



## A LETTER FROM ASBCS

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

### Board Meeting Summary & Updates

#### November Board Meeting

The ASBCS November Board Meeting was held Monday, November 22, 2021. The Board was joined by Associate Superintendent Kate Wright, sitting in for Superintendent Kathy Hoffman who recently welcomed her first child into the world- congratulations Superintendent Hoffman!

The Board approved a legislative proposal which will make helpful changes to charter statute, as well as a technical correction to the Financial Performance Framework. See all Board action taken at the November 2021 meeting [here](#).

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 9 am.

#### Arizona Charter Schools Association Conference

It was wonderful to see and talk to so many charter operators at the Arizona Charter Schools Association's Conference last week. Our Board members and staff were truly grateful for the opportunity to speak with attendees, and extend our gratitude to Jake Logan, President of the Association, and all Association staff for bringing so many stakeholders and members of Arizona's charter community together.

## Important Updates: ESSER Data Reporting

From the Arizona Department of Education

#### **Pause on ESSER Data Reporting Collection**

The US Department of Education has just released new guidance to states that serves to update previously released requirements for ESSER (I, II and III) grant data reporting by states and LEAs. This update includes changes to current data elements, the removal of some elements and sections, and the inclusion of new items. Upon review, these changes include, for example, the removal of the requirements for LEAs to report obligations of funds, and data regarding allocations to high poverty schools for Maintenance of Equity (MOEquity).

Given these new development from USED, **ADE is pausing the ESSER Data Reporting process through the GME ESSER Reporting Supplement, and is suspending the previously announced deadline for submitting these data of December 17th.** ADE will provide an update regarding next steps in the coming weeks.

#### **Extension of ESSER III Deadline**

**The deadline for submitting the ESSER III grant applications has been extended to February 1, 2022.** This is a hard deadline with the expectation by USED that all applications will be submitted no later than February 1, 2022.

The ESSER Team is available for support prior to submission. Please contact us at any time. Devon Isherwood, 602 364-0379 or Allison Barbor, 602 542-3068 or [ESSER@azed.gov](mailto:ESSER@azed.gov)

### **ESSER Newsletter**

Did you see our [ESSER Newsletter](#)? This new monthly communication highlights creative uses of ESSER investments, opportunities & resources for LEAs that are funded by federal recovery dollars, and information about reaching an ESSER specialist.

## Suicide Prevention Training for Schools

From the Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System

In 2019, the Arizona State legislature passed Senate Bill 1468 mandating all public school staff be trained in an evidence-based, best practice suicide prevention training at least once every three years.

Known as the Mitch Warnock Act, named after a Tempe teenager who died by suicide, the statute states that AHCCCS will select evidence-based, best practice suicide prevention training materials.

The law went into effect at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and mandates that all school staff who interact with students in grades 6 through 12 must receive suicide prevention training at least once every three years.

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), in coordination with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), have selected the following school suicide prevention training options. School administrators can choose from among these materials as they work toward meeting the statute's requirements.

- Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR).
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).
- At-Risk for High School Educators (available online, and in Spanish).
- Youth Mental Health First Aid.
- Suicide Alertness for Everyone (safeTALK).
- ACT on FACTS (available online).
- More than Sad – Suicide Prevention Education for Teachers and other School Personnel.
- Be a Link! Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training.

The methodology used to select these materials include the review of The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Suicide Prevention Toolkit for High Schools, review of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center for additional gateway trainings, and review of articles addressing cultural considerations, particularly for tribal nations, in suicide prevention. This work was conducted by a third-party contractor.

[Bill Details](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**Reminder: Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plans**

# due TOMORROW

From the Arizona Department of Education

This is a reminder that all LEAs receiving ESSER III funds must develop and make publicly available on their website a plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. The deadline for the submission of these plans to ADE is November 24, 2021.

