



## A LETTER FROM ASBCS

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

### Board Updates & Action

#### May Board Meeting

The ASBCS May Board Meeting was held virtually Monday, May 10, 2021. Thank you to all of our Board members and charter operators for their continued flexibility.

**The May Board meeting was the final Board meeting before the summer break- the next monthly Board meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2021.**

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



### Update on HB 2862: Schools & Instructional Time Models

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Arizona State Legislature passed [HB 2862 \(schools; instructional time models\)](#) which was signed by the Governor on 4/28/2021. While the Legislative Session has not yet concluded, the Arizona Department of Education wanted to provide an initial communication so you are aware of these legislative changes and can begin planning for the upcoming school year if you would like to utilize the flexibility provided in HB 2862.

Due to the Legislature still being in session, there could be further legislative changes that impact this information. If any additional changes occur, the Department will provide timely information that can be utilized in planning for the upcoming school year. Nonetheless, A.R.S. § 15-901.05 directs the Department to apply any changes to state law impact school finance to the entire fiscal year in which the change becomes effective.

Therefore, any adopted instructional time model for School Year 2021-2022 will be applied to the entire school year.

Please be aware that the authority to provide distance learning under the Executive Orders issued last summer will expire on 6/30/21. HB 2862 gives school districts and charter schools new flexibility to meet the instructional time requirements in statute, including the ability to provide remote instruction in School Year 2022 and beyond, but requires school district or charter school governing boards to hold at least two public hearings on the proposed approach before utilizing the new flexibility.

## Legislative Summary

This section will provide a brief summary of the legislative changes enacted in HB 2862, for a more detailed summary please review the [House of Representatives As Transmitted Bill Summary for HB 2862](#).

The bill makes the following notable changes:

- Permits school districts and charter schools to adopt an instructional time model for one or more schools after at least two governing board meetings.
- Requires instructional time models to provide students with the minimum number of instructional hours outlined in statute in any day, week and course length increments adopted in the model.
- Permits the delivery of instructional hours through any combination of direct instruction, project-based learning, independent learning or mastery-based learning.
- Allows school districts and charter schools to reallocate any minimum instruction hours required per course, stagger learning times or schedules and offer courses and other instructional time options on the weekend or in the evenings.
- Requires school districts and charter schools to align attendance policies to reflect the adopted instructional time model.
- Permits school districts and charter schools to define instructional time to include any combination of in-person instruction and remote instruction.
- Establishes the following limitations on the total delivery of remote instruction:
  - For School Year 2022, up to 50% of total instruction
  - For School Year 2023 onward, up to 40% of total instruction
- Directs funding for remote instruction over the limitation to be allocated at 95% of the Base Support Level.
- Requires ADE to annually provide a list of school districts and charter schools that provide more than the allowable remote instruction to the State Board of Education or State Board for Charter Schools and directs the applicable board to determine whether the school district or charter school must apply to provide Arizona Online Instruction as prescribed in A.R.S. § 15-808.

## Additional Information for Consideration

The Department would like you to be aware of the following information as you consider what HB 2862 means for your school district or charter school:

- The Department intends to provide further guidance with more detail on implementation of HB 2862, including any additional Legislative changes that are applicable.
- To adopt an instructional time model, a governing board must hold at least two public hearings. School districts and charter schools intending to adopt an instructional time model should begin planning to structure upcoming governing board meetings to fulfill this requirement before the beginning of their school calendar for the upcoming school year.
- HB 2862 repealed A.R.S. § 15-861 which authorized schools to operate on a 4-day week after two public governing board hearings. Schools intending to continue operating on a 4-day week without any changes to the instructional model may provide the Department with a governing board-approved statement indicating the governing board previously held two public meetings to adopt the 4-day week, however if additional changes are made to the instructional model pursuant to HB 2862, including utilizing remote learning, mastery-based learning or project based learning, the governing board must hold two public hearings. More information will be released in upcoming guidance.
- Schools intending to adopt an instructional time model should begin considering how to track and take attendance for instruction provided under an instructional time model.

While this communication is intended to provide preliminary information and notification of this change, if you have any questions as further guidance is developed, please send

## New Charter Application Reviewers Needed

The Board seeks individuals to evaluate applications for new charter operators planning to open in the 2022-2023 school year and beyond. These individuals comprise a Technical Review Panel ("TRP") that reviews and evaluates charter applications and vets charter applicants, ultimately providing the Board a recommendation of approval or denial for new charter applications. Technical Reviewers are compensated for their work.

Please review the scope of work on our website for more information.

