Active Advocacy:

ESSA Proposed Regulations & Arizona’s School Accountability System

August 8, 2016
**Education**
- Research
- Policy Studies
- Data Collection & Analysis
- Bibliographies
- Conferences
- Symposia
- Workshops

**Intervention**
- Speakers Bureau
- Organizing
- Consulting
- Task Forces
- Convenering/Facilitating
- Amiable Confrontation
- Special Position Papers

**Direct Action/Legislation**
- Marches
- Rallies
- Drafting Legislation
- Lobbying
- Lawsuits

Advocacy Continuum
Comment on ESSA Proposed Regulations

- **Alternative Schools’ Unique Niches in One System**

- **Arizona Alternative Schools & ESSA Grad Rate in Proposed Regulations**

- National Alternative Education Association’s letter, developed in collaboration with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
FOR A FAIR SELECTION, EVERYBODY HAS TO TAKE THE SAME EXAM: PLEASE CLIMB THAT TREE.
ESSA proposed regulations require “One System.”

Analogy to an ecosystem – A healthy ecosystem has many different and unique populations.

ESSA regulations should allow states like AZ to continue to develop an alternative education/school accountability model.

Continue to incentivize schools that fill education niches by engaging or re-engaging a unique student population, youth at greatest risk of not completing high school.
Arizona Alternative Schools & ESSA Grad Rate in Proposed Regulations

- ESSA regulations fail to establish differentiated graduation rate expectations for schools that serve over-aged and under-credited students.

- An appropriate expectation would include graduation rates of fifth, sixth, seventh, even eighth year students and refer to state policy regarding when a student ages out of public education.

- Ensure that Arizona does not wrongly burden its citizens by creating more dropouts, thus creating additional loss in economic gains.
Concerned with reliance on the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate

NAEA recommends SEAs & LEAs develop-adopt differentiated accountability for graduation rates at alternative education schools and programs

NAEA also recommends SEAs & LEAS redirect & focus funding for high-quality nontraditional education