



A LETTER FROM ASBCS

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

Board Updates & Action

The ASBCS July Board Meeting was held virtually on Monday, July 20th. Thank you to all of our Board members and charter operators for their continued flexibility.

The Board voted to approve several AOI programs for the upcoming academic year, renewed Legacy Traditional Queen Creek and Casa Grande, and will be meeting again virtually on August 10, 2020.

See all Board action taken at the July 20, 2020 meeting [here](#).

Reminders

Education Service Provider Declaration Due

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

Next Board Meeting

Date: August 10,
2020

Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Virtual

Distance Learning Plans

If a charter school intends to operate using distance learning this year, it must submit a Distance Learning Plan to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (Board). While there is no official due date for this plan, it must be submitted prior to the start of distance learning; therefore, the charter's due date for the distance learning plan is, at a minimum, the day prior to the start of distance learning for students.

Last week, each Education Program Manager emailed information about submission of the Distance Learning Plan, as well as the required template to each charter or charter network. The template for charter schools is clearly titled "Distance Learning Plan Template for Charter Schools" and can be found at the link below. Please ensure that the template you are working with and submitting has this title at the top. No other template will be accepted by the Board. If you have questions about this process, please contact the [Education Program Manager](#) assigned to your charter.

[Distance Learning
Plan Template](#)

Open Letter to Rural Charters from ARSA

Dear ASBCS Charters,

The Arizona Rural Schools Association would like to invite you to join our association of rural educators.

ARSA is dedicated to providing operational support to rural school leaders. While we recognize at the governance level traditional district schools and charters are different, at the instructional level, however, we all have the same mission and face the same challenges.

Charter schools who meet two criteria are welcome to join our association and add their voice to ours. To be eligible for membership you must of course be rural, and cannot be part of a charter chain operator. If your charter includes different school sites serving different grade levels, that's certainly OK. As for rural, there are many differing definitions. The basic rule of thumb is that if you are outside the Phoenix and Tucson municipal boundaries, we consider you rural. There's an old saying in rural schools: "If you think you're rural then you probably are."

As an ARSA member your school will have a focused rural voice with legislators, the State Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. We also have a well-developed relationship with our 15 county school superintendents.

Over the years ARSA has developed close relationships with key legislators and policy makers. We are an affiliate of the National Rural Education Association. NREA is the oldest educational association the United States. Through our affiliation with NREA, your school will have access to a superbly developed network of high-quality rural educators and academics dedicated to understanding rural school issues and finding solutions to the problems we all face.

Membership is \$250.00 per year, and when one staff member joins, we consider the entire school or district ARSA members.

Please feel free to call me any time to discuss member benefits or how to join. We look forward to new members of the ARSA family.

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**Secret Service National Threat
Assessment Center Webinar**

Mass Attacks in Public Spaces

**Arizona State Fire Marshal's
Office Guidance**

Providing A Safe School Environment

Presentation

The Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) will present the findings from the latest study on targeted violence titled Mass Attacks in Public Spaces - 2019 (MAPS-2019). The presentation will address the report's implications for the prevention of targeted violence as part of NTAC's continuous efforts to ensure the informed development of prevention strategy through research.

This free virtual seminar is open to a range of participants including school personnel, campus security, and others with a role in public safety across the United States.

Date and Time

Thursday, August 6, 2020

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM EST (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM PST)

[Link to register](#)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools are challenged to find ways to return to the classroom while observing social distancing and increased sanitation requirements. The Arizona State Fire Marshal's Office has provided guidance to school administrators to assist in providing a safe school environment when students return, focusing on fire drill requirements.

The guidance can be found [here](#).

