



A LETTER FROM ASBCS

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

Board Updates & Meeting Summary

The ASBCS August Board Meeting was held virtually Monday, August 9, 2021. Thank you to all of our Board members and charter operators for their continued flexibility. To kick off the meeting, the Board voted to approve another term as President for member Mary Ellen Lee and another term as Vice President for member Hans-Dieter Klose. Congratulations to you both, and thank you for your hard work and leadership!

The Board considered and approved the [FY2023 Budget Request](#), as well as considered and approved changes to the [Financial Performance Framework](#), [Operational Performance Framework](#), and [Audit & Compliance Questionnaire Follow-up Matrix](#).

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

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2021 at 9 am.

U.S. Department of Education releases "Return to School Roadmap"

On August 2nd, the U.S. Department of Education released the "[Return to School Roadmap](#)," a resource to support students, schools, educators, and communities as they prepare to return to safe, healthy in-person learning this fall and emerge from the pandemic stronger than before.

The Roadmap provides key resources and supports for students, parents, educators, and school communities to build excitement around returning to classrooms this school year and outlines how federal funding can support the safe and sustained return to in-person learning.

Over the course of the next several weeks as schools reopen nationwide, the Roadmap will lay out actionable strategies to implement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) updated guidance for K-12 schools, so that schools can minimize transmission and sustain in-person learning all school-year long.

As part of the launch of the Return to School Roadmap, the Department released:

- A [fact sheet](#) for schools, families, and communities on the Return to School Roadmap, reviewing the three "Landmark" priorities, and elevating schools and districts that are addressing each in effective ways.
- A [guide](#) for schools and districts outlining what schools can do to protect the health and safety of students, including increasing access to vaccinations and steps for

implementing the CDC's recently updated K-12 school guidance.

- A [checklist](#) that parents can use to prepare themselves and their children for a safe return to in-person learning this fall, leading with vaccinating eligible children and masking up if students are not yet vaccinated.

Landmark Priorities

The Roadmap includes three "Landmark" priorities that schools, districts, and communities are encouraged to focus on to ensure all students are set up for success in the 2021-2022 school year. **These include: (1) prioritizing the health and safety of students, staff, and educators, (2) building school communities and supporting students' social, emotional, and mental health, and (3) accelerating academic achievement.**

As part of the Roadmap, the Department will release resources for practitioners and parents on each of these priorities, and will highlight schools and districts that are using innovative practices to address these priorities. The Department will also lift up ways that the American Rescue Plan and other federal funds can be used to address these priorities in schools and communities across the country, as well as outline additional investments from President Biden's Build Back Better agenda that are needed to ensure our schools and communities can rebuild from the pandemic even stronger than they were before and address inequities exacerbated by the pandemic, particularly for students in underserved communities.

"Over the past year-and-a-half, as a nation, we experienced struggles like never before. Schools, teachers, students, and families were challenged in ways none of us ever imagined. But from that struggle, came resilience. Teachers, principals, school staff, parents, and – mostly importantly – our nation's students rose to the occasion. They demonstrated what is possible if we follow key mitigation strategies to keep our students and school communities safe. Now, we must use our renewed strength to focus on what matters most: winning the fight against COVID-19, getting our students back in classrooms for full-time in-person learning—together—and making our education system better than ever before so that all students receive the excellent education they deserve," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "I'm proud to be releasing these tools to help make sure students, parents, schools, educators, and communities receive the communication and supports they need to make this academic year a success, and I want all schools this year to lead with a clear focus on health and safety, student wellbeing, and academic acceleration as students return to classrooms nationwide."

Increasing Vaccination in Adolescents

The release of the Roadmap builds upon President Biden's call to increase vaccinations among adolescents as students go back to school. Last week, the President called on school districts nationwide to host at least one pop-up vaccination clinic over the coming weeks, and the Administration directed pharmacies in the federal pharmacy program to prioritize this and to work with school districts across the country to host vaccination clinics at schools and colleges. Vaccination is our leading public health strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic—and it is our best way to prevent COVID outbreaks before they happen, so that schools and colleges can return to safe, in-person instruction all year long. To advance the President's call to action, the Administration will release additional resources that school districts can use to increase vaccination rates among young people, and will continue to partner with communities nationwide to make sure parents and students have their questions answered and have easy access to the vaccine.

