



# Arizona Business & Education Coalition PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT – 2011

ABEC developed Principles of Agreement that embody the core philosophy by which we evaluate and take positions on education issues, which are summarized below. On specific issues or legislation, we will always engage in full discussion and dialogue prior to decisions.

## Educator Effectiveness

ABEC believes that educator effectiveness will flourish when the proper conditions exist in the state and the education system provides a systemic approach to professional development focused on leadership, recruitment, development, and retention at all levels.

- Among the components that support educator effectiveness are high quality preparation, compensation systems based on performance and expertise, and incentives which reward excellence.
- A well-designed, performance-based compensation system for educators must include key criteria that measure impact on student achievement.

## Student Achievement

- Ensuring career and college readiness and advancing student achievement throughout Arizona's K-12 public school system is ABEC's foremost priority.
- Educational programs and instruction must be aligned in a continuum, from pre-school through higher education, to support the goals of higher achievement and academic rigor.
- Effective, evidence-based remediation and strategies are necessary to assist students who do not meet standards, drop out or fail to graduate.
- Timely and productive access to a statewide data system by educators and decision makers at all levels providing accurate student achievement data for individual students, classrooms, schools, districts, and the state is imperative.

*The Arizona Business & Education Coalition is a 501 (c)3 statewide membership organization providing a balanced forum for business and education leaders to collaborate and improve K-12 education policy, with linkages to pre-kindergarten and postsecondary education. Guiding principles include: increasing public awareness about the relationship between Arizona's future workforce and the quality of the K-12 system; actively and effectively influencing education policy; and sharing responsibility for the growth of student achievement in Arizona. For more information, visit [www.azbec.org](http://www.azbec.org).*

## Accountability, Assessments & Information

- An accountability system is imperative that effectively measures student learning and takes a systemic approach to education that requires the responsible evaluation of:
  - INPUTS: Highly effective teachers and administrators, financial resources, and facilities;
  - PROCESS: Curriculum and instructional delivery aligned with the Common Core and Arizona Academic Standards, with assessments used as an indicator of the demonstration of knowledge; and
  - OUTCOMES: Student achievement, as defined by the Common Core and Arizona Academic Standards.
- Accountability-based reforms demand a transparent and understandable information management system that links enrollment data with achievement data.
- School administration should be held responsible for setting educational and budgetary priorities with the focus on increasing student achievement.

## General Fund, Revenues & School Finance

- Education is a long-term investment and the foundation for Arizona's future economic success.
- We are jointly responsible for enacting policies which recognize that educating our children is Arizona's top priority.
- In the long term, Arizona's education budget must fund enrollment growth and inflation in order to promote continuous improvement and quality and must adequately address school facilities.
- Arizona's funding system must be redesigned to reflect:
  1. FAIRNESS for all students and taxpayers
  2. SUFFICIENT RESOURCES to meet expectations for student achievement
  3. FLEXIBILITY for districts and schools in the use of resources, paired with accountability in the achievement of student achievement benchmarks
  4. REWARDS innovation and efficiencies
  5. TRANSPARENCY in all aspects of the system
- Revenues used to fund schools should be raised in an equitable manner among all taxpayers, and not place an undue burden on any one community or constituency.