team (SLT) to determine current Pyramid Model work happening in Arizona. The SLT team established implementation sites in targeted areas.
- Implemented the Preschool Development Grant. This three-year Federal grant for \$42,000,000 (\$14,000,000 per year) expands access to quality childcare for infants and toddlers through start-up funds and expands function and slot funding for high-need children from birth to age five.
- Awarded 31 sites for a total of \$6,548,000 (\$3,400,000 in start-up and expansion infant/toddler funding; \$3,148,000 in infant/toddler/preschool seats).

## [Educational Technology](#)

Team: Eboney McKinney and Alecia Henderson

In FY23, the educational technology team provided professional learning opportunities for teachers and leaders around the state - virtually, in person, and at several conferences. We partnered with Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) to roll out the Educational Technology Ambassadors, to provide Ed Tech trainings regionally around the state.

## [English Language Arts](#)

Team: Amy Boza, Sarah Bondy, Lauren Spenceley, Maggie Velazquez, Karen Ten Napel, Kim Piranio, Michele Rutin

The English Language Arts (ELA) team provides professional learning, guidance, resources, and technical assistance on best practices in teaching the ELA standards, with a special focus on early literacy.

In FY23, the ELA team:

- Reviewed Move On When Reading literacy plans for every elementary school in the state (over 1,300 schools), providing technical assistance to strengthen K-3 literacy systems.
- Implemented the Dyslexia Designee Grant, providing almost \$2,000,000 to train and certify Dyslexia Training Designees on every K-3 campus to recognize and work with students with dyslexia.
- Reviewed and approved programs to meet the legislation that requires K-5 Literacy Endorsement courses.
- Developed and implemented synchronous and asynchronous professional learning opportunities focused on the science of reading, dyslexia, and working with adolescent striving readers.
- Provided learning opportunities based on the science of reading for over 150 K-12 educators through the Arizona Literacy Road Show to promote equity across the state.
- Implemented the P-3 Literacy Coaching Grant and provided over 400 hours of training for coaches and administrators in coaching PreK-3rd grade literacy educators grounded in the science of reading.
  - In addition, the P-3 Literacy Coaching Grant provided highly trained early literacy coaches in the highest needs schools to build teacher capacity in the science of reading.
- Provided 14,000 free slots for educators to take the Foundations of Reading Exam, which is required to earn the K-5 Early Literacy Endorsement.
- Provided free LETRS training for a total of over 6,000 educators and administrators across the state over the last two years.
- Provided and trained over 600 seats for secondary educators in the Reading Apprenticeship program for secondary educators in disciplinary literacy.

### Mathematics

Team: Ebony McKinney, Laurel Cherry, and Marisa Tualla

The ADE math team provides high-quality professional learning centered on best practices in teaching the math standards. Provided in-person, virtual and conference trainings to elementary, middle, and high school educators on key topics of struggle at those levels. Convened working groups of high school math educators to build comprehensive resources for educators to effectively teach Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II to fulfill HB 2135, and provided monthly webinars for teachers to promote and engage with the documents. They worked with Arizona State University to implement the Math Momentum Program, which provides properly certificated math teachers to schools without those teachers, with inexperienced teachers, or with long-term substitutes in the math classroom. As well as worked with the University of Arizona Center for Recruitment and Retention of Teachers of Mathematics to provide high-quality training to educators and high-quality tutoring to students across Arizona at no charge.

### Health and Physical Education

Team: Angela Budovsky-Robinson and Keri Schoeff

The Health and Physical Education team works hard to drive home that physical education and health are as important, if not more important, to a successful life as every other academic subject area. The Physical Education and Health team trained over 1,000 educators across the state and provided sessions at state and national conferences.

### Postsecondary Initiatives

Team: Andrea Glenn

The ADE postsecondary team works with higher education organizations, including the Arizona Board of Regents and community colleges, to strengthen the connection between K-12 and higher education. Additionally, the team works closely with organizations such as College Depot and Ask Benji to make it easier for students, especially students from vulnerable populations, to matriculate to higher education. In FY23, the team oversaw:

- FAFSA Kickoff Day, which coordinated with ADE, the Governor's Office, and other organizations to provide direct technical assistance to students and families to assist in the completion of FAFSA forms (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- FAFSA Drive-Thrus, which provided specific tutoring and supports for families and students in regions across the state to assist with the completion of FAFSA forms

- The establishment of the first-ever Arizona Postsecondary Committee, which is a group of higher education officials, agencies focused on college matriculation, K12 teachers and students that focus on building postsecondary-related policy recommendations for the Arizona Legislature

Additionally, this team led the ADE RFGA Process, which reviewed applications for ADE ESSER funding and awarded millions of dollars to community and educational organizations to support children and families during and after the pandemic.

## Science and STEM

Team: Sarah Sleasman and Rebecca Garelli

The ADE Science and STEM team provides training on best practices in 3-dimensional science teaching the recently adopted Science standards, which present a large shift in science instruction for educators. Where the previous standards had students simply learn about science through the memorization of isolated facts, the recently adopted Arizona Science Standards focus on helping students make sense of the world around them through the 3-dimensions: the Science and Engineering Practices, the Crosscutting Concepts, and the Core Ideas. Three-dimensional instruction requires a major shift in instruction and is a big change for educators, which is what makes the work of the Science team so vital.

During FY23, the Science team:

- Trained over 2,700 educators in the Science standards with over 290 total hours of professional learning both in-person and virtual.
- Trained over 500 educators with online courses for professional learning credit.
- Worked with the Arizona Science Teachers Association and the Science Steering Committee to develop key resources for teachers across the K-12 continuum, for example the team build grade level placemats with the standards and key elements to support the standards.
- Provided school and district-specific trainings to build capacity in sites to effect wholesale change to 38 districts with 43 district in-take meetings.
- Led the committee to select the Presidential Award winner for the teaching of science.
- Brought in a national leader in science education, Brett Moulding for the fourth year, through funding from a community partner to develop professional learning experiences and lessons that are aligned to the Arizona Science Standards.

