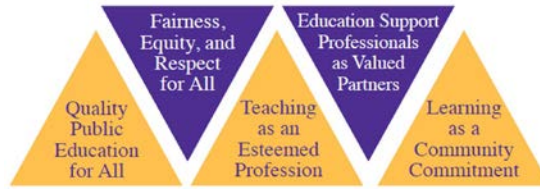




2015 AEA Legislative Agenda



Goals:

1. To advance sound education policy that meets high standards for teaching and learning and ensures a high quality education for all Arizona students.
2. To promote necessary, equitable, and adequate funding for public education as an investment in Arizona's children and its future.
3. To promote fairness and respect for public education and all public education employees.
4. To maintain a fair and secure retirement system for current and future school employees.

❖ Quality Teaching and Learning

AEA will advocate for policies that promote a systemic approach to quality teaching and learning inclusive of teacher preparation and certification; professional development, including mentoring and career development; evaluation; and compensation structures.

AEA will advocate for the necessary flexibility in the English Language Learner (ELL) models and required documentation as well as adequate funding to meet the needs of all ELL students and content providers.

AEA will advocate for educator input into the implementation of the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards and accompanying assessments including the technology and infrastructure needs of LEAs, schools, and educators.

AEA will advocate for a delay in the high stakes consequences currently in statute related to LEA, school, and individual ratings of effectiveness as well as compensation structures tied to mandated assessment data until the data demonstrates validity and reliability.

AEA will advocate for differential testing options for students with special needs that provide alternate standards and assessments that meet students' intellectual abilities.

❖ Public Education Funding

AEA will advocate for adequate and equitable public education funding that supports quality teaching and learning to high standards. To realize such funding, AEA will advocate for state tax policies that are sustainable, research-informed, and aligned with long-term economic strength.

AEA will advocate for investment in public education to provide salaries adequate for the recruitment and retention of highly-effective education professionals.

AEA will advocate for resources to support the effective implementation by LEAs and schools of any enacted education policies, mandates and/or reforms.

AEA will advocate for the restoration of the inflation funds as per the court ruling on the per pupil base level reset.

AEA will advocate for a dedicated funding system to address the capital and building repair needs of LEAs.

AEA will advocate for investments into school readiness via early childhood and K-3 educational programs.

AEA will advocate for career and technical education funding to assist students in preparing to enter the workforce

❖ Fair Employment Rights

AEA will advocate for restoring teacher employment rights relating to contract dates, RIF process, salaries, nonrenewal notices and association work.

AEA will advocate for due-process rights for education support professionals (classified employees).

❖ Retirement System

AEA will advocate for retirement system policies that sustain a Defined Benefit plan for state employees.