



A LETTER FROM ASBCS

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

A Letter from President Lee

Dear Charter Community,

On March 2, 2021, the Arizona Department of Education released the October 1st enrollment numbers for the state. We now know that there has been a significant number of students that have left the public school system, especially in kindergarten. However, there was a bright spot for charter schools: enrollment in charters is up by approximately 18,000 students from October 1st last year. These numbers are a testament to the hard work and commitment of all our charter operators and teachers over this past school year.

Your dedication to your students and school communities is truly a thing to celebrate. Thank you all so much for the work that you do- especially during this past year with all of its challenges. As always, the Board is here to support you in your efforts, and we are ready to work together to continue providing high quality educational options for the students and families of Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Ellen Lee".

Mary Ellen Lee
President, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

ADE & AZ DES Announce Rollout of Additional Nutrition Assistance for Arizona Families

From the Arizona Department of Education

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) are proud to announce the rollout of the Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer, or P-EBT. Authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, P-EBT provides families of eligible children additional funds to purchase food during the 2020-2021 school year. P-EBT is a complement to the meals and snacks currently being provided to children through the Child Nutrition Programs at Arizona schools.

P-EBT funds are intended to support families whose children are enrolled in the National School Lunch Program but have not or do not currently have access to receive a free or reduced-price meal at school during the school day due to a school closure or instances of distance learning. Families who qualify will receive funds for each of the months their child's school offered distance learning during the 2020-2021 school year, starting from August 2020 and ending in May 2021. Receiving a meal/snack through the Child Nutrition Programs (curbside, mobile stops, delivery) during distance learning does not prevent a child from receiving P-EBT.

"I am so thankful for the collaboration between ADE and DES to provide this federal assistance to Arizona families," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy

Hoffman. "Too many families have struggled with food and economic insecurity due to the pandemic over the last year. The P-EBT program will have an immediate and direct impact for Arizona's families and students."

In collaboration to serve the Arizona families who are counting on this support, ADE will collect information on student eligibility and school learning model(s) for the 2020-2021 school year. ADE will relay that data to DES who will then distribute the payments to families directly by loading payments to SNAP cards or to P-EBT cards that were previously issued in April of last year. If families no longer have a card, they can request a new/replacement card from DES [here](#). Students and their families can expect to receive this assistance as soon as April.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved Arizona's plan to administer P-EBT funds to households of children who qualify on a monthly basis for each month of the 2020-2021 School Year. All eligible children in the school will either receive a full or partial payment depending if the school required or offered distance learning for the majority of that calendar month. Students must be enrolled in a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program to be eligible for P-EBT. More information about a P-EBT, including full and partial monthly amounts, can be found on the [DES website](#).

2021 Bright Smiles Kids Awards

Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures has extended the deadline for the [2021 Bright Smiles Kids Awards](#) to **March 31**-- an opportunity for children to unleash their talent and creativity. Groups of students ages 6-14 years old will be able to enter an original idea or project that highlights oral health and positive healthy habits.

Children ages 6-14 may participate in the first-ever national and virtual Bright Smiles Kids Awards where participants can win up to \$6000 on behalf of their organization.

Who

- Children ages 6 - 14 years old enrolled in:
 - Elementary or Middle Schools
 - After-School Programs
 - Clubs, community, service, religious organizations, etc.

What

- Submissions should include a video or slide presentation, up to two minutes long, that showcases the activity or project.

When

- Submissions deadline has been extended to March 31.

Please review the following documents for further instructions:

Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

Arizona has been awarded a 5-year \$20,000,000 federal Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant. The Arizona CLSD project is a competitive grant that proposes to improve child literacy skills and instructional capacity on the science of reading.

This grant project aims to strengthen collaboration, improve efficiency and drive innovation to accelerate language and literacy outcomes.

The focus will be children birth to grade 12 in high-needs schools and qualified opportunity zones serving Arizona's most disadvantaged students. CLSD is a substantial investment that will award up to 25 qualified schools and/or early childhood programs who have demonstrated readiness and the ability to implement.

- [Bright Smiles Kids Awards Website](#)
- [Official Rules and Regulations](#)
- [Activity Ideas](#)
- [FAQ Document](#)
- [Flyer](#)
- [Announcement of BSKA \(Press Release\)](#)



The CLSD grant funding application opens in Grants Management 2/22/2021 and closes on 4/16/2021

For questions, email CLSDgrant@azed.gov.

Grant Information



Our Website is Under Construction!

If you have visited <https://asbcs.az.gov/> since Friday, you may have noticed some changes to our site. These changes are in response to feedback that Board staff has received from stakeholders about difficulty accessing certain items on our website.

For our charter holders, the biggest change is the creation of a tab called "Current Charter Holders" which now houses the majority of information needed by our charter operators. The intent is to provide easier access to Guidance for all Board processes (including amendments, reviews, and renewal), Compliance Information, and Audit Information specific to Charter Holders, as well as providing room to grow as we publish additional guidance and information in the coming months.

We apologize for any inconvenience with accessing information over the next week as we finalize our changes. For assistance, please reach out to your Assigned [Education Program Manager](#).

Agenda Added: ADE's Second Federal & State Fiscal Process Town Hall

From the Arizona Department of Education

Dear Education Leader,

We wanted to send you and your teams a reminder to join ADE's second Federal/State Fiscal Process Town Hall on March 23rd from 3:00-4:30 pm. We are invested in building efficient, effective, and sustainable fiscal practices across the state. More information on our agenda is below.

Agenda

The primary goal of this series is to partner with you to ensure that federal and state funding flows efficiently to you so you can meet the needs of your students.

We hope to connect with superintendents/charter leaders, business managers, and program grant specialists to provide actionable fiscal information and review best practices to gain your insight and support your work.

Register in advance for this meeting: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

[Register](#)

We are looking forward to learning from you!

Sincerely,

Kate Wright

Chief of Staff, Arizona Department of Education

Office Phone: 602-364-1985

Email: kate.wright@azed.gov

Reminders

Next Board Meeting

Date: Monday, April 12, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

[Subscribe to Board Updates](#)

