

Tracy Livingston Campaign Pledge

TIME FOR A TEACHER TO LEAD

Big moments to lead us to 85% High School graduation rate and 60% of students attaining CTE or college degree by 2030.

Call to Action at the Department around Accountability and Transparency:

- As Superintendent, I will build a team of premier educational professionals along with business professionals to run the day to day business of our state's most significant expenditure (by far): public education; in service to our most important asset: our kids. This team will also work with all stakeholders to build a 10-year strategic plan of action, publish it, benchmark progress and keep it up to date.
- As Superintendent I will work with our County and District Superintendents and engage in their communities on the issues that affect Arizona families and advance your ideas on how to help our kids.
- On regular visits I will substitute for a teacher that needs time away to plan/observe teachers or work on the campus in another capacity in the morning; and the afternoon will be devoted to district/campus interaction with staff members. Communication and leading from the front will be a key component to my administration.
- Put out a call to action for teachers throughout the state to be part of a "Brain Trust" on major topics like Curriculum, IT, ELL, Early Literacy and Early Math Literacy, CTE, Sped and many more.
- Teachers and Districts deserve answers and we will have a process and culture at the Department for rapid response and assistance. No more will calls go unanswered or without the knowledge that someone is working on the issue. If teachers have 24 hours to answer all emails and begin the process of solving issues for our kids, so will the department.
- Hire an outside firm to audit the ADE, publish audit and implement changes suggested, not only financially but in operating practices.
- District and State Audits with the creation of an easy-to-use statewide website to report all school spending and funding to the public.
- Make Communication a priority at ADE to promote education. I will issue a weekly update and monthly State of Education and use multiple platforms to receive feedback.
- Remove the unfunded mandates from Title 15 throughout the first year in office.
- Streamline the certification and re-certification process, making it user-friendly and cost-effective. I will work with our rural areas to take on the process, so a teacher does not drive to Phoenix just for paperwork. I will also work to move to the Praxis exam for certification instead of our state exam, expanding reciprocity with other states.
- Raise the cut score of the early literacy project and the civics test, and work for the implementation of an early math literacy program along the lines of the early literacy. I will also work with our Teachers on quality resources to be used for the fostering of reading and math.
- Move Teachers Academy/Professional Development to an online system that is high-quality and allows teachers more time for community engagement and classroom work.
- Advance the conversation on moving away from our current funding model to backpack funding.
- Reach out to leading businesses within the state to establish a school facilities advisory board that can create high-level recommendations for facilities and efficiency improvements.

Testing:

We have to ask, why do we test? As a teacher, I want to evaluate the achievements and areas of improvement for every child from testing, designing a system with our Governor and legislature to help our students grow. Testing should be a tool for teachers, and not a burden. My #1 goal is to allow teachers to teach.

- Move from AZ Merit to an ACT/SAT designed test at 4th, 8th and 11th grade. Districts will choose from Menu of assessments 3rd,5th,6th,7th, 9th and 10th grade. This system will also be designed to fit an A-F standard for all schools.
- Move from the Azella test to the WIDA consortium for our English language learners. WIDA would provide state partnerships and a multitude of resources giving teachers more flexibility when teaching, testing, and preparing our ELL for graduation from the ELL program. We are one of four states that do not belong to this important partnership and vast set of resources.

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Curriculum:

- Teachers should lead in designing and implementing curriculum.
- We must build a "Move on when Ready" system built on the standard of basic mathematics, reading and writing proficiency by 3rd grade.
- I will work with our community college and university system to bring college classes in high schools through partnerships to create choice for our excelling students.
- Fund optional full day kindergarten to give more educational options on every campus.
- Give school districts the tools and support on curriculum to encourage out of the box thinking and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Funding:

- Design a funding formula that places our kids in the best school for them. This includes a formula that is funded adequately and stops the archaic bonds and overrides that are Band-Aids to the problem.
- All districts to be audited and all finances posted online for the public.
- Find ways to centralize spending that is done at all schools like supplies, textbooks and IT to cut cost.
- Free or discounted bus passes/light rail for all public and public charter high-school students as well as redesigning our transportation system to assist all students in traditional public and public charter schools.
- Work with House, Senate and Governor to establish consistent sources of funding, with dollars following the child and supporting teachers in our classrooms and Prop 301 reform.

Standards, Academics, and Innovation:

Currently, we do not have an education system which prepares students for success. Our teachers need support to develop programs to help our kids on multiple pathways. Every child should be able to go into a vocational program or a four-year university when they graduate from an Arizona high school. Innovation should be rewarded, and districts should create programs that align with their community's needs. The department is committed to working with the US Department of Magnet Education to make sure any district that needs assistance in its grant writing or award completion gets the guidance they need.

- Teachers Academy for Professional Development
- New Standards and quality resources for CTE, Languages, Civics, ELL and Bullying Prevention. We would establish different graduating requirements for those using the CTE/Community College Pathway as opposed to the University Pathway.
- Senior Project Menu (created by ADE with criteria) to be implemented along with the CTE graduation requirements.
- Have a set standard and testing system for ELL learners so they can be quickly entered into general public classrooms. We must do away with the four-hour block for ELL students and bring back second language learning as early as kindergarten.
- Implement career development and exploration standards and resources for the K-8 teacher.
- Raise pass score for High School Graduation Civics Test and work with programs like iCivics to build curriculum to expand civics education across all grade levels.
- Students are to participate in the CTE program 9-12 program through either awareness activities, exploration activities or preparation activities and take a minimum of two CTE credits. All students will create a resume and a plan of action final essay that reflects their experience, college and career goals, future plans.

School Choice for all:

Whether a traditional public school or charter public school, we all want the best for our kids. I want to be the Superintendent for all schools and that means bridging the gap. I want to work to level the playing field when it comes to funding and performance accountability, as well as services and support from ADE like transportation and facilities.

Higher Education:

As Superintendent I will make building partnerships my top priority because it brings resources and results faster into the classroom. We know that our Community Colleges and University are recognized nationally for their innovation and level of excellence. As your Superintendent I will bring our Community Colleges and Universities into the conversation on our K-12 education system. I will work with these and other leaders to help raise standards, develop better curriculum and grow programs that will better our students learning experience and prepare them for the future. We need to stop looking at our K-12 system and say the work ends at K-12; we must build a system designed for students to move into career education and college degrees. I see a K-12 system where we have community colleges and universities sharing campuses with our local community schools. I see pathways where our families have choices like community college, universities and career/technical education and this partnership will finally strengthen our ability and make it possible for our schools to serve our children's needs. We must build online programs, shared staffers focused on transition points in a child's education and counselors and special education educators working with all grade levels. This will bring enhanced programs, strategic advancements for all and new ideas to the table which is what our system desperately needs.



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