Technical Review Panel Information

## Registration is open! School and Community Recovery Virtual Training and Exercises

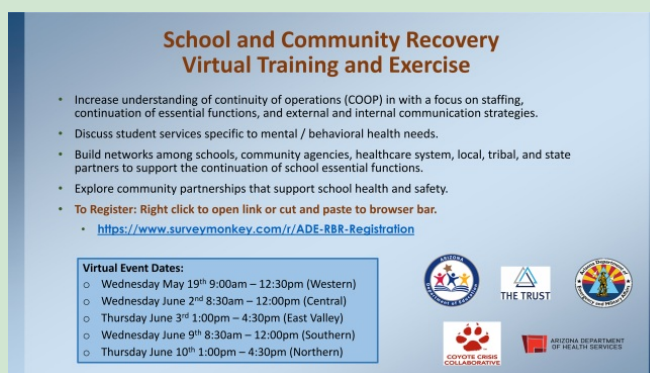
The Arizona Department of Education, in partnership with the Trust, Arizona Department of Health Services, Coyote Crisis Collaborative, and Arizona Division of Emergency Management is excited to announce that registration is open for the School and Community Recovery Virtual Training and Exercise.

The School and Community Recovery Virtual Training and Exercise is being offered as a resource for building whole community partnerships, and to better understand how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted Arizona's educational system and their community partners. Consortia members have identified priority areas for discussion including:

- **Changes to curriculum/instruction;**
- **Back-up staffing and staff well-being; and**
- **Student mental/behavioral health.**

Please contact Linda Mason ([Linda.Mason@azed.gov](mailto:Linda.Mason@azed.gov)) with any questions.

Register Here



**School and Community Recovery Virtual Training and Exercise**

- Increase understanding of continuity of operations (COOP) in with a focus on staffing, continuation of essential functions, and external and internal communication strategies.
- Discuss student services specific to mental / behavioral health needs.
- Build networks among schools, community agencies, healthcare system, local, tribal, and state partners to support the continuation of school essential functions.
- Explore community partnerships that support school health and safety.
- **To Register: Right click to open link or cut and paste to browser bar.**
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADE-RBR-Registration>

**Virtual Event Dates:**

- Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 12:30pm (Western)
- Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30am – 12:00pm (Central)
- Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00pm – 4:30pm (East Valley)
- Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup> 8:30am – 12:00pm (Southern)
- Thursday June 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm – 4:30pm (Northern)

Logos for Arizona Department of Education, THE TRUST, COYOTE CRISIS COLLABORATIVE, and ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES are displayed at the bottom right of the flyer.

Educator Peer Support Program

From the Arizona Department of Education

Workshop on Federal Education Programs for

## **You listen to others all day long. Who listens to you?**

Too often, educators avoid seeking emotional support when things get tough. Talking about personal struggles with friends, spouses or colleagues doesn't always feel right.

The emotional stress and the pressure to always be "on" can take a toll.

**If you are a teacher or administrator in Arizona, you can visit the Educator Peer Support Program and be paired with a peer educator who can help you to alleviate the pressure that can sometimes lead to destructive behavior such as substance abuse, depression, or conflict with others.**

This is NOT counseling. It's a peer-to-peer conversation. No notes are taken. No records or reporting.

The Educator Peer Support Program was commissioned by the the Arizona Department of Education and AHCCCS and developed by Corporate Counseling Associates, Inc. (CCA). This free program is available for ALL Arizona teachers and administrators and actively supports educators' wellness.

Educator Peer Support Program  
Website

## LEAs/Charters

With fewer state dollars available, attention turns to federal funds – and compliance with federal regulations becomes even more critical. All federal education grant funds received by local districts (LEAs) and Charters through the Arizona Department of Education are subject to the Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

In addition, LEAs and Charters received new federal funding through the CARES Act, CRRSAA, and the American Rescue Plan (ARP), with new requirements, periods of availability, and plenty of challenges.

The Arizona Department of Education has asked the federal education firm in D.C., Brustein & Manasevit, PLLC, to lead a two-series virtual workshop: the first part will cover requirements under the UGG and EDGAR, as well as technical revisions by the Office of Management and Budget, and flexibilities offered related to disruptions caused by COVID-19 and related school closures; the second part will highlight CARES Act, CRRSAA and ARP funding, including allowable uses and audit preparation, legislative developments and federal policy changes.

- July 22, 2021 - UGG/EDGAR Workshop
- July 29, 2021 - CARES/CRRSAA/ARP Workshop
- Cost - \$195 per workshop

Website & Registration Information

Workshop Informational Flyer

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## Reminders

### **Next Board Meeting**

Date: Monday, August 9, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

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