



A LETTER FROM ASBCS

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

Board Updates

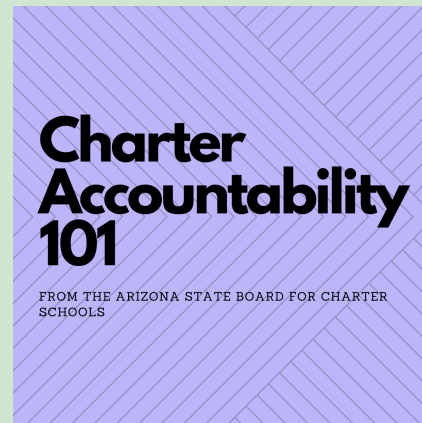
The ASBCS September Board Meeting was held today, September 13, 2021. Thank you to all of our Board members and charter operators for their patience as we work to offer both in-person and virtual options for participants.

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

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2021 at 9 am.

September Campaign – Charter Compliance Info

Check out the Board's [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) pages for information this month regarding compliance and accountability! Feel free to share with your staff, families, and community members as we spread the word about charter accountability in Arizona.



Charter School Site Visits for 2021–2022

Due to the constraints of the pandemic over the last year and a half, Board staff pivoted from in-person school site visits to virtual site visits and desk reviews. Each of these virtual site visits and desk reviews gave staff insight as to how to better support you all as charter operators. With this knowledge and experience, staff has worked to create an improved hybrid site visit process, launching in FY22. This will allow staff to visit more schools than ever before and make each site visit as impactful and streamlined as possible.

Schools undergoing a first, second, fifth, or tenth year review, as well as those going through renewal will participate in a Desk Review process. This process will include the following:

1. Charters will provide compliance and academic documentation to Board staff for review prior to staff visiting the school in-person.
2. The charter will then participate in a virtual review call with Board staff, allowing Board staff to ask questions and gain additional clarification from charter and school leaders.
3. The school will then receive a "pop-in" visit.

Pop-in visits will focus on reviews of safety documentation (such as fingerprinting and occupancy), as well as adherence to, and implementation of, a charter holder's program of instruction. At a pop-in visit, Board staff will briefly meet with school administration (if

available), conduct classroom observations, and review key compliance documentation. The pop-in visit is intended to last one to three hours to limit the amount of time needed from charter or school staff.

All schools in one of the above processes are guaranteed a pop-in visit in FY22, AND ANY SCHOOL in the portfolio could receive a pop-in visit at any time throughout the school year.

Guidance documentation for the pop-in process will be posted to the Board's website in the next two weeks to assist school staff in being knowledgeable and prepared.

The Board is mindful that this year is beyond challenging for schools; therefore, please know that this site-visit process will be as flexible as possible to ensure the least disruption to schools and their leadership.

Arizona Department of Education School Finance: Necessary Correction of -21008 Errors

From the Arizona Department of Education

School Finance has worked with other departments across the agency to identify an ongoing issue that is affecting OCT1 counts and other federal data reporting requirements. As of FY20, race and demographic data are no longer rolled over from one year to the next in the AzEDS rollover process. ADE IT provided vendors with a change to the submittal of race and demographic data in January of FY19 through the posted [Use Case document](#), discussed it during vendor meetings in FY19, and reviewed that race should be a required field during the vendor certification process for FY20, 21, and 22. The change was also announced to the field through multiple ASCUS meetings in FY19. Despite these communications, as well as ongoing communications from Achieve, our data analysis shows that an increasing number of districts are not submitting the race data the agency needs for every Arizona student.

It is **IMPERATIVE** that every school district and charter district review their INTEG15 report for Accountability, Other errors and submit the missing race data for every student with a [-21008 error](#). If you see the race data in your SIS and it is not reflected in AzEDS, please contact your vendor.

