



A LETTER FROM ASBCS

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

A Statement from ASBCS President Mary Ellen Lee

To our charter operators, teachers, administrators, and community as a whole:

First, let me say 'thank you.' You have all worked tirelessly over the last several months to ensure that all charter students continued learning and growing as both scholars and individuals under such uncertain and trying circumstances. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. My fellow Board members and I are so proud to be a part of the charter community, and I want you all to know just how grateful I am that we can count on you to do right by our charter students.

As the academic year begins, the Board is fully aware that there are still numerous questions and concerns regarding the reopening of schools. Our number one priority at this time is to support all of you, in every way that we can, to ensure a continued high quality education for our students.

The Arizona Department of Education, Governor's Office, and Department of Health Services have released resources and guidance to help schools prepare for this academic year, which we all know will look very different than in years past. The Governor's Executive Orders require this Board to ensure that certain requirements in the Executive Orders are met, that schools consider the benchmarks for reopening, and to evaluate the charters' implementation of their distance learning plans.

School choice was founded on the principle that there cannot be a one-size fits all approach to schools, and the Board is aware that the same founding principle applies to how our schools will reopen this school year. Every school community has different needs which will determine what their reopening process looks like. I am confident in our charters' ability to make the most appropriate choices for their community whether that is offering instruction in-person, hybrid, or online.

Thank you again, for your continued dedication to the education of Arizona charter students, and as one charter community, we will work together to tackle any obstacles that come our way.

Mary Ellen Lee, ASBCS Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ellen Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Board Updates & Action

The ASBCS August Board Meeting was held virtually today, Monday, August 10th. Thank you to all of our Board members and charter operators for their continued flexibility. The Board voted to establish a new Charter Statement of Assurances form to be submitted annually by charter operators, approve a variety of charter

amendments, and more.

Board extends FY2020 audit deadline

The Board voted to extend the fiscal year 2020 audit submission deadline from November 15, 2020 to December 11, 2020. Extending the deadline by approximately four weeks acknowledges the effect COVID-19 has had and continues to have on school operations and the fiscal year 2020 audits without unduly impeding the Board's efforts to fulfill its statutory oversight responsibilities. Under the extension, charter holders that fail to submit their fiscal year 2020 audits by December 11 will be considered by the Board at the December 15 meeting.

See all Board action taken at the August 2020 meeting [here](#).

Arizona Virtual Teacher Institute

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman, Helios Education Foundation and Arizona State University have announced a collaboration to provide training and professional development for every teacher in Arizona.

With financial support and policy engagement from the Governor's Office, the Arizona Department of Education and Helios, ASU Prep Digital's Arizona Virtual Teacher Institute will provide both group and personal training to help Arizona teachers succeed in delivering online instruction.

Free training programs for schools and teachers begin August 11 with a three-day program, "Thriving as a Digital Teacher." Topics are relevant to all digital learning tools and include best practices in online instruction, Web 2.0 tools, setting up a virtual instruction plan, pace charts, monitoring student progress, teaching time and stress management and more.

More information on the Arizona Virtual Training Institute can be found [here](#).

Enrollment Stabilization Grant Application Now Available

The Governor's Office has announced the availability of funds for the [Enrollment Stability Grant Program](#).

The program is designed to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 and provide financial stability to Arizona Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in order to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

Applicants of the Enrollment Stability Program must adhere to all provisions of Executive Order [2020-41](#), [2020-44](#), [2020-51](#).

**Applications are due by Friday
September 4, 2020 at 5 PM.**

[APPLICATION SITE](#)

Reminders

Education Service

Distance Learning Plans & Submission Requirements

**Provider
Declaration Due**

The [Education Service Provider \(ESP\)](#) declaration form is due to the Board by September 1, 2020.

**Next Board
Meeting**

Date: September 14,
2020
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Virtual

All charter schools that are offering a distance learning option must submit a Distance Learning Plan (DLP) to the Board prior to the school's calendar start date as submitted to ADE or by August 14, **whichever is earlier**.

All public schools may submit a Distance Learning Plan (DLP) to receive the flexibility to offer distance learning options for students without an approved Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) program for the 2020-2021 school year.

Every charter was emailed a link to the DLP template by their [Education Program Manager](#) (EPM), and it can be found at the link below. No other template will be accepted by the Board.

Additionally, charter schools must submit to the Board the board minutes considering the benchmarks and other measures outlined in [EO 2020-51](#) for determining when to reopen for in-person instruction, face covering policy, mitigation plan, and the board meeting minutes showing the approval of the mitigation plan to the Board via the Google Drive previously provided by the charter's EPM. It is recommended that all schools provide this information to the Board by September 1, 2020.

[Distance Learning Plan Template](#)

