



# APRIL 2016 ASSOCIATION UPDATE

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# michael's story

## ARIZONA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOL



Like any proud father, Michael Galola speaks glowingly when the conversation involves his two sons. Jericho, 6, and Michael Jr., 8, are both Cub Scouts who love the outdoors, whether it's hiking, biking, visiting the beach or playing in the snow. They are also taking swim lessons and growing to become avid swimmers. Their father is excited for the boys' future, specifically the education, social and career opportunities that await them. Galola's current

optimism sits in stark contrast to the uncertainty he faced about four years ago when the boys were both diagnosed with autism. Learn how a Phoenix charter school changed the lives of Michael and his two sons, replacing their doubt with hope.

[www.azcharters.org/charters-changing-lives](http://www.azcharters.org/charters-changing-lives)

# join the conversation

- **ON OUR WEBSITE** - share your story via our website, [www.azcharters.org/charters-changing-lives](http://www.azcharters.org/charters-changing-lives)
- **ON SOCIAL MEDIA** - Use #ChartersChangingLives on twitter and mention @AZCharterSchool in your post!
- **STAY CONNECTED** - Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter (email [megan@azcharters.org](mailto:megan@azcharters.org))

# PROPOSITION 123

MAY 17, 2016

# PROPOSITION 123

MAY 17, 2016 SPECIAL ELECTION

## THE FACTS

Prop 123 adds education funding over 10 years to K-12 students and settles a lawsuit on K-12 funding between the legislature and public schools. The settlement includes money from the general fund and increased distributions from the State Trust Land, which exists to support public education.

### IF PROP 123 PASSES

- ♦ Schools will receive additional funding for the current 2015-16 school year, beginning June 2016.
- ♦ The increased trust distribution ends in ten years.
- ♦ Inflation funding continues in perpetuity.
- ♦ \$625 million will be paid in additional funds over the next 10 years.
- ♦ The settlement will have constitutional protection.

### IF PROP 123 FAILS

- ♦ No additional funding, and the lawsuit resumes.
- ♦ Schools will lose their portion of the \$74 million that was allocated as additional funding for fiscal year 2015-16, unless the legislature acts.
- ♦ No guarantee exists that a future Arizona Supreme Court will set the base level at a specific amount or award any back pay.
- ♦ The State Trust Land distributions will stay at currently approved levels.

## POTENTIAL QUESTIONS

Q: HOW CAN PROP 123 MONEY BE USED?

A: No policy strings or specific requirements placed on the money so the funds can be spent on compensation for teachers; professional development; technology; etc. as locally decided.

Q: WHY A SPECIAL ELECTION?

A: The legislature called a special election to provide constitutional protection to this proposed settlement. Voters are required to approve any distribution changes from the State Trust Land.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE TRUST LAND AND HOW CAN THE MONEY BE USED?

A: The money the state earns from the sale of State Trust Lands is a right granted from the federal government in 1912. Public education is by far the largest beneficiary of Trust Land managed by the Arizona State Land Department, with the current value of land in the trust estimated at \$70 billion.

## VOTER INFORMATION

The last day to register to vote for the Proposition 123 special election is **April 18, 2016**. The special election is on **May 17, 2016** with early ballots mailed out April 20, 2016.

[www.arizona.vote](http://www.arizona.vote)

# PROPOSICIÓN 123

ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL 16 DE MAYO DE 2016

## LOS DATOS

La Prop 123 incrementa los fondos disponibles para los estudiantes en K-12 por los próximos 10 años y resuelve la demanda entablada por las escuelas contra la legislatura relacionada con los fondos educativos. El acuerdo incluye dinero del fondo general y aumenta la distribución de fondos del Fideicomiso de Tierras del Estado, establecido para el sustento de la educación pública.

### SI SE APRUEBA LA PROP 123

- ♦ Las escuelas recibirán fondos adicionales para el año académico en curso 2015-16, comenzando en junio 2016.
- ♦ El incremento de fondos del fideicomiso terminará en 10 años.
- ♦ La inflación de los fondos continua perpetuamente.
- ♦ \$625 millones adicionales se pagarán en fondos en los próximos 10 años.
- ♦ El acuerdo tendrá protección constitucional.

### SI SE DESAPRUEBA LA PROP 123

- ♦ No habrá fondos adicionales y la demanda prosigue.
- ♦ Las escuelas perderán \$74 millones designados como fondos adicionales para el año fiscal 2015-2016, a no ser que la legislatura tome acción al respecto.
- ♦ No hay garantía que la Corte Suprema de Arizona establecerá un nivel básico de fondos u otorgará ningún pago retroactivo.
- ♦ La distribución de fondos del Fideicomiso de Tierras del Estado permanecerá en los niveles aprobados actualmente.

