



ACADEMIC STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT FY24

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.

FY24 Professional Learning

Focus Area	Number of PD Hours Provided	Number of Educators Trained
Computer Science	77.7	1248
Early Childhood	308	4335
Educational Technology	60.8	2128
English Language Arts	995.75	4677
Mathematics	325.25	4657
Health and Physical Education	87.5	1110
Postsecondary Initiatives	176.5	7683*
Science	53.5	896
Social Studies	145.8	1346
STEM	20	422
World and Native Languages	4.5	66
Totals	2255.3 Hours of PD Provided	28,568 Educators Trained
Percent Change from Previous Fiscal Year	1% Increase	1% Increase
Students Impacted: 662,844 (Estimated class size of 26 students per teacher) *This number contains PD for teachers and student and family outreach		

FY24 Funding Provided to the Field

Focus Area	Amount of Funding Provided
Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant	\$2,666,931.94
Comprehensive Literacy State Development Supplemental Grant	\$2,064,650
Computer Science Professional Development Grant	\$240,157.62
Dyslexia Designee Training Grant	\$1,254,330.57
Early Literacy Grant	\$12,000,000
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)	\$12,906,000
Pyramid Model	\$1,542,000
State Tutoring Grant – paid to LEAs	\$24,154.28
State Tutoring Grant – paid to Tutoring Providers	\$288,849.56
Total	\$167,566,583.11

Academic Standards Grants

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

FY24 Standards Revision

No standards were revised in FY24.

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 1,248 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 computer science learning for educators to 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 FY24, the CSPD grant allotted just over \$160,000.00, 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 and the Arizona Science Center to facilitate the 5th Annual Computer Science Professional Development Week, a week-long learning opportunity for educators from across the state. Additionally, the team is working to support leaders and partners with generative artificial intelligence in K-12 education.

Early Childhood

Team: Laura Lee, Patsy Rethore-Larson, Alexis Horne, Chelsea Rousseau, Lourdes Kelly, Wendy Flynn, Wendy Lodge, Priscilla Sachs, Oksana Beatty, Deanna Jergenson, Vikki Snipes, Deanna Bailey

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 FY24, 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
- Maintained \$95,000,000 in funding from DES for 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 the total ISA. The grant ended September 30, 2024. HQEL subgrantees represent a mixed delivery early childhood system and include public Pre-K, private centers, Head Start sites, and family childcare programs. Sites were 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. Many HQEL grantees are continuing to provide high-quality early education via ADE's Preschool Development Grant.
 - 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. A total of 82 sites, 391 educators, and 7,506 students were impacted
 - LETRS (ECE): \$1,500,000 provided vital training in the science of reading for early childhood educators. A total of 63 Early Childhood cohorts have been purchased not including LETRS 3rd Edition. 1,365 participants have enrolled in LETRS to date. 83% of participants who completed LETRS 1-year ECE training have achieved mastery. In addition, Arizona has developed 5 unique LETRS Partnerships available for participants to continue to have access to support for sustainability and implementation.
 - 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. In 2024, over 550 educators have completed training. ADE is currently partnering with HighScope offering in-person trainings across the state of Arizona through December 2024.
 - Pyramid Model: \$1,542,000 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. Arizona has launched 23 implementation sites, trained 9 program implementation coaches, 7 trainers, offers statewide no-cost Pyramid Model Trainings, and has launched its PIDS data system.
 - 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. Arizona has awarded \$12,906,000 in slots (seats) and infant and toddler start-up and expansion funds serving 559 students. Arizona continues to increase the number of slot offerings.
- Implemented the 5-year, \$20,000,000 Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant. Arizona was awarded a 2-year, \$2,064,650 Comprehensive Literacy State Development – Supplemental Grant. Both grants span the birth to grade 12 continuum, focused on improving child literacy skills and instructional capacity on the science

of reading. This grant project aims to strengthen collaboration, improve efficiency, and drive innovation to accelerate language and literacy outcomes.

