



## A LETTER FROM ASBCS

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

### A Thank You from President Lee

Dear Charter Community,

As we approach Thanksgiving, the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools would like to extend our deepest gratitude to you all for your incredible work over this past year. Though this academic year has had its obstacles, we are so appreciative to have such dedicated educators and operators making up our charter portfolio.

The Board is working to ensure that we are supporting our charters as best as we can so that together, we continue to create quality educational opportunities for the students and families of Arizona.

Thank you again for everything you do, and we wish you a happy Thanksgiving!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ellen Lee".

Mary Ellen Lee  
President, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

### Board Updates & Action

#### November Board Meeting

The ASBCS November Board Meeting was held virtually Friday, November 20, 2020. Thank you to all of our Board members and charter operators for their continued flexibility. The Board considered and voted on a number of charter contract amendments, as well as the final approval of updates to Rule regarding the Financial Performance Framework.

Additionally, the Board approved the [2021 Board Meeting Calendar](#), which includes amendment request deadlines.

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

Please be aware that our next meeting is not on a Monday:  
**Tuesday, December 15, 2020**

## Arizona Regional Consortiums for School Emergency Preparedness Survey

The Arizona Regional Consortiums for School Emergency Preparedness (ARCSEP) created a survey to gather survey valuable information about lessons learned managing the COVID-19 outbreak from a variety of public entities, including counties and schools.

Notable results include that half of respondents had never conducted emergency scenario planning for a pandemic, and one-fifth did not have 90-day supplies of PPE, cleaning, and/or sanitation products onsite when the shutdown occurred. More insights can be found in the full report [here](#).

## GLSEN releases 2019 School Climate Survey

Last month, GLSEN released their [National School Climate Survey](#), a flagship report on the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in our nation's schools. The report includes information on LGBTQ middle and high school students' experiences with discrimination, biased language, and availability and utility of supportive school resources.

More information and the full report can be found [here](#).

## Arizona Department of Health Services Strengthens Mask Requirement for Schools

From the Arizona Department of Health Services

To protect the health of our school communities, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has issued an [emergency measure](#) requiring district and charter schools to immediately mandate that masks are worn on school campuses, on school buses, and during school-associated activities by all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors.

"Keeping kids and teachers safe is one of our top priorities," said Governor Doug Ducey. "This emergency measure issued by ADHS addresses the serious threat COVID-19 poses to our communities. It requires schools to implement the simple step of mask-wearing to reduce transmission and keep our kids safe."

In July, Governor Ducey issued [Executive Order 2020-51](#), which required all school districts and charter schools to develop and implement a policy to require masks for all staff and students. It also required ADHS and the Arizona Department of Education to work collaboratively to develop the [Guidance for Safely Returning to Schools](#), based on the [Roadmap for Reopening Schools](#).

As part of this guidance, schools must implement COVID-19 mitigation strategies, based on the school benchmarks, to keep students and staff safe on campuses. These mitigation strategies include mask-wearing, physical distancing, increased cleaning and disinfecting protocols, limiting the size of groups, and increased hand hygiene.

"Based on recently released data, we now know masks provide more protection than previously thought," said Dr. Cara Christ, director of ADHS. "The new studies show that wearing a mask also protects the mask wearer, not just those around them. I encourage everyone to wear a mask whenever they are around people they don't live with."

Public health works closely with schools to provide technical assistance to schools on

implementing mitigation measures, such as masks. To ensure everyone who needs a mask has access to one, ADHS has partnered with Hanes to provide five free masks to students and their families. Families and schools can go to [azhealth.gov/ordermasks](https://azhealth.gov/ordermasks) to have free masks shipped to them.

For more information, please visit [azhealth.gov/COVID19](https://azhealth.gov/COVID19).

## Publishing the Arizona Parental Rights Handbook on Your District or Charter Website

From the Arizona Department of Education

Dear District & Charter Leaders,

During the 2020 Arizona Legislative Session, the Legislature passed [Senate Bill 1061](#) which went into effect on August 25, 2020. The new statute requires the Arizona Department of Education to establish and post a statutory handbook of parental rights.

Additionally, per statute, **each school district and charter school is required to post a link to this parental rights handbook in a prominent location on its website.**

ADE has created the 2020 Parental Rights Handbook for school districts and charter schools to post on their websites. You can find the handbook by visiting our "Parents & Families" page on our website or downloading the PDF below.

[ADE Resource Website](#)

[Parental Rights Handbook](#)

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### Reminders

#### **Next Board Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual

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