



State of Arizona

June 21, 2007

Dear Superintendent or Charter School Holder:

The following update regarding the Arizona English Language Learners Task Force is being provided to initiate an ongoing communication process about what the task force has been doing, and how it will affect you.

Since their first meeting on September 21, 2006, the Task Force has met in open session 22 times. Items for presentation and discussion have included the following:

- ELL/SEI programs and practitioners from around Arizona
- Experts from Arizona Universities
- National ELL/SEI experts
- ELL/SEI program components
- Discussion of model parameters based on the law
- Discussion of draft models components and supporting research
- Practitioners utilizing a 4-hour model of English Language Development

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-756.01.F, “The research based Models of Structured English Immersion shall be submitted by the Task Force to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor and the State Board of Education.” In addition, “At least thirty days prior to adoption, the models shall be submitted to JLBC for review.” The Arizona English Language Learners Task Force voted to proceed with this action at the June 14, 2007 Task Force meeting.

A.R.S. § 15-756.01.C provides, in part: first year English Language Learners are to receive “a minimum of four hours per day of English language development.” (Emphasis added.) Instead of just teaching in English, teachers will be asked to teach the “English Language” in a manner more focused and structured than had previously been done.

In the proceedings, the Task Force discovered that virtually no schools were giving four hours of ELD. In fact, many schools were giving as little as a half hour a day of ELD. In order to receive funding from the Structured English Immersion fund, schools will have to be in compliance with the statute and with the models developed by the Task Force.

The Task Force, pursuant to the quoted statutes, forwarded draft models, which are attached as Exhibit A.

Please note, on Exhibit A, the following:

Students at composite AZELLA levels Pre-emergent and Emergent receive four hours of instruction of LD that are divided into the following specific areas: oral English and

conversation instruction, 45 minutes; grammar instruction, 60 minutes; reading instruction, 60 minutes; vocabulary instruction, 60 minutes; and, pre-writing instruction, 15 minutes (Total: four hours). (Exhibit A, p. 5 for elementary schools, and p. 6 for middle and high schools.)

Once the draft models have been reviewed and formally adopted, the Task Force will work with the Arizona Department of Education and the Office of the Auditor General to establish SEI budget request forms. These forms are for the use of school districts and charter holders to apply for funding from the Arizona structured English immersion fund.