## POSIBLES PREGUNTAS

P: ¿CÓMO SE PUEDE USAR EL DINERO DE LA PROP 123?

R: No hay pólizas o requisitos especiales establecidos para el uso de estos fondos, por lo tanto pueden utilizarse para pagar maestros(as); proveer entrenamiento profesional; adquirir tecnología educativa; etc. Según lo decidan localmente.

P: ¿POR QUÉ UNA ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL?

R: La legislatura decidió por una elección especial para proveer protección constitucional al acuerdo propuesto. Los votantes tienen que aprobar cualquier cambio en la distribución del uso de los fondos del Fideicomiso de Tierras del Estado.

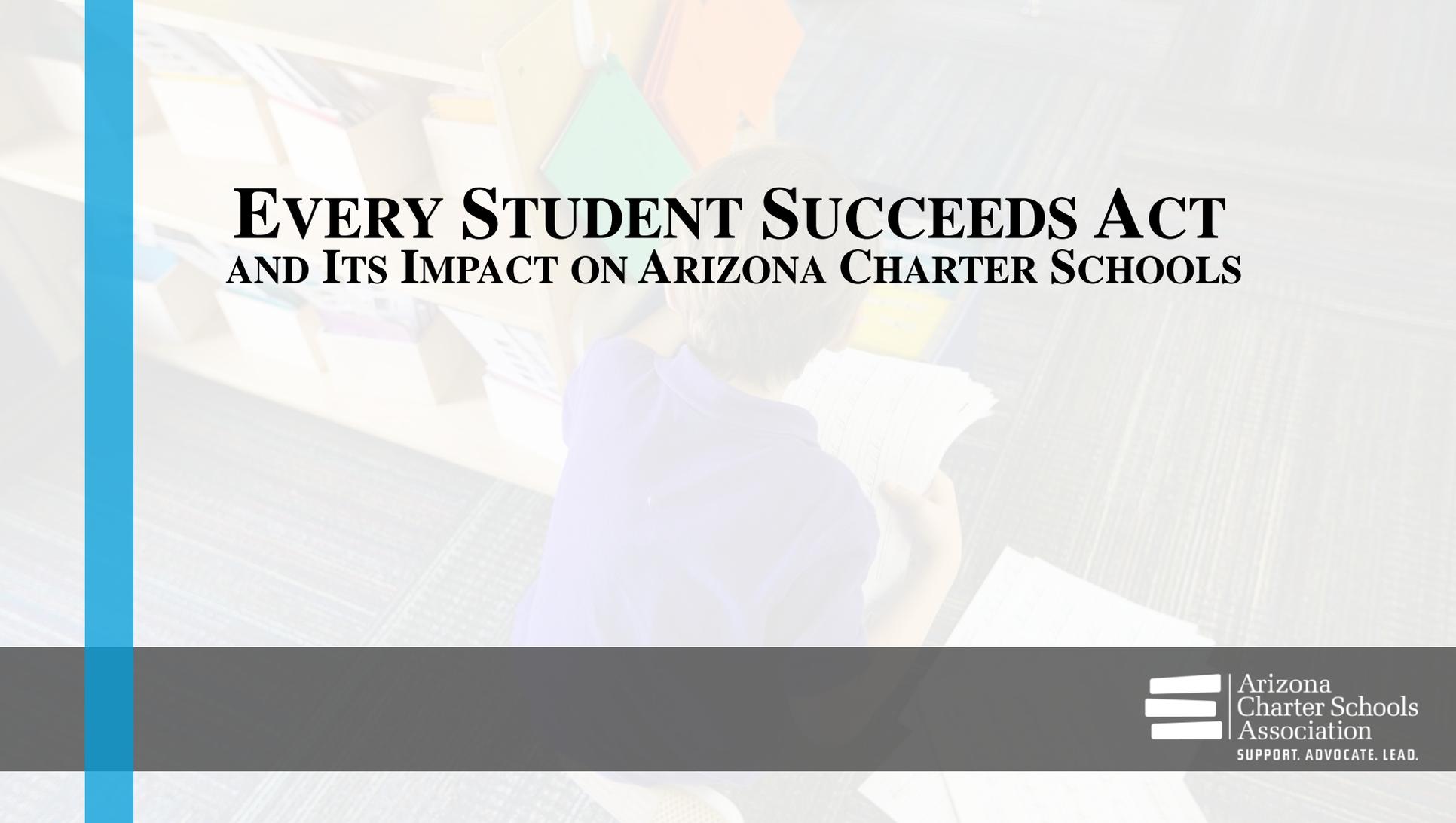
P: ¿QUÉ ES EL FIDEICOMISO DE TIERRAS DEL ESTADO Y CÓMO SE PUEDE UTILIZAR?

