



# Introduction & Overview



ASBCS July Study Session

# Who we are

- **Katie Fischer**, *Arizona Chamber Foundation Executive Director*
  - University of Arizona Law School, J.D.
- **Lisa Graham Keegan**, *Executive Director*
  - Former Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Representative
  - Local and national education leader
- **Emily Anne Gullickson**, *Program Director*
  - Teach For America-Phoenix alumna
  - Arizona State University, M.Ed.
  - University of St. Thomas School of Law, J.D.

# History of A for Arizona

- **Created:** Fall 2013
- **Purpose:** A for Arizona exists to expand and grow the number of 'A'-grade public school models serving primarily low-income students to ensure that more of Arizona's kids have greater access to highly-performing public schools, regardless of where they live.
- The program is a project of the Arizona Chamber Foundation, in partnership with the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

# How does A for Arizona operate?

## Program

- Convene quarterly meetings w/ low-income 'A' school leaders
- Host Schools of Excellence tours
- Share resources and connect organizations with 'A' leaders

## Policy

- Survey replication and expansion needs of best low-income school models
- Listen to obstacles our best leaders face and advocate on their behalf
- Work with the Governor and other leaders to prioritize expansion of excellent schools
- Serve as Classrooms First Council Technical Advisor

# How A for Arizona fits within the work of ASBCS:

- 1. SUPPORT AND EXPAND BEST QUALITY SCHOOLS**
- 2. CLOSE FAILING SCHOOLS**
- 3. OPEN NEW EXCELLENT MODELS**

# 5 Reasons to Prioritize the Expansion of Arizona's Best Low-Income Schools

1. All students in Arizona deserve to have the choice of excellent public school options, regardless of where they live.
2. Local businesses have an urgent need for a more qualified and prepared workforce.
3. By better educating all of Arizona's children, we fuel our economy and future entrepreneurial ideas.
4. Arizona can become a state where 'A'-grade school performance is an expectation, rather than a possibility.
5. Arizona can serve as a national model for developing education solutions based on investing in and expanding excellence.

# Top Ways You Can Help Expand Arizona's Best Low-Income Schools

1. Fast track expansion applications of highly performing low-income 'A' models.
2. Incentivize the best charters to expand into rural and tribal areas.
3. Hold biannual roundtable w/ 'A' school leaders to discuss regulations impacting expansion and replication plans.
4. Invite low-income 'A' charter school leaders to regularly present at ASBCS Board meetings.
5. Familiarize yourself with existing 'A' low-income schools at [www.aforaz.org](http://www.aforaz.org).
6. Tour an 'A' low-income school and see the possibilities for all of Arizona's students.

**QUESTIONS?**

