

Letter from Scott Leska to Arizona's Charter Schools

Date: 26 September 2015

Subject: Arizona Academic Standards Adoption

You may know, I am the Chairman of the Arizona Academic Standards Development Committee. In March of this year, Arizona's Governor, Doug Ducey, requested the establishment of a committee to review and replace the Arizona Mathematics Standards and English Language Arts Standards through the Arizona Board of Education. This committee is comprised of 17 members consisting of teachers, university/college professors, an elected school board member, parents, school administrators, business owners, AZ Board of Education members, charter school representatives, and our State Superintendent of Public Education, Diane Douglas.

In our last meeting, the committee established two sub-committees. These sub-committees will dive into the details of both the Mathematics and English Language Arts standards by grade level. As part of the process, we will be soliciting input from your families. We want to know how the current standards are affecting your Charter School's families, but most of all... our students. We need to know what is not working, and what needs to be replaced, changed, or reinforced.

The Arizona Board of Education has developed a web site Parent Portal for your convenience and access. It has been activated for you to make comments on the State's currently approved Common Core aligned English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics standards.

Our parent's comments are crucial to ensure that their comments are heard. This committee wants to ensure that the end result will become what our Governor has stated, "Arizona Standards that are written by Arizonans which are 'high quality' and that the rest of the Nation will look up to."

The comment period is open until October 22nd.

I was wondering if you can help facilitate the posting of this on your Charter School's social media, Parent/Teacher Organization within your school site(s), on your websites, in your newsletters, or wherever you feel you can get this word out. It is imperative that we get this out to all of your school(s)' site(s) and their families, so that everyone has the opportunity to provide input of our current academic standards. I am hoping that you can help send this to every school administrator within your charter school, and ask them to post it on your school web site(s), within their school PTO/PTA groups, and on their social media outlets as well. I have attached the Arizona Board of Education's press release on this as well for your reference.

Here is the Arizona Board of Education's Parent Portal: <https://k12standards.az.gov/>

Select the "Read the Standards" link to read over the standards (<https://k12standards.az.gov/read-standards>). I have also attached a copy of the standards for your families' information as well. Then, click on the link "Comment on the

Standards" (<https://k12standards.az.gov/comment-standards>) to submit your comments. We hope to have the public meeting schedule posted soon.

Again, we have until October 22nd to make comments. We know many families have Fall Break plans in October and may be out of town during this comment process. I have been working with the Governor's office and the Board of Education to have this window extended, but there are no guarantees it will be extended. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at sleska@amphi.com.

Best regards,

Scott Leska

Board Member,
Amphitheater Unified Public School District #10

Chairman,
Arizona Standards Development Committee