Resources to assist LEAs with this process, to include the required [plan template](#), guidance and recorded webinars, may be found on [ADE ESSER website](#). LEA plans that have already been submitted to ADE are also posted on this site at the bottom of the page.

## **How do I know if my LEA's plan was submitted?**

All submitted/approved plans were [posted](#) as of Monday, November 1, 2021.

If your LEA submitted a plan and it does not appear in the list on our website, it may be because the plan was not in the [required template](#). If this is the case, we ask that you resubmit your plan using the required template.

Please contact the ESSER Team at [ESSER@azed.gov](mailto:ESSER@azed.gov) if you have any questions regarding this process.

Submit Your Plan

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## FY22 American Rescue Plan Homeless II Application

From the Arizona Department of Education

Dear School Leaders,

This is a formal notification of your Local Education Agency's (LEA's) ability to apply for the ARP Homeless II grant for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 included additional monies within the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to support the specific and urgent needs of homeless children and youth due to the impact of the Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19). To this end, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) awarded each State Educational Agency (SEA) funds proportional to those received under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 in the most recent fiscal year.

Arizona received a total allocation of \$16,914,124 for ARP Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HYC) funds, with \$9,520,398.00 set aside for grant allocation for the ARP Homeless II. On the [ADE Homeless Education Program Funding page](#), the [ARP Homeless II Allocations per LEA](#), USDE guidance, and new allowable use of funds are provided. The allocations are based on a formula provided by the U.S. Department of Education. The formula utilized the amount of Title 1, Part A allocated in FY20 and the greater number of homeless students reported for the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school year for each LEA. LEAs with an allocation threshold of \$5,000 or less will be required to join a consortium.

One of the purposes of the ARP-HCY program is to provide wrap-around services considering the challenges of COVID-19. Therefore, ARP-HCY funds may be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national emergency was declared. The ARP Homeless II Project is set to end on September 30th, 2023.

However, carryover will be allowed until September 30th, 2024 with a final drawdown date of January 31st, 2025. The ARP Homeless II application will be released on Friday, November 12th. A recorded webinar will also be available on the [ADE Homeless Education Program Professional Development page](#) by Friday, November 12th, 2021 (under the "funding" tab).

Please refer to the hyperlinked documents and resources included in this letter and on the ADE Homeless Education Program website for additional information regarding the ARP Homeless II allocations. For questions regarding your FY22 allocation or your fiscal application in the GME System, please email [Homeless Education Inbox](#) or contact Silvia Chavez, the State Homeless Education Program Specialist at 602-542-4963.

[Register Here](#)

## Update to Arizona Residency Guidelines

During the 2021 Legislative Session, lawmakers passed Senate Bill 1420 to require this state or any political subdivision of this state to accept a consular identification card that is issued by a foreign government as a valid form of identification if the foreign government uses biometric identity verification techniques in issuing the consular ID. This bill also states that "biometric identity verification techniques" includes fingerprint identification and retina scans.

Because school districts and charter schools are considered political subdivisions of this state, the Arizona Department of Education has updated the [Arizona Residency Guidelines](#) to include consular identification cards as an accepted form of verifiable documentation for enrollment. In the revised guidelines, you will find consular identification cards listed as an option for verifiable documentation. These new changes are effective as of September 29, 2021.

[Guidelines in English](#)

[En Espanol](#)

## ESEA Consolidated Grant Application

ESEA (Title I) Consolidated grant has an application deadline coming up for Established Charter Schools. Any charter school that is operating in FY22 can apply for FY23 funding using October 1, 2021 enrollment and poverty data. The due date for the application is December 1, 2021.

The next deadline will be April 1, for any New or Expanding charter schools who wish to use projected FY23 enrollment and poverty data for FY23 funding and also any Established charters who missed the December 1 deadline.

**ESTABLISHED AZ Charter LEA Application for New Title I/II Funding**  
*This form is for use by ESTABLISHED AZ Charter LEAs seeking Title I-II Funding*

Submit this completed form to [New&ExpandingCharter@azed.gov](mailto:New&ExpandingCharter@azed.gov). Due by **December 1st** for eligibility in the next fiscal year.