As part of the launch of the Roadmap, the White House also released a fact sheet highlighting the Administration's efforts to safely reopen schools and support our nation's students, including how the historic investment in the American Rescue Plan is advancing this work.

Upcoming Efforts & Resources

Over the coming weeks, the Department will provide additional resources to schools, districts, and directly to parents and students as part of the Return to School Roadmap.

This includes:

- Working with partners across the federal government to provide support to schools and districts and answer questions about expanding access to vaccinations for students 12+ and implementing CDC's recently updated K-12 school guidance.
- Holding town halls with parents and parent organizations to highlight ways schools and districts are preparing to keep students safe during in-person learning and underscoring the importance of providing social, emotional, and mental health supports for students in addition to academic supports in our schools.
- Releasing implementation tools for schools, educators, and parents to address the three priority areas of health and safety; student wellbeing; and academics — in areas ranging from supporting schools in their efforts to address lost instructional and extracurricular time to providing information on how American Rescue Plan funds can be used to expand access to mental health supports for our nation's students and educators, and provide additional academic supports.
- Updating Volumes 1 and 2 of the Department of Education's COVID-19 Handbooks to reflect the recently updated CDC K-12 guidance.

Secretary Cardona and other Department officials will be traveling across the country to feature priorities from the Roadmap and highlight schools and communities as they prepare to welcome their students back this fall. The Secretary will also participate in a "Return to School Road Trip" in the fall, visiting schools and districts welcoming students back to in-person learning and successfully implementing the priorities within the Roadmap.

AZ ASCD Professional Development Opportunities

AZ ASCD is offering professional development for educators across the state. A set of webinars will take place this month that are **free** to all Arizona educators and AZ ASCD members!

Redesigning Lessons into Learning Engagements and Experiences

Date: August 11, 2021
Time: 4 PM – 5:30 PM (*virtual event*)

Understanding what students can and want to learn will drive engagement, so why not plan that way? Use your existing plans to find spaces that open opportunities for increased student engagement. Participants will dig into aspects of student engagement and motivation, and investigate how to design effective learning opportunities that will increase student interest and investment in learning. Applicable to any level. Register [here](#).

Inquiry-Based Learning in Any Classroom

Date: August 25, 2021

AZ ASCD Principal Leadership Academy

School administrators navigate the dynamic complexities and subtleties of their schools every day. They promote, facilitate, and lead efforts to achieve both tangible and intangible results throughout the school community. Their roles are crucial for school and student success.

This course will provide district and school administrators with the depth of learning and coaching skills needed to bring the critical functions of instructional leadership to life. Participants will focus on the following topics in the workshops throughout the year:

- Developing into a successful instructional leader
- Understanding effective observation and feedback practices
- Aligning instruction to educator effectiveness tools
- Expanding skills and strategies for working with adult learners
- Prepping and supporting teacher practice that leads to student learning

Time: 4 PM – 5:30 PM (virtual event)

Do you want your students thinking deeper and constructing meaning of concepts and content in their own meaningful ways? In this session, be prepared to engage in an inquiry cycle packed with thought-provoking, inquiry-based learning experiences useful for students at any level, or even for teachers in professional learning sessions. These experiences will center around the use of visible thinking practices, scaffolded questioning, and will provide opportunities to extend learning, allowing engagement of all learners. Register [here](#).

Certificates of participation will be sent to participants.

If you have any questions, please email Info@azascd.org.

• Creating an instructional leadership plan to propel the work forward

Each of these areas will be explored so that Arizona leaders have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to create a school culture that empowers teachers to take charge of their professional learning and growth and build their capacity to address instructional practices that lead to student success.

PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 1

SESSION DESCRIPTION



AUDIENCE
Principals and Assistant Principals

COST
\$995 per participant*
*meals and lodging not included

LOCATION
Gilbert Community Education Center
6839 E. Guadalupe Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85212

School administrators navigate the dynamic complexities and subtleties of their schools every day. They promote, facilitate, and lead efforts to achieve both tangible and intangible results throughout the school community. Their roles are crucial for school and student success. This course will provide district and school administrators with the depth of learning and coaching skills needed to bring the critical functions of instructional leadership to life. Participants will focus on the following topics in the workshops throughout the year:

- Developing into a successful instructional leader
- Understanding effective observation and feedback practices
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- Expanding skills and strategies for working with adult learners
- Prepping and supporting teacher practice that leads to student learning
- Creating an instructional leadership plan to propel the work forward

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TIMELINE OF EVENTS

<p>DAY 1 ONSITE: September 7th, 2021 "Well-Intentioned" Instructional Leadership vs. "Highly-Effective Instructional Leadership": After these sessions, principals will have a better understanding of what it means to be the instructional leader. Principals will finish the session by creating an action plan for themselves to become instructional leaders.</p> <p>VIRTUAL Check-In: September 24th, 2021 Check-In - Assessing our Impact: Participants will examine how leader's thinking might affect his or her leadership behaviors and how these beliefs impact the larger school community. Principals will learn how to create an environment where students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.</p> <p>DAY 2 ONSITE: October 19th, 2021 CONTINUATION OF "Well-Intentioned" Instructional Leadership vs. "Highly-Effective" Instructional Leadership</p> <p>DAY 3 ONSITE: December 7th, 2021 Observation, Feedback Practices & Professional Learning Communities - Participants will be introduced to the tools and strategies needed to create effective professional learning that supports building capacity of all teachers. They will have opportunities to: create action plans, establishing best practices, aligning Curriculum/ Instruction/Assessment, protocols, and practice giving feed for positive change.</p>	<p>VIRTUAL SESSION: January 10th, 2022 Check-In - Assessing our Impact: Participants will examine how leader's thinking might affect his or her leadership behaviors and how these beliefs impact the larger school community. Principals will learn how to create an environment where students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.</p> <p>DAY 4 ONSITE: February 8th, 2022 CONTINUATION OF Observation, Feedback Practices & Professional Learning Communities</p> <p>DAY 5 ONSITE: March 1st, 2022 Summative Measures of Success: How do we know our work has been effective this year? Participants will finish by establishing systems and structures that will support ongoing professional learning. Session will be dedicated to reflecting on the year - what worked and where is their room for growth? Principals will update action plans with series of steps for continuing work forward for capacity building.</p> <p>VIRTUAL SESSION: April 8th, 2022 Check-In - Celebration & Collaboration - In the spirit of collaborative practice, this session will be dedicated to visionary thinking and planning. When school leaders collaborate, there can be an immense effect on the ultimate result: increased student achievement.</p>
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FY 2020 COVID-19 Reporting Form Due August 25, 2021

From the Office of the Auditor General

We have issued the [FY 2020 charter school COVID-19 Reporting Form](#) that charters must complete and submit to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) via the Common Logon **no later than August 25, 2021**. Charters may begin uploading files to ADE on August 11, 2021. Detailed instructions for completing and submitting the form are included within the file. We will issue a separate FY 2021 COVID-19 Reporting Form when we issue the FY 2021 Charter School Annual Financial Report Package in the next few weeks.

This COVID-19 grant use reporting is necessary to allow us to compile and report on how all school districts and charter schools spent and plan to spend stimulus monies in the federal acts related to the COVID-19 pandemic by January 1, 2022, pursuant to Laws 2021, Ch. 408, §54.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Whitaker or Tijana Djordjic at asd@azauditor.gov or (602) 977-2796.

