

AZEDNEWS

A Service of the Arizona School Boards Association

How students' rights shape schools' responses to social media, cell phones



Originally published
on August 25, 2015

The debate over cell phones in schools continue. Smartphones in K-12 brings controversy – disruptive or necessary for learning and safety? Photo by Intel Free Press

When an Arizona student was critical of school administration on social media, an administrator asked the district's legal counsel if they could punish the student and search the student's cell phone. Before responding to the administrator's questions, Jessica Sanchez, legal counsel for Tempe Elementary, Kyrene Elementary and Tempe Union High School districts, said "I know you don't like being criticized on social media, but is it actually creating a disruption?"

When the administrator said there was no disruption at the moment, Sanchez said there was no legal basis to discipline the student. After asking about what wrongdoing the student was suspected of and the school's cell phone policy, Sanchez advised the administrator not to search the student's phone.

To make her decision, Sanchez used guidelines from *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, a key case that defined students' First Amendment right to free speech nearly 50 years ago.

This issue came to the forefront as threats on social media targeted nearly 24 high schools in Phoenix and Glendale. On Tuesday, two teenage boys and a teenage girl who live and go to school in Phoenix were arrested in connection with the threats and could face felony charges, Phoenix Police said.

These questions, discussed during the recent ASBA Law Conference in Scottsdale, have become more frequent because of the widespread use of social media, cell phones and technology, according to a Law Street Media article "Teens and social media: How do schools fit in?"

Read full article at azednews.com to learn about the history of the First Amendment in schools, students' rights and unlawful searches and more

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A new look for AZEDNEWS.com is coming soon

We are excited to unveil a fresh look and feel for AZEDNEWS.com. The new website includes new sections and fresh state and national headlines, infographics and reports that will continue to focus on education policy and practice in Arizona. Our original news reporting continues to engage our readers with important statewide topics that contribute to informed public discussion and great understanding of Arizona K-12 education. Remember, we inform. You decide.



Thank you for your continued support!

Best regards,
Tracey Benson

DIRECTOR,
ARIZONA EDUCATION NEWS SERVICE
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ARIZONA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

AZEDNews original articles featured in this issue were reported and written by ASBA education reporter Lisa Irish (lirish@azsba.org) and ASBA education intern David Marino.



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Part 1:

Arizona schools strive to bridge digital opportunity gap

Originally published August 31, 2016



Students work on homework and play games on their way home on a Vail Unified School District school bus with internet access. Photo courtesy Vail Unified School District

Internet access issues have led Arizona's public K-12 schools to find innovative solutions for their students to do research, work on group projects, find help for difficult homework and get in touch with their teachers quickly. "In the digital age we live in, a student is unable to compete and learn at an equivalent level compared to their peers if they do not have the vital access needed to connect to the digital world," said Andrea Katsenes, director of media and public relations for Cox Communications.

Vail Unified School District in Pima County was the first district in the nation to provide internet access on school buses, said Calvin Baker, superintendent of the district that serves more than 12,175 students, some living in rural and remote areas.

"We use our internet-equipped buses for our longer routes to more rural areas. We also use the internet buses for longer field trips and athletic trips," Baker said.

Students in Kayenta Unified School District in Navajo County can stay after school for two hours Monday through Thursday to receive tutoring or to use the library, school technology and access the Internet, then they can take a late bus home that leaves school at 5:30 p.m., said Dr. Bryce Anderson, superintendent of the rural district that serves more than 1,830 students in the Navajo Nation.

Read full article at azednews.com to learn about the next steps these school districts have in place to provide internet access to all students.



Representing the highest number of American Indian Gates Millennium Scholars for a high school across the country are these seniors from Monument Valley High School: (Back row, L-R) Tonena Begay, Tyler Smallcanyon, Racheal Holiday, Tito Bailey, and Dearlynn Crank (Front row, L-R) Karl Bedoni, Kirstin Smith, Deezhi Thinn, and Jasmine Blackwater. Photo courtesy of Mario Dominguez

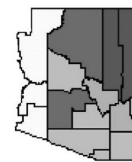
Students' Internet access



About 5 million U.S. homes with school-age children do not have access to broadband Internet.

This year, 30,600 AZ students qualify for low-cost Internet access through the federal government's Connect2Compete program.

Internet adoption in AZ

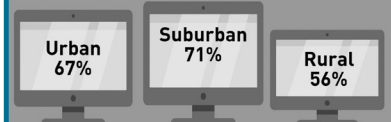


- Up to 60.7% in Navajo and Apache counties
- 60.7% to 68% in Gila, Graham and Greenlee counties
- 68% to 69.7% in Mohave, La Paz and Yuma counties
- 69.7% to 74.3% in Yavapai, Pinal, Santa Cruz and Cochise counties
- More than 74.3% in Coconino and Maricopa counties

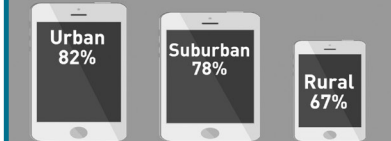
Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Internet Adoption in United States by County 2013

Type of access by community

67% of all U.S. homes have broadband



77% of all U.S. adults use mobile connectors



Digital Divides 2016 presentation by Lee Rainie/Pew Research Center: July 14, 2016

People's reasons for not having broadband

Now

Then



Digital Divides 2016 presentation by Lee Rainie/Pew Research Center: July 14, 2016

Some Arizona solutions



Shift towards wireless connectivity

- 13% of all U.S. adults have a smartphone but no home broadband, up from 8% in 2013.
- 21% of U.S. households with incomes under \$20,000 have a smartphone but no home broadband, up from 13% in 2013.
- 15% of rural U.S. residents have a smartphone but no home broadband, up from 9% in 2013.

Digital Divides 2016 presentation by Lee Rainie/Pew Research Center: July 14, 2016

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Part 2:

Program reduces cost for students' at-home internet access

Originally published August 31, 2016

Affordable internet service continues to be a concern for many low-income families in Arizona's urban and suburban areas who want access at home to help their students succeed in school. Several years ago, 21 percent of Americans said they did not have broadband internet access because they just were not interested in it. Now 43 percent say the high monthly cost is the greatest barrier, said Lee Rainie, director of Internet, science and technology research for Pew Research Center, in his presentation "Digital Divides 2016" in mid-July.

Some Arizona parents who don't have home internet access work around it to help their children with their homework, research and class projects.

Many Arizona school districts have found ways to partner with local companies and nonprofits to help their students get affordable, reliable internet access at home.

A partnership between Roosevelt Elementary School District in Maricopa County, Cox Communication's Connect2Compete and PetSmart

Foundation has helped many low-income students and their families access affordable devices and broadband internet at home, Robinson said.

This year, Cox Communications said that about 30,600 Arizona students qualify for low-cost internet access through national nonprofit EveryoneOn's Connect2Compete program, according to an Arizona Daily Star article.