Applicant Charter LEA Name \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ CTDS Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date Charter Opened \_\_\_\_\_

Charter Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Charter Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Certification:** In submitting this information, I agree to fulfill the responsibilities of a Charter LEA requesting Title I/II funding

- *Comply with all program requirements.*
  - *Complete a Comprehensive Needs Assessment for each school site*
  - *Complete 3 Root Cause Analyses for each school site using the Fishbone templates*
  - *Compose a School Site Integrated Action Plan for each School (SIAP)*
  - *Compose an LEA Integrated Action Plan (LIAP)*
  - *Develop the components and procedures associated with a Targeted Assistance Title I Program*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Official Title Date

**Responsibilities for Notice and Information**  
**§76.788 What are a charter school LEA's responsibilities under this subpart?**  
(2)(ii) An SEA is not required to provide funds to a charter school LEA until the charter school LEA provides the SEA with the required actual enrollment and eligibility data.

(c) **Compliance.** Except as provided in §76.76.791(a), or the authorizing statute or implementing regulations for the applicable covered program, a charter school LEA must establish its eligibility and comply with all applicable program requirements on the same basis as other LEAs.

Arizona Department of Education August 2019 <http://www.azed.gov/titled-charters/>

# Required: Posting Child Abuse Hotline Information in Your Schools

From A for Arizona

The Arizona Legislature recently passed [H.B. 2862](#), which is the nation's most robust law on flexibility for instructional time decision making. A for Arizona is convening a two-part series of learning sessions to outline and explore these new flexibilities, consider what is possible by those leading the way this school year, and be empowered to take action so you and your public school or system can drive where, when and how learning takes place.

Join Us!

## **Where:**

Events on Jackson  
245 East Jackson Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

## **When:**

Session 1 - Thursday, December 2, 2021 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Session 2 - Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

## **Schedule:**

### **New Instructional Flexibilities in Arizona**

Thursday, December 2, 2021

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Learn the ins and outs of this new innovative policy, understand the impact of this new law, review initial guidance already provided by state agencies, and explore a variety of models underway to reimagine instructional models at your school or system. Hear from your colleagues and experts about the variety of instructional models available to utilize. This is a great opportunity to explore what is possible to drive learning for your students without the confines of traditional "seat time".

### **Onward to Implementation!**

#### **Take Action & Launch Your Innovative Instructional Model**

Thursday, February 10, 2022

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Hooray! You have decided to take advantages of Arizona's instructional flexibilities. This session is your opportunity to gain access to experts, resources, and organizations to help design and implement your vision. You will also have space to work with your colleagues and state agencies to identify what steps you need to take to fully implement your instructional model, forecast community engagement, and the necessary compliance measures you will need to take to be successful.

## **Cost:**

Supporters who fully believe in your efforts and wish to further fuel your work have generously made this event possible and free of charge to you.

If you need to cancel your registration please do so by Wednesday, November 24 to ensure an accurate count.

Please know that a no-show to the event translates as an expense paid by A for Arizona and lost. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding and look forward to sharing this event with you!

## Questions?

For event questions or to learn more visit [AforArizona.org/seat-time-flexibility-event-series](https://AforArizona.org/seat-time-flexibility-event-series) or contact Daniel Duran, [daniel@aforarizona.org](mailto:daniel@aforarizona.org).

# ADE Digital Teaching and Learning Opportunity Assessment

From the Arizona Department of Education

Earlier this month, Superintendent Kathy Hoffman sent the [Opportunity Assessment \(survey\)](#) for the [Office of Digital Teaching and Learning \(ODTL\)](#) to county/district Superintendents and charter school representatives. This assessment will be beneficial for setting targets for growth in digital learning. Based on the information received, ADE will identify, prioritize, and allocate resources for support. We are confident that together we will be able to achieve our goal of connectivity, devices, and skills for the AZ K-12 community of schools and ultimately benefit the success of our students in the state of Arizona.

