

AZ Alternative Education Consortium



Educate, Inform,
Advocate

September 14,
2015



AZ Alternative Education Consortium

VISION

College & career (post-secondary education & workplace) ready school completion through accountable alternative education

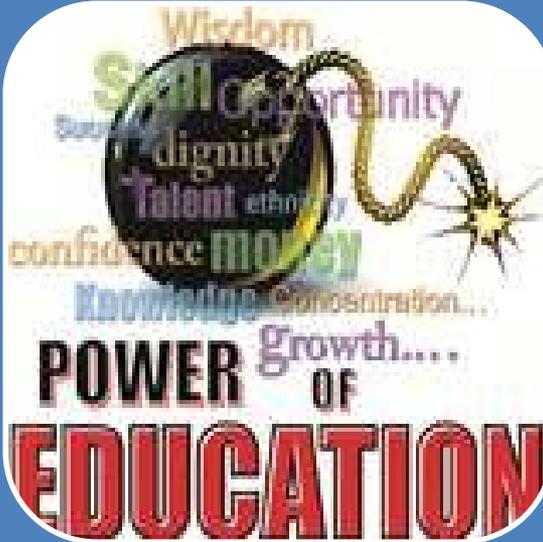
MISSION

- **To provide alternative education with a forum in which to gather information, conduct research, educate the public, and inform public policy.**

STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Membership Benefits (Communication)**
- **Organizational Development**
- **Educate, Inform & Advocate**





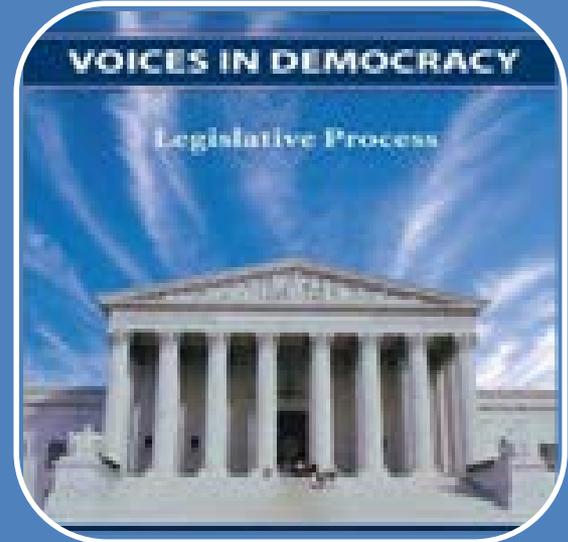
Education

- Research
- Policy Studies
- Data Collection & Analysis
- Bibliographies
- Conferences
- Symposia
- Workshops



Intervention

- Speakers Bureau
- Organizing
- Consulting
- Task Forces
- Convening/Facilitating
- Amiable Confrontation
- Special Position Papers