[Office of Inspector](#)

[Quarantine Guidance](#)

General: Guide for Fraud Reporting Requirements

Target Audience: Grantees and subgrantees receiving U.S. Department of Education (Department) funding, and auditors who oversee those funds.

This guide summarizes the fraud reporting requirements most relevant to entities receiving pandemic relief funds and auditors of those entities. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has been conducting outreach with Department stakeholders focused on identifying fraud indicators and best practices in Federal education programs. In the course of our outreach, stakeholders have raised questions about how and when to report fraud.

Grant recipients and auditors should also review all laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, standards, and guidance applicable to them to determine whether they have a professional or legal responsibility to report the occurrence or suspicion of fraud.

OIG Fraud Reporting Guide

for Household & Close Contacts of a Person with COVID-19

From the Maricopa County Department of Public Health

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has issued the following quarantine guidance for household and close contacts of a person with COVID-19. This guide is applicable to and can be used by families outside of Maricopa County, as well.

Quarantine is for people who were exposed to someone with COVID-19 but haven't yet developed any symptoms of COVID-19 themselves. It prevents the spread of COVID-19 by asking people who might be infected to stay away from others until enough time has passed to be sure they don't have COVID-19.

If you were **within 6 feet** of a person with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of **15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period** or had **physical contact** with a person with COVID-19, regardless of whether masks were worn, you **might need to quarantine at home for 10 days**.

Quarantine means you need to:

- Separate yourself from any person (people) with COVID-19 in your home.
- If possible, get tested for COVID-19 with a PCR or antigen (nose swab or saliva) test at a healthcare facility or other testing site. Call 2-1-1 to find a testing site.
 - A negative test might allow you to end quarantine after 7 full days if you have not had any symptoms. (See the Home Quarantine Flow Chart on the back of this page.)
- Stay at home for 10 days after your last contact with the person with COVID-19, except to get essential medical care, prescriptions, and food. This includes:
 - Not using public transportation, rideshares, or taxis
 - Not going to work, school, or public areas
 - If you work in an essential service and do not have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and must go to work during the 10-day quarantine period, you must wear a face mask when you are within 6 feet of other people and self-monitor for any new symptoms.
- Wash your hands and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth AND cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid sharing household items like dishes, cups, eating utensils, and bedding.
- Clean high-touch surfaces (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, etc.) daily.
- Call ahead before going to any medical appointments and tell your healthcare provider about your close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- Continue to monitor your temperature & symptoms and wear a mask for 14 days after your last contact with the person with COVID-19, regardless of when your quarantine period ends.

Follow the Home Quarantine Flow Chart on the back of this page to determine whether you need to quarantine at home.

If you develop any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during quarantine, you need to:

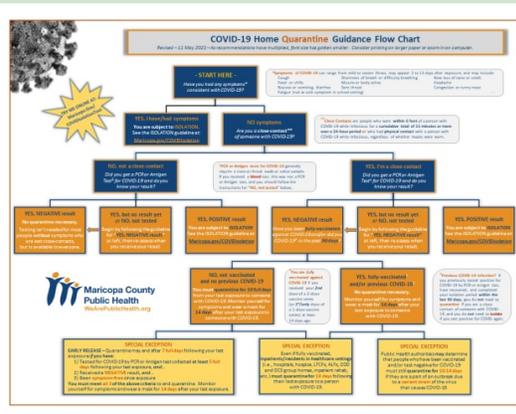
- Get tested for COVID-19 with a PCR or antigen (nose swab or saliva) test at a healthcare facility or other testing site. Call 2-1-1 to find a testing site.
- Follow the Home Isolation Guidance at: Maricopa.gov/COVIDisolation

Symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and may include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue (lack of energy in school setting)
- Nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
- Sore throat, congestion or runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell

Check the CDC website for the latest list of COVID-19 symptoms.

Essential services are defined by Governor Ducey's Executive Order 2020-12, see: https://leg.war.gov/files/default/files/EO_2021.pdf



MCPH Guide

Reminders

Next Regular Board Meeting

Date: Monday, September 13, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

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