



A LETTER FROM ASBCS

"To improve public education in Arizona by sponsoring charter schools that provide quality educational choices"

Board Updates & Action

April Board Meeting

The ASBCS April Board Meeting was held virtually Monday, April 12, 2021. Thank you to all of our Board members and charter operators for their continued flexibility. The April meeting was the first for new members Janelle Wood and Timothy Stratton. Additionally, Board member Erik Twist has stepped off the Board following the expiration of his term. Thank you to Mr. Twist, for your years of service on the Board!

The Board considered and voted on a number of charter amendments, as well as revisions to the AOI Amendment process, which can be reviewed [here](#). The Board also approved the addition of Probation Risk Levels to the Financial Performance Framework.

See all Board action taken at the April 2021 meeting [here](#).

The next Board meeting is scheduled for:
Monday, May 10, 2021

New Guidance Relating to Safe In-Person Learning

From the Arizona Department of Education

Last week, several new pieces of guidance were issued to support schools with in-person learning. Please review them and share them with the appropriate people on your team.

- The U.S. Department of Education has released the second volume of "[ED COVID-19 Handbook](#)" - containing updated guidance for creating safe learning environments.
- Arizona county public health experts and local school leaders provided examples and answers to highlight the best practices to successfully mitigate COVID-19 during periods of in-person and hybrid learning, compiled in [Best Public Health and School Examples: Best Practices](#) by the Arizona Department of Education.
- The Arizona School Facilities Board released the following guidance on ESSER funding and ventilation strategies for reducing the spread of airborne illness.
 - [Recommendations for Reducing Airborne Infectious Aerosol Exposure](#)
 - [School Facilities Board Guidance on Ventilation Projects Using ESSER 1 and 2 Funds](#)
 - [State Procurement Office: ESSER/HVAC Update](#)
 - [HVAC Parts and Supplies: Directions for Awarded Vendors](#)

Threat Vulnerability Assessments for Phoenix Area Charter Schools

The Phoenix Police Department is now scheduling Threat Vulnerability Assessments (TVAs) for public, private, and charter school facilities in the City of Phoenix. A TVA is the combined effort of school personnel and first responders conducting a physical security evaluation of the location to improve safety and security.

The program is for all educational facilities located near, providing services to, and/or are in the City of Phoenix. If your facility does not meet the above criteria, please still submit a request.

The program will start on June 1, 2021, and will run until the assigned School Resource Officers return to their schools after the summer break.

An assessment consists of the following:

Request – the attached electronic form is designed to collect basic information about the school so an account can be created and a questionnaire sent.

Questionnaire – an electronic survey with related questions about the school to be completed by the school prior to the physical assessment walkthrough, the "homework assignment." The questionnaire must be completed before an assessment team is assigned to a location. The questionnaire will take 2-4 hours to complete and is a permission-based program; each user will receive their own login.

Assessment Walkthrough – each walkthrough takes about 2-3 hours, longer for larger schools. The walkthrough will consist of an overview of the questionnaire, a question and answer session, a tour of the facility grounds, and a brief verbal out brief/report. At least one school representative, more are welcome, needs to be present that can answer both physical and administrative questions.

Options for Consideration – this is the written report that each facility will receive approximately two weeks after the assessment walkthrough. The report can be accessed through the same database portal through which the questionnaire was received.

The program is for all educational facilities to

Apply Now for the 2021-22 Governor's Youth Commission

The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) is seeking inspiring youth leaders from Arizona high schools to serve on the 2021-2022 Governor's Youth Commission (GYC).

The GYC brings together a diverse group of high school students from all fifteen Arizona counties to identify and address the greatest challenges facing Arizona's youth by developing innovative community impact projects, establishing partnerships with young leaders across the state, and advising the Governor.

Commissioners are selected through a competitive application process. If you know a high school student with a passion for service and leadership, please share this unique opportunity to serve as an ambassador in a nationally recognized leadership program!

Applicants must be a sophomore, junior, or senior student during the 2021-2022 school year.

Applications are currently being accepted until **May 7, 2021 at 5:00 PM** from Arizona youth in all fifteen counties.

[Apply Here!](#)

include new locations, not in the current database and previously assessed schools that need to be reassessed and the information updated (maintenance program).

For any questions, please contact Detective Paul Stebbins at:

Paul.Stebbins@Phoenix.gov
or CIKR@azdps.gov

Earthquake Safety in Arizona: Free Virtual FEMA Training Courses for Schools

Arizona is earthquake country. Hundreds of earthquakes occur in Arizona and in adjacent states and Mexico each year. Most events are not felt, but earthquake faults in Arizona and environs are capable of producing temblors of magnitude 4.0, 5.0, 6.0 and rarely M7.0+. Even moderate magnitude earthquakes are capable of causing extensive damage.