## Social Studies

Team: Linda Burrows and Hannah Rude

The History and Social Studies team oversees the implementation of the Arizona State Standards by supporting educators through professional learning and evidence-based practices. This year they focused on rebuilding connections to the field after the COVID pandemic by offering professional learning opportunities to reteach how to implement standards in-person and virtually. Elementary grades were a key focus as well, hearing from the field the struggles K-5 educators were having in implementing the standards in a meaningful way.

During FY23, the ADE Social Studies team:

- Trained over 2,300 educators in best practices in teaching the History and Social Sciences Standards; 31 out of 100 of these sessions were elementary-focused.
- Worked with the Office of Indian Education to provide trainings for Arizona educators on integrating Indigenous perspectives in alignment with state standards.
- Collaborated with the ELA team to incorporate literacy training aligned with ELA and social studies standards.
- Provided in-person school and district-specific trainings to build capacity in sites to effect wholesale change.
- Partnered with the Arizona Geographic Alliance, Arizona Capitol Museum, Discovery Education, OER World History Project, New York Historical Society, and Ever-Fi to provide in-person and virtual professional training.
- Led the committee to select the Arizona History Teacher of the Year for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.



- Oversaw the dissemination of the Seal of Civic Literacy diploma seal for graduating students.
- Oversaw the dissemination of the Seal of Personal Finance diploma seal for graduating students.
- Built and disseminated specific resources related to Oral Histories and continuing Holocaust education.
- Connected with the teaching training program at Arizona State University to present lessons on the social studies standards and evidence-based practices.

## World and Native Languages

Team: Linda Burrows and Hannah Rude

The ADE World and Native Languages team oversees the implementation of the World and Native Languages Standards. They provide training on best practices in teaching the standards. The standards focus on using proficiency to guide a student through their language learning, using authentic resources, and tying language learning to cultural competencies. Additionally, the team oversees the Seal of Biliteracy, a diploma seal that recognizes a student's demonstrated mastery of English and another language. The team works closely with the State Board of Education on vetting and approving assessments for the program.

During FY23, the ADE World and Native Languages team:

- Trained over 630 educators in best practices in teaching the World and Native Languages Standards.
- Provided school and district-specific trainings to build capacity in sites to effect wholesale change.
- Oversaw the dissemination of the Seal of Biliteracy diploma seal for 3,000 graduating students in over 18 different languages, including seals awarded in American Sign Language, Korean, and Arabic.
- Added additional assessments for students to demonstrate their English proficiency, thus providing more opportunities for students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

## ADE Initiatives

Members of the Academic Standards team led or were key members of the following ADE initiatives:

- ADE Assessments Conference
  - Academic Standards Team Member: Sean Ross
- ADE Events Management System Committee
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Regina Neal, Rebecca Garelli, and Sarah Bondy
- ADE ESSER RFGA Funding Review and Dissemination Team
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn, Sean Ross, and Angela Budovsky-Robinson
- ADE Formative Assessment Committee
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Sean Ross, Ebony McKinney, Laurel Cherry, Lori Masseur, Mark Francis, Kelly McQuaid, and David Fox
- ADE Leading Change and Teachers' Institute Conference
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Linda Burrows, Ebony McKinney, Hannah Rude, Angela Budovsky-Robinson, Andrea Glenn, Regina Neal, Karen Ten Napel
- ADE Teaching and Learning Framework (Writing and Implementation)
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Sean Ross, Rebecca Garelli, Sarah Bondy, Kelly McQuaid, and Ebony McKinney

## Academic Standards Partnerships

Members of the Academic Standards team sit on the boards of and/or serve in an advisory capacity for educational organizations across the state to both inform those organizations of state-level work and to ensure that they have a regular conduit for feedback from the field to best meet its needs.

- ACT State Council
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn
- Arizona Association of Teachers of Mathematics
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Ebony McKinney, Laurel Cherry, Marisa Tualla

- Arizona Board of Regents
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn
- Arizona Branch of the International Dyslexia Association
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Maggie Velazquez
- Arizona Computer Science Teachers Association
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Sarah Sleasman and Alecia Henderson
- Arizona Council for Economic Education
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Linda Burrows
- Arizona Council for History Education
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Linda Burrows and Hannah Rude
- Arizona Council for Social Studies
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Linda Burrows and Hannah Rude
- Arizona Early Intervention Program
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Brooke Colvin
- Arizona English Teachers Association
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Lauren Spenceley
- Arizona Geographic Alliance
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Linda Burrows and Hannah Rude
- Arizona Head Start Association
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Brooke Colvin
- Arizona Language Association
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Linda Burrows and Hannah Rude
- Arizona Math Leaders
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Eboney McKinney, Laurel Cherry, Marisa Tualla
- Arizona Science Teachers Association
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Sarah Sleasman and Rebecca Garelli
- Arizona Technology in Education Association
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Eboney McKinney and Alecia Henderson
- AzCAN
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn
- College Depot Arizona
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn
- Education Forward Arizona
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn
- FAFSA Statewide Coalition
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn
- First Things First
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Brooke Colvin
- Helios Education Foundation
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn
- Read On Arizona
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Sean Ross and Brooke Colvin
- Salt Rivier Project
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Sarah Sleasman and Rebecca Garelli
- STEMAZing (Pima County Superintendent's Office)
  - Academic Standards Team Members: Sarah Sleasman and Rebecca Garelli



