Arizona’s Education Climate

Good news, bad news, and clearing up some common misconceptions

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Arizona has been near the bottom when it comes to K-12 spending for years.
Arizona’s Relative K-12 Funding

If all administration expenses were moved to the classroom, AZ would move from 49\textsuperscript{th} to 47\textsuperscript{th} place.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Public Elementary–Secondary Education Finance Data
Arizona has been near the bottom when it comes to K-12 spending for years.
80% of all K-12 spending goes to salaries and benefits, so low education funding means low-pay for teachers. Phoenix and Tucson teachers are paid substantially less than those in competitor cities, even when controlled for cost of living.
Historic Trend

- Arizona was ranked 34\textsuperscript{th} in per-pupil revenue in 1992
- 12\% below US average
- Ranked 48\textsuperscript{th} in 2014
- 31\% below US average
- AZ increased real funding by 5\% 1992-2014
- US increased 19\%
- State share of revenue declined 4\%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Public Elementary–Secondary Education Finance Data
Where Does K-12 Funding Come From?

2014 K-12 Per-Pupil Revenue by Fund Source

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Public Elementary–Secondary Education Finance Data
Prop 123 Funding

Prop 123 adds about $300 per student until 2025

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Public Elementary–Secondary Education Finance Data
Prop 301 Expiration

Prop 301 expires in 2021: loss of $600 per student

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Public Elementary–Secondary Education Finance Data
NAEP Results

Arizona’s 8th Grade Math Scores: 2005-2015

Source: National Center for Education Statistics NAEP Data Explorer
NAEP Results

Arizona’s 8th Grade Math Scores: 2005-2015

Source: National Center for Education Statistics NAEP Data Explorer
Arizona is the only state to have statistically significant increases in Grade 4 and Grade 8 scores for Math, Reading, and Science for 2009-2015.
District Enrollment by Grade 2014-15

Source: 2014 Superintendent's Annual Report
Charters and District Schools

High School Graduation by Number of Schools

District or Charter School's 5-Year Graduation Rate

Source: NCES, ADE
Charters and District Schools

High School Graduation by Number of Schools

Source: NCES, ADE
High School Graduation by Number of Students

District or Charter School's 5-Year Graduation Rate

Source: NCES, ADE

District Schools  Charter Schools
Charters and District Schools

College Attendance by Number of Graduates

Source: NCES, ABOR
Who Controls K-12 Education?

Standards: What should students know?

- Arizona statutes have mandated standards since at least the 1990s.
- Although the federal government encourages standards, the states decide what those standards are.
- Arizona College and Career Readiness were adopted in 2010.
- New standards for English and Math were adopted in December 2016.
- These standards were developed in Arizona by volunteer committees of teachers, parents, administrators, and others.
Who Controls K-12 Education?

**Standards:**
What should students know?

**Curriculum:**
How will students be taught the content of the standards?

- Curriculum is set by individual districts and charter holders.
- Curriculum includes specific course offerings and textbook selection.
- By statute, the local districts and charters set the curriculum.
- Curriculum must be aligned to the standards set by the state.
Who Controls K-12 Education?

Standards: What should students know?

Curriculum: How will students be taught the content of the standards?

Assessment: How will we know what is working?

• AIMS was a high school graduation requirement from 2006 to 2015.
• AZMerit is now used to test College and Career Ready standards.
• AZMerit is *not* a graduation requirement.
• Students are required to pass the same civics test taken by naturalized citizens.
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