- ADE awarded a total of 34 grant recipients, representing 40 sites and 12 district-level supports across 12 of Arizona's 15 counties.
- Arizona's CLSD subgrantees continue to invest in elevating educator credentials to improve child literacy skills and the instructional capacity on the science of reading. In year 4 of the grant, 56% of CLSD subgrantees invested in literacy coaching and or interventionist. 65% of CLSD subgrantees invested in dyslexia designee training and 48% invested in staffing reading endorsements.
- An average of 94% of subgrantees are utilizing a Tier 1 and or Tier 2 literacy curriculum or supplemental, 59% are implementing literacy coaching supports, and 100% are providing professional development in the science of reading.
- Through the CLSD grant, over 24,000 students and over 1,300 educators are being impacted.

Educational Technology

Team: Eboney McKinney and Alecia Henderson

In FY24, the educational technology team provided professional learning opportunities for teachers and leaders around the state - virtually, in person, and at several conferences. We continued partnering with the Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) to provide EdTech training regionally around the state using the Educational Technology Ambassadors and established the EdTech Leaders of Arizona, a community of practice that meets monthly to support district-level technology leaders in the implementation of Arizona's Educational Technology Standards.

English Language Arts

Team: Tianna Sanchez, Holly Herriges, Katie Lewis, Michele Rutin, Lauren Spenceley, Karen Ten Napel, Maggie Velazquez

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 FY24, 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 \$1,000,000 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.
- Reviewed and vetted MOWR core reading programs to ensure research met the first three Tiers of ESSA Evidence.
- 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.
- Provided numerous learning opportunities based on the ELA standards and the science of reading for over 4,500 educators and administrators across the state throughout the fiscal year.
- Implemented the Foundational Literacy Coaching Grant and provided almost \$3,000,000 to train K-3 literacy coaches.
 - Provided over 60 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 AIM Institute's Pathways to Proficient Reading with Pathways to Structured Literacy training for a total of 800 educators and administrators across the state.
- Provided free LETRS 3rd edition training for a total of over 6,000 educators and administrators across the state over the last three years.
- Provided free LETRS 3rd edition facilitator training for the first of four cohorts of educators across the state to train other teachers in their district/charters.
- Provided and trained over 25 seats for secondary educators in the Reading Apprenticeship program for secondary educators in disciplinary literacy.

Mathematics

Team: Eboney McKinney, Laurel Cherry, and Marisa Tualla

The ADE math team provides high-quality professional learning centered on best practices for teaching and learning mathematics. Provided in-person and virtual training and conference sessions to elementary, middle, and high school educators at the local, state, and national levels - to 4,657 educators and leaders. They wrapped up a partnership with WestEd that led to the creation of the Formative Assessment Framework. They hosted the state's first Annual Math and Statistics Month, providing professional learning for teachers and leaders and math competitions for Arizona schools and students. They have also participated in the national conversation and task force work around Data Science. They continued working 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. They also partnered with the Dana Center Launch Year Initiative and the AZ Math Collaborative to create a task force to consider High School Math Pathways with ABOR, AZ state universities, and community colleges. Finally, they worked collaboratively with the Arizona Math Leaders (AML) and Arizona Association of Teachers of Mathematics (AATM) to provide additional training for teachers and leaders around the state.

Health and Physical Education

Team: Angela Budovsky-Robinson and Keri Schoeff

The Health and Physical Education team provides training on best practices and works hard to emphasize that physical education and health are as important, if not more important, to a successful life as every other academic subject area. The team trained over 1,110 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 FY24, the Postsecondary team:

- Oversaw statewide FAFSA Kickoff, coordinated with ABOR and Education Forward Arizona to provide professional development to counselors, educators, and college access professionals around best practices in FAFSA completion efforts.
- Rolled out the FAFSA Arizona College Connect Dashboard for all schools, in partnership with ABOR and Helios, as the funder. The ACC Dashboard provides up-to-date information, ready-to-use data, and resources for counselors and educators to support their day-by-day FAFSA efforts at their local site. Currently, ACC is in over 350 high schools, with data-sharing agreements.
- Merged and rolled out of the ABOR/ADE Postsecondary Attainment Coalition, which joined forces to partner on matriculation and attainment work as it pertains to our Arizona students. The coalition consists of over 50 members from across the K12, higher ed, nonprofit, and government sectors, and representing all four regions of the state. Meetings take place quarterly, with subcommittees meeting on a more frequent basis, supporting work that will move the attainment needle in Arizona.
- In partnership with Be a Leader Foundation, created the first FAFSA Parent Influencer Group to support the new FAFSA and help educate parents across the state on the importance of filing out FAFSA in a timely manner.
- In partnership with Access ASU, Tempe College Connect, and Tempe Union High School District, implemented Econ/Gov't FAFSA Toolkit and Initiative across the TUHSD, thus increasing FAFSA completion rates for the district overall by 10%.
- Supported the work of Helios, ABOR, and Suns Charites for Arizona's first College Signing Day Celebration at Footprint Arena, bringing over 1200 high school seniors together to celebrate their commitment to postsecondary.
- Used EMCC funds to support FAFSA statewide initiatives that overall helped increase FAFSA completion over the summer months when FAFSA had a delayed rollout. Funds were released to over six sites across the state to support FAFSA workshops and financial aid advising for students over the summer and early fall months.
- Held CCR Roadshows, traveling to five districts in FY24 to provide professional development around the areas of college and career readiness.
- Participated in the statewide SHEEO (State Higher Education Executive Officers Association) team in Washington D.C., to coordinate the initial efforts on work around evaluating best practices in K12 advising/programming as it relates to early college access.

Science and STEM

Team: Sarah Sleasman, Judith Loyosa, Christel Bruno

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 memorizing 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, making the work of the Science team so vital.

In FY24, the Science team:

- Trained over 900 educators in the Arizona Science Standards
- Trained over 350 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 built grade-level placemats with the standards and key elements to support the standards.
- Provided school and district-specific training to build capacity in sites to effect wholesale change through partnerships with the Arizona Science Teachers Association Ambassadors to train educators across the state.
- 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 fifth year, through funding from a community partner to develop professional learning experiences and lessons aligned to the Arizona Science Standards.
- Integrated Arizona Science Standards-specific resources focused on lessons and videos for the Arizona Digital Educators Library (ADEL).

Social Studies

Team: Hannah Rude and Jill Scott

The History and Social Studies team oversees the implementation of the History and Social Science Standards by supporting educators through professional learning, evidence-based practices, and resources. This year they focused on building resources aligned with the state standards including a guidance document for each grade level. This year, districts utilized us during their professional development days with a lot of site-based participation.

In FY24, the Social Studies team:

- Trained over 1,300 educators in best practices in teaching the History and Social Sciences Standards.
- Hired a new K12 Social Studies Specialist after a year vacancy.
- 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 News Literacy Project, ICS, Arizona Geographic Alliance, USHMM, and other ADE teams to provide professional development to the field.
- Led the committee to select the Arizona History Teacher of the Year for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.
- Coordinated the modification of the service requirements for the Seal of Civics Literacy along with stakeholders.
- 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 K-12 Social Studies and continuing Holocaust education.
- Partners with the Office of Indian Education, National Indian Education Association, Native American Connections, Phoenix Indian School Visitors Center, ASU Labriola, and Gila River Indian Community to plan and

implement the \$300,000 National Endowment of the Humanities grant on the topic of Indian Boarding Schools in Arizona.

World and Native Languages

Team: Hannah Rude and Jill Scott

The ADE World and Native Languages team oversees 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.

In FY24, the World and Native Languages team:

- Trained over 100 educators in best practices in teaching the World and Native Languages Standards.
- Hired a new K12 World and Native Languages Specialist after a year vacancy.
- 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.
- Reviewed and added additional second language assessments for students to demonstrate proficiency for the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Added additional assessments for students to demonstrate their English proficiency, thus providing more opportunities for students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Worked with local ELA's to build out lesson plans and Can-Do Statements based on national recommendations.