Preparing in advance for the ground shaking that accompanies modest- to large-magnitude earthquakes is the best and surest way to mitigate damage and to minimize injury and loss of life. FEMA P-1000 and FEMA 395 are tailor-made for assisting school staff in preparing their facility for damaging earthquakes.

The attached FEMA flyers provides logistics, the registration links and additional information on these virtual training exercise. FEMA provides the trainer and all training materials for the 4-hour short course. There is no fee associated with training and *Certificates of Participation* are available upon request for training participants.

Virtual Training Schedule:

FEMA P-1000: Safer, Stronger, Smarter: A Guide to Improving School Natural Hazard Safety

- DAY/TIME: Thurs. 22 April 12pm – 2pm MST / PDT
- Instructor: Ines Pearce, CEO, Pearce Global Partners
- No Cost for participation
- **Register HERE**

FEMA 395: Earthquake Safety and Mitigation for Schools

- DAY/TIME: Tues. 25 May 12pm – 3 pm MST / PDT
- Instructor: Barry Welliver, Principal Engineer at BHW Engineers
- No Cost for participation
- **Register HERE**

The Arizona Geological Survey is collaborating with Utah's Dept. of Emergency Management and Nevada's Dept. of Public Safety to provide this training.

Please address any questions or concerns to [Dr. Michael Conway](#) at the Arizona Geological Survey at the University of Arizona.

Survey: National Title IV-A Coalition

The [National Title IV-A Coalition](#) works to advocate for full funding for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, or Title IV, Part A.

To help inform these efforts, the coalition is launching a national survey to identify spending trends, successes, and challenges for this program.

ADE Educator & School Excellence is hopeful you can assist in this effort. By completing this voluntary survey, the needs, accomplishments, and experience of Arizona will inform national advocacy and policy efforts.

Data will be compiled into a national report that will be made publicly available.

The survey closes on April 23, 2021 at 11:59 pm ET.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the [Title IV-A Inbox](#).

Take the Survey

Re-Engaging Aspirational Learners Program

From the Arizona Department of Education

Earlier this year, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) partnered with the University of Arizona's Center for Recruitment and Retention (CRR) to ensure that all math educators had access to high-quality professional development and learning opportunities.

ADE and CRR are excited to announce a new program aimed at re-engaging aspirational learners, those students who were absent for over 60% of school days from March 2020 to June 2021. Participating schools will be equipped with program materials and training to re-connect students to their education community, support their developing understanding of foundational mathematics, and provide the basic needs for these learners to thrive.

Enrollment into each group will be based on the grade level the aspirational learner enrolls in for Fall 2021: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, and 7-8. The suggested group size is 15-35 students in a given space.

If your school is interested in participating in the Re-Engaging Aspirational Learners program, please contact Melissa Hosten at mhosten@math.arizona.edu for more information.

GETTING REAL:

Re-Engaging Aspirational Learners



AN ASPIRATIONAL LEARNER IS A LEARNER THAT RE-ENTERS EDUCATION AFTER MORE THAN 60% ABSENTEEISM FROM MARCH 2020-JUNE 2021.

The Program Goal:

TO RE-ENGAGE ASPIRATIONAL LEARNERS IN SCHOOL, RE-CONNECT THEM TO THEIR EDUCATION COMMUNITY, SUPPORT THEIR DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING OF FOUNDATIONAL MATHEMATICS, AND PROVIDE THE BASIC NEEDS FOR THESE LEARNERS TO THRIVE.

What is Provided:

- THE CRR WILL PROVIDE SCHOOLS WITH:
- PROGRAM MATERIALS AND TRAINING TO RE-ENGAGE THESE LEARNERS
 - EACH SESSION BEGINS WITH A NUTRITIOUS SNACK AND A COMMUNITY CONNECTION ACTIVITY
 - MATHEMATICAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OR PROBLEMS THAT ARE CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND INTERESTING

Who is this for?

ENROLLMENT IN TO EACH GROUP WILL BE BASED ON THE GRADE LEVEL THE ASPIRATIONAL LEARNER ENROLLS IN FOR FALL 2021: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, AND 7-8. SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE IS 15-35 STUDENTS IN A GIVEN SPACE.

How do we sign-up?

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT MELISSA HOSTEN FOR MORE INFORMATION.



FBI Alert—Increase in PYSA Ransomware Targeting Education Institutions

From the Office of the Arizona Auditor General

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently issued an alert, [*Increase in PYSA Ransomware Targeting Education Institutions*](#). This alert describes the ransomware attacks, lists known domains associated with recent attacks, and provides a list of recommended mitigations to help protect your organization. You can access other FBI alerts and report incidents of cyber crime at the FBI's [*Internet Crime Complaint Center*](#).

Please share this resource with others in your organization, especially those responsible for information technology (IT) security, cyber-incident response, and training employees on cybersecurity awareness.

We also have IT webinars and FAQs that any government organization can use in the school district resources section of our website at www.azauditor.gov.

Reminders

Next Board Meeting

Date: Monday, May 10, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

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