If you did not receive the message titled "ADE Digital Teaching and Learning Opportunity Assessment," please request access to the Opportunity Assessment by filling out this form:

### **[Request the Opportunity Assessment](#)**

Your participation in this Opportunity Assessment is essential, and we want to make sure that all your schools are represented. Your response to the assessment – before December 15 - will allow your schools to receive the services and resources that the [Office of Digital Teaching and Learning](#) is committed to providing to Arizona to better digital learning in Arizona.

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## **[Apply for ADE ESSER Project Funds](#)**

This email is a reminder that eligible organizations, including LEAs, can now apply for ESSER III set aside funds available as part of the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) ESSER Project Funds. Set aside funds refer to dollars available at the discretion of ADE for statewide strategic projects and investments.

The application for ESSER III set aside funds is due December 10, 2021. All eligible organizations are encouraged to apply. Find more information, including guidance documents, on the [ADE ESSER III set aside application webpage](#). You can find application information on the [Arizona Procurement Portal](#). Select "Open Solicitations" from the welcome page and enter the RFGA number BPM004016 as a keyword.

While LEAs can apply for ADE ESSER Project Funds via the ESSER III set aside [application](#), ADE encourages all LEAs to first view and apply for the ESSER funds directly available to them via three federal packages: CARES ([ESSER I](#)), CRRSA ([ESSER II](#)) and ARP ([ESSER III](#)).

Notably, eligible LEAs should apply for their allocated ESSER II funds as soon as possible and for ESSER III allocations ahead of the February 1, 2022 deadline.

[Learn more about the pots of funds available exclusively to LEAs \(ESSER I, II, and III\) and, separately, to non-profit organizations, universities, LEAs, and other community partners \(ADE ESSER Project Funds\) in our new ESSER Infographic](#)

**AZ Public Charter Schools  
Drinking Water Testing Opportunity**



The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is currently offering water testing services to public charter schools for lead. This effort is made possible by funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This funding opportunity is known as the WIIN Grant: [Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water](#).

This project is a continuation of previous water testing work completed by ADHS in [licensed child care facilities](#), and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in [public schools](#). While drinking water has not historically been found as a cause of lead poisoning in Arizona, ADHS intends to take a proactive approach to protect Arizona's children.

The primary goals of this project are to:

- offer services to test drinking water fixtures of public charter schools serving younger children, especially those under 6 years of age, first
- offer services to test drinking water fixtures of all public charter schools in Arizona by the end of the project period
- provide education about lead exposure and the importance of testing to all public charter schools

Coconino, Mohave, and Yuma County staff agreed to participate in the program sampling activities and are responsible for coordinating testing in public charter schools within their respective jurisdictions. ADHS is working with Dominion Environmental Consultants, Inc. to coordinate testing in the remaining counties. Schools in the remaining counties will be contacted by [Dominion Environmental Consultants, Inc.](#) to coordinate water sample collection starting in November 2021.

Collection of water samples from your facility is voluntary. However we hope that you will take this opportunity to join the fight in eliminating sources of lead in Arizona and protect Arizona's children. If a water sample comes back elevated, ADHS will work with your school to design an appropriate response and provide guidance on targeted remediation.

25 schools have already had their water tested. For test results and additional information please visit our webpage at [www.azdhs.gov/lead/WIIN](http://www.azdhs.gov/lead/WIIN). Results will only be posted once the remediation option has been implemented.

Check out our Water Screening Flyer for more information. If you have questions or would like to know more about the Public Charter Schools Water Screening Program please contact us at [waterscreening@azdhs.gov](mailto:waterscreening@azdhs.gov) or call us at 602-364-3118.

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## **Reminders**

### **Next Regular Board Meeting**

Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual & In-Person

**Subscribe to Board Updates**