R: Es el dinero que el estado obtiene por la venta del Fideicomiso de Tierras del Estado y es un derecho provisto por el gobierno federal en el 1912. La educación pública es el principal beneficiario del Fideicomiso de Tierras del Estado manejado por el Departamento de Tierras del Estado de Arizona, actualmente la valuación de las Tierras del estado es estimado en \$70 billones.

## INFORMACIÓN PARA LOS VOTANTES

El último día para registrarse para votar en la elección especial de la Proposición 123 es el **18 de abril de 2016**. La elección especial es el **17 de mayo de 2016** y las papeletas tempranas serán enviadas por correo el 20 de abril de 2016.

[www.arizona.vote](http://www.arizona.vote)

A student in a purple shirt is seen from behind, sitting at a desk and reading a stack of papers. The desk is cluttered with various papers and folders. The background shows a classroom environment with shelves and other papers. The overall image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible.

# **EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT AND ITS IMPACT ON ARIZONA CHARTER SCHOOLS**



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# ESSA TRAINING

The Association held an ESSA training for members on the new federal education requirements in March and covered key provisions including:

- Standards
- Assessments
- Accountability
- Charter School Program
- Title II
- Impact on Arizona's Charters

[WWW.AZCHARTERS.ORG/ESSA](http://WWW.AZCHARTERS.ORG/ESSA)

# STANDARDS

Questions that need to be answered:

- Is Arizona going to further revise the existing standards?
- If so, how will the state show alignment with postsecondary readiness?

# ASSESSMENTS

Questions that need to be answered:

- How will Arizona set up the menu of assessments?
- How will ED handle menu of assessments for elementary and middle schools, and how will Arizona respond to any potential roadblocks?
- How will you ensure the right safeguards are in place so these assessments are rigorous and truly comparable to statewide tests?
- At both the state and LEA levels, how will can you be sure funding is used effectively when conducting assessment audits?

# ACCOUNTABILITY

Questions that need to be answered:

- What are aggressive but achievable goals?
- Beyond tests and grad rates, what indicators will add to the picture of school performance as opposed to masking outcomes?
- How will Arizona adjust A-F to include new indicators and reflect the performance of all groups of students?
- What is a rigorous definition of “consistently underperforming” for groups, especially on the indicators for which there aren’t clear goals?
- What are appropriate supports and interventions for the lowest performers?  
Schools with underperforming groups?
- What are the right timelines for these support and interventions? They need time to take hold, but we can’t let students languish.

# ACCOUNTABILITY

What is the responsibility of charter holders?

“Accountability provisions under this Act shall be overseen for charter schools in accordance with State charter school law.”

- Do responsibilities for school improvement fall to authorizer? Charter holder?

# CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Questions that need to be answered:

- Will an entity besides ADE apply for a CSP grant after this cycle?
- What steps can be taken to improve Arizona's chance of winning the grant again?
  - ✓ Equitable financing
  - ✓ Better assistance in accessing facilities
  - ✓ More widely leveraging charters as a school improvement strategy

# TITLE II

What decision will need to be made at the state and local levels?

- Will Arizona use its teacher evaluation system to define effective?
- Will Arizona change its evaluation system?
- How will Arizona put its teacher equity plan into action in addressing inequitable distribution of teachers?

# IMPACT ON ARIZONA'S CHARTERS

## Key Questions

- More requirements for consultation with charter leaders – how will you ensure this consultation is meaningful?
- What are charter holders responsibilities as a LEA vs. the responsibilities of authorizers?
- What role will charters play in building a new accountability system? What are your priorities?

[WWW.AZCHARTERS.ORG/ESSA](http://WWW.AZCHARTERS.ORG/ESSA)

# NEXT STEPS

## Charter School Feedback

The Association will work with members to ensure charter schools have a voice during implementation.

- Webinars
- Webpage
- Feedback Form

[WWW.AZCHARTERS.ORG/ESSA](http://WWW.AZCHARTERS.ORG/ESSA)



# QUESTIONS?



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