We are working with all affected departments in the agency to determine if this rule should impact funding in the future. **We highly recommend that all LEAs monitor this data and ensure all -21008 errors are resolved in anticipation of a possible change to this Integrity rule category.**

FY 2021 COVID Reporting Form Due Date Extension and Updated Form

From the Office of the Auditor General

To allow school districts and charter schools additional time to finalize and record accurate COVID-related grant spending in their FY 2021 accounting records, we have extended the due date for the FY 2021 COVID Reporting Form to be uploaded to the Arizona Department of Education to **October 1, 2021**. We have also added a table and instructions in the FY 2021 form to capture amounts received as a vendor or beneficiary, rather than as a grantee, to help ensure such amounts are consistently excluded from reported COVID-related grant awards and spending.

To further facilitate this timely reporting, we are allowing the use of a subset of summarized accounting data with only the COVID-related grant spending on the accounting data tab in the FY 2021 COVID Reporting Form Excel file. We added a Parse Account Field button to this tab in the school district form to parse this subset of accounting data directly in this file.

Therefore, school districts and charter schools should prioritize any remaining decisions and journal entries needed to accurately report eligible COVID-related spending through June 30, 2021, within the grants in the other federal funds/projects range (funds 300-399 for school districts or projects 1310-1399 for charter schools).

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Votroubek or Tijana Djordjic at asd@azauditor.gov or (602) 977-2796.

Sincerely,
Arizona Auditor General

GLSEN Phoenix's 2021 Virtual Back2School Summit

The annual GLSEN Phoenix Back2School Summit is a great opportunity to meet LGBTQ advocates and youth leaders, attend workshops, and build skills to strengthen your school's GSA/inclusive curriculum.

This free, two-day virtual event is a great way for educators and students to start their year with an inclusive mindset and a strong toolkit.

Sept 25 & 26, 2021 (on Zoom)

Our exciting line-up of workshops and speakers is coming soon!

[Register Here](#)

2021-22 Compliance Statement of Assurance Due October 1st

Reminder: the 2021-22 Compliance Statement of Assurance has been issued by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and is due October 1st.

The Charter Representative is responsible for downloading the form below, initialing each line, and signing the form. **Only forms filled out and signed by the charter representative on file with the Board will be accepted.**

Please reach out to your [Education Program Manager](#) with any questions.

[Compliance Statement of Assurance](#)

OELAS Guidance to the Field

From the Arizona Department of Education

Dear Superintendents, Directors, and Coordinators:

I hope this email finds you well and that as you continue to navigate the ongoing challenges that have resulted due to the pandemic, you are also enjoying the excitement of connecting with families, educators, and, of course, students as you begin the new school year.

As LEAs transition back to in-person instruction, we understand there are many things to prepare for and consider. To support your efforts, included below are a few reminders, guidance, and updates.

- School districts and charter schools operating through an adopted ITM (Instructional Time Model) are still responsible for the identification of English Language Learners and provisions of the required minutes in the Structured English Immersion model/s the LEA has adopted pursuant to Title 15, Chapter 7, Article 3.1, Arizona Revised Statutes. [The document HB2862 Final Guidance provides detailed and important information.](#)
- As promised to those that attended the New EL Coordinator Boot Camp, we have compiled your questions from the training and have included responses in this [EL Coordinator Boot Camp FAQ document.](#)
- OELAS has received several questions from the field on AZELLA Placement and Stand-Alone Field Testing. The following links include guidance that has been provided by colleagues in our Assessment Unit. Please send any testing-related questions to AZELLA@azed.gov.
 - [Assessments Overview - 2021 and Beyond](#)
 - [AZELLA Infographic](#)
 - [Alternate Assessment Infographic](#)
- The professional learning team continues to offer virtual training opportunities to educators around the new ELP Standards, AZ's Language Development Approach and Teaching Reading Effectively to English Learners. For more information read our [OELAS Professional Learning Opportunities flyer.](#)

Please reach out to your [OELAS Education Program Specialist, Laura Alvarez](#), Unique Populations Deputy Associate Superintendent, or me, with any questions you have.

Sincerely,

Melissa Castillo, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Arizona Department of Education

Reminders

Next Regular Board Meeting

Date: Monday, October 18, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Virtual & In-Person

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