Direct Action/ Legislation

- Marches
- Rallies
- Drafting Legislation
- Lobbying
- Lawsuits

Advocacy Continuum

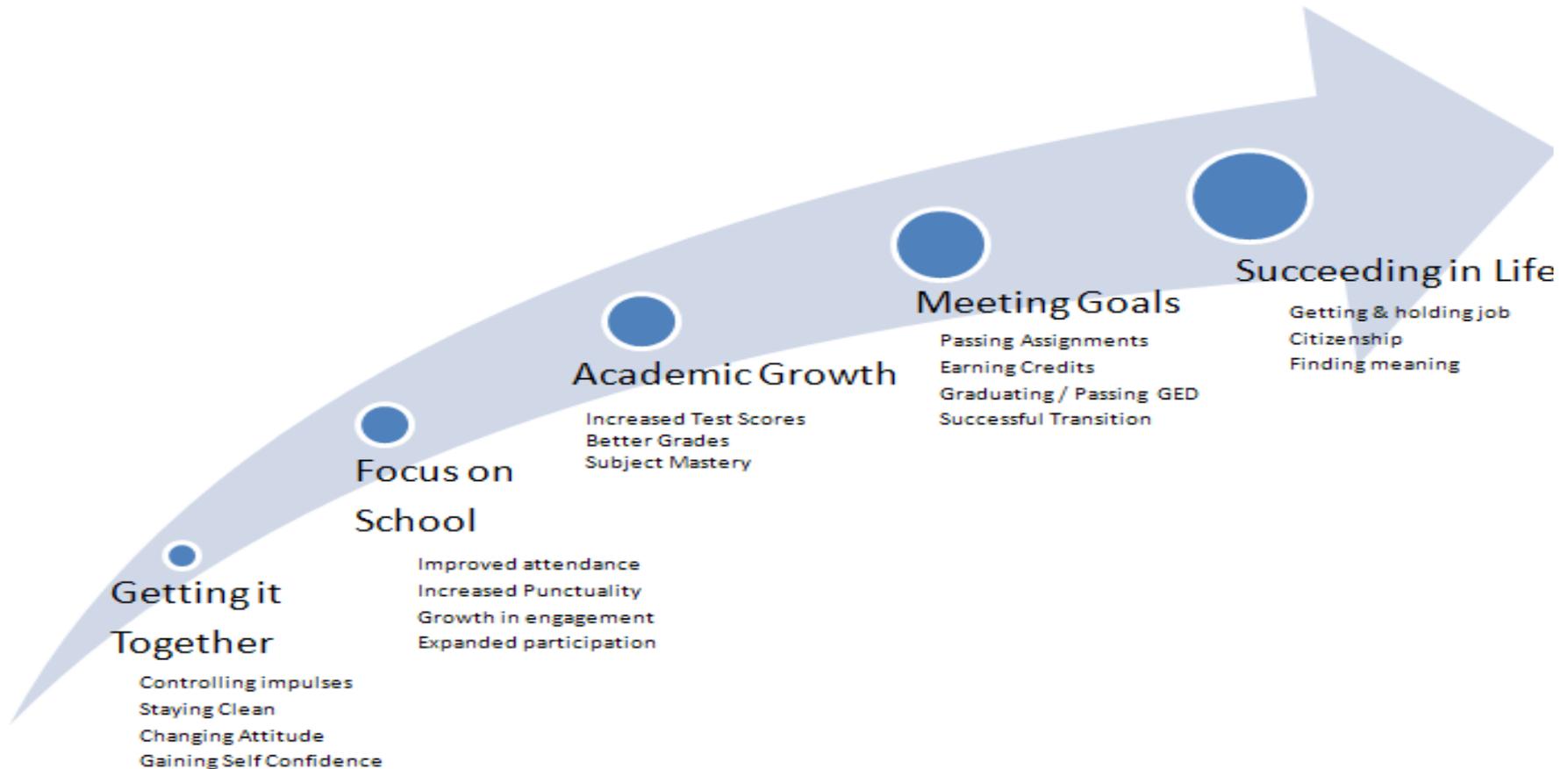
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EDUCATE & INFORM



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Typical Development of an Alternative School Youth



Conduct Research

- Poll about including Fall 2014 AIMS retesters in SY 2014 – 2015 accountability calculations
50% yes 50% no
- Poll about “below average” performance criteria
- Survey about Multiple Measures in October 2015



Position Statements

- Parallel yet Unique Achievement Profiles
[Unique Achievement Profiles 6-26-15](#)
- Multiple Measures in School Accountability
[Multiple Measures 8-17-15](#)



Unique Achievement Profiles

Challenge

- Alternative designation may be confusing to public.
- Unique labels for relatively small number of schools.

Opportunity

- Work underway to revise AZ's A-F letter grade system

Benefit

- Parallel, yet unique, achievement profiles communicate clearly
- Consistent with the unique student population identified by SBE



Multiple Measures

Challenge

- “One size does not fit all” even with adjustments to AZ’s models & frameworks

Opportunity

- Currently a time of change
- Inclusion of multiple measures strengthens AZ academic accountability

Benefit

- Alt (nontraditional) public ed remains accountable
- Data, especially measures aligned to school’s mission provide additional information about **school quality**



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ADVOCATE



Schools' Questions

- How are achievement profiles (or lack of) going to be used in the ASBCS Academic Framework?
- A through D-Alt scale was set using distribution scale (graded on a curve). 75% of alternative schools are charter schools.
 - Subcommittee talked in 2012 about setting expectation for points (not simply the letter grade)
- Concerns about calculating SGP for alternative high schools. With “Improvement” gone, 35% of Framework may not applicable to alternative high schools. “An overall rating will only be assigned if $\geq 65\%$ ” (Academic Performance Framework & Guidance, p. 19)



Further Policy Considerations for ASBCS

- Two “masters” for Academic Accountability.

This is a source of confusion for charter schools, despite our efforts to clarify.

- Multiple measures

Continue and enhance at ASBCS and encourage ADE **flexibility** in allowing schools to show their own measures, aligned to the AZ College and Career Ready Standards as well as the charter’s mission and educational philosophy.



Thank You!

We appreciate your continued collaboration as academic accountability is refined for
all Arizona students.

We are eager to contribute further to the work of the Academic Performance Framework subcommittee.