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: Linda Burrows
- ADE Formative Assessment Committee
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Eboney McKinney, Laurel Cherry
- ADE Leading Change and Teachers' Institute Conference
 - All Academic Standards Team Members
- ADE Achievement Tutoring Program
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Linda Burrows
- ADEL – Arizona Digital Educators Library
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Eric Stuebner, Academic Standards Content Specialists
- Clarification of the K-5 Literacy Endorsement
 - Academic Standards ELA Team Members
- LitHub
 - Academic Standards ELA Team Members
- MOWR Modernization Project
 - Academic Standards ELA Team Members
- PAASport – Portal for Arizona's Academic Standards
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Eric Stuebner, Academic Standards Content Specialists

[ADE Special Projects](#)

[Achievement Tutoring](#)

Team: Linda Burrows and Bethany Spangenberg

The Achievement Tutoring team created a new tutoring program for students in grades kindergarten through grade 12 to offer tutoring to students in reading, writing, math, and ACT Prep. This program was a public-private partnership that provided twenty-four hours of tutoring to students in six-week sessions. The program provided over 18,329 students with high-dosage tutoring in both online and in-person settings. Seventy-two percent of students demonstrated some gains in their learning and twenty-two percent showed significant gains of six months or more.

[Arizona Digital Educator Library \(ADEL\)](#)

Team: Eric Stuebner

The team used ESSER funding to create a brand-new system, the Arizona Digital Educator Library (ADEL). ADEL is driven by teachers to provide the resources they need to teach to the standards.

We have partnered with PBS, the Arizona Science Teachers Association, the Arizona Geographic Alliance, EDSITEMent, and Illustrative Mathematics to provide resources, lessons, and videos for teachers.

We have also worked with the provider to create an AI lesson plan builder within ADEL. This lesson plan companion takes teachers through steps to help them create exciting and innovative lessons using AI that are tied to Arizona standards.

The team worked with Project Momentum to add flex units to enable easier communication and project planning as they work toward increasing academic achievement.

[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.

- Arizona ACT Council
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn
- Arizona Association of Teachers of Mathematics
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Eboney McKinney, Laurel Cherry, Marisa Tualla
- Arizona Board of Regents
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Andrea Glenn
- Arizona Computer Science Teachers Association
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Sarah Sleasman, Alecia Henderson
- Arizona Council for Economic Education
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Hannah Rude
- Arizona Council for History Education
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Hannah Rude, Jill Scott
- Arizona Council for Social Studies
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Hannah Rude, Jill Scott
- Arizona Early Intervention Program
 - Academic Standards Team Members:
- Arizona English Teachers Association
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Lauren Spenceley
- Arizona Geographic Alliance

- Academic Standards Team Members: Hannah Rude, Jill Scott
- Arizona Head Start Association
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Alexis Horne
- Arizona Language Association
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Hannah Rude, Jill Scott
- Arizona Math Leaders
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Eboney McKinney, Laurel Cherry, Marisa Tualla
- Arizona Science Teachers Association
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Sarah Sleasman, Judith Loyozza, Christel Bruno
- Arizona Technology in Education Association
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Eboney McKinney, Alecia Henderson
- Conference on English Leadership
 - Academic Standards Team Member: Lauren Spenceley
- ExcelinEd National Literacy Network
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Tianna Sanchez, Maggie Velasquez, Michele Rutin, Holly Herriges
- FAFSA Statewide Coalition
 - Academic Standards Team Member: Andrea Glenn
- First Things First
 - Academic Standards Team Member: Laura Lee
- Helios Education Foundation
 - Academic Standards Team Member: Andrea Glenn
- International Dyslexia Association – Arizona Chapter
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Tianna Sanchez, Katie Lewis, Maggie Velasquez, Karen Ten Napel, Michele Rutin, Lauren Spenceley
- National College Attainment Network
 - Academic Standards Team Member: Andrea Glenn
 - NCAN Taskforce Member: Andrea Glenn
- Postsecondary Attainment Coalition
 - Academic Standards Team Member: Andrea Glenn
- Read On Arizona Advisory Board
 - Academic Standards Team Member: Linda Burrows, Tianna Sanchez
- Salt Rivier Project
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Sarah Sleasman, Judith Loyozza
- STEMAZing (Pima County Superintendent’s Office)
 - Academic Standards Team Members: Sarah Sleasman, Christel Bruno