



Arizona
Education
Association

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Dear Arizona Business Leader,

Thank you for joining other business leaders and signing the March 14 letter to Senator Russell Pearce expressing your concern about the negative impact of additional immigration legislation on Arizona’s economy. Your public engagement made a positive difference for Arizona.

Like you, AEA members are concerned about the challenges facing our state, particularly the need to build a sustainable, vibrant economic environment that attracts and retains quality jobs. Our views are reflected in a recent column I wrote for the Arizona Republic, “[Dynamic schools can drive economy.](#)”

We believe strong public schools create strong communities and build a strong economy. To realize this connection, Arizona needs short-term actions to prevent further damage to public school investments and long-term strategies to restructure public education funding based on the evidence of quality results.

In the short term, we at AEA are asking business, community, and education leaders to unite in supporting Governor Brewer as she negotiates the education budget with the legislature. The level of funding for education in the governor’s budget should serve as a line in the sand to protect our students and our economy. Any additional cuts ignore voters who overwhelmingly passed Proposition 100 less than a year ago and said no last November to ending early childhood education funding.

As this legislative session ends, we believe an opportunity to rebuild our revenue and education systems must become the new Arizona imperative. The work done by the Arizona Business and Education Coalition provides a framework for funding public education that promises a return on our investment. Our current environment provides an opportunity to design a new tax structure that ensures everyone pays their fair share for quality schools and that businesses taxes are competitive.

As education, civic, and business leaders, we can provide the leadership necessary to elevate Arizona’s public conversation toward practical solutions that provide a balanced approach to restoring our economic vitality. If we act now by letting legislators know we support the governor’s education budget, we can begin working together in the near future to make wise investments in our public schools.

On behalf of our members, I thank you for your leadership and invite you to work with AEA to build a strong public school system. I am confident that we can work together and achieve the results that will benefit Arizona.

Sincerely,

Andrew F. Morrill, President
Arizona Education Association

AEA’s MISSION

AEA...
keeping the
promise of
quality
public
education