



**Expect More Arizona®**  
THE MOVEMENT FOR  
WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

## **2017 Advocacy Agenda**

Expect More Arizona believes every child deserves an excellent education, every step of the way. In 2017, our priorities focus on increasing funding and improving policies to support reading proficiency by the end of third grade; improving teacher recruitment and retention, including teacher pay; and ensuring Arizona has a long-term funding solution for education, from the early years through postsecondary attainment.

To track progress toward a shared vision for world-class education and our advocacy priorities, we will continue to advance the [Arizona Education Progress Meter](#) and collaborate with our partners to set meaningful goals for each indicator.

### **PRIORITY: K-3 reading success**

- Improve Move on When Reading to focus on additional supports for students, increasing transparency for parents, and increasing the quality of interventions.
- Support new funding for interventions to improve literacy and reading proficiency in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Sustain and ensure the effectiveness of the existing \$40 million that supports 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency of students most in need.
- Raise awareness of the importance of early education, including high-quality early education programs, ongoing family-child interactions, literacy and chronic absenteeism, and early language development.

### **PRIORITY: Recruit, retain and support Arizona's educators**

- Support new funding to increase teacher pay, including advocating for a long-term goal for teacher pay.
- Support opportunities for meaningful professional development, high-quality mentoring and induction programs, and teacher student loan forgiveness programs for Arizona educators.
- Increase awareness and support of teacher recruitment and retention issues and identify policy recommendations.

### **PRIORITY: A long-term solution for education funding**

- Support education funding, from the early years through college and career, that includes, but is not limited to:
  - Updating and renewing Proposition 301.

- Establishing a long-term goal for teacher pay and raising teacher pay.
  - Increasing funding to improve 3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy.
- A simplified K-12 funding formula that encourages both excellence and equity (for all students including special education, low-income, and minority students)

**PRIORITY: Ensure high expectations for all**

- Rigorous academic standards in K-12 classrooms and the continued use of a high-quality statewide assessment that is aligned to the standards and has a cut score indicating college and career readiness.
- Ensure the A-F system is a good measure of the contributions of teachers and schools, includes growth, and provides clear and actionable information to parents, teachers, community leaders, business leaders and the public.

**PRIORITY: Postsecondary attainment**

- Support increasing state university funding to fund 50 percent of the cost to educate resident students by 2020.
- Support investing in community colleges.
- Increase awareness and support for postsecondary education, including Career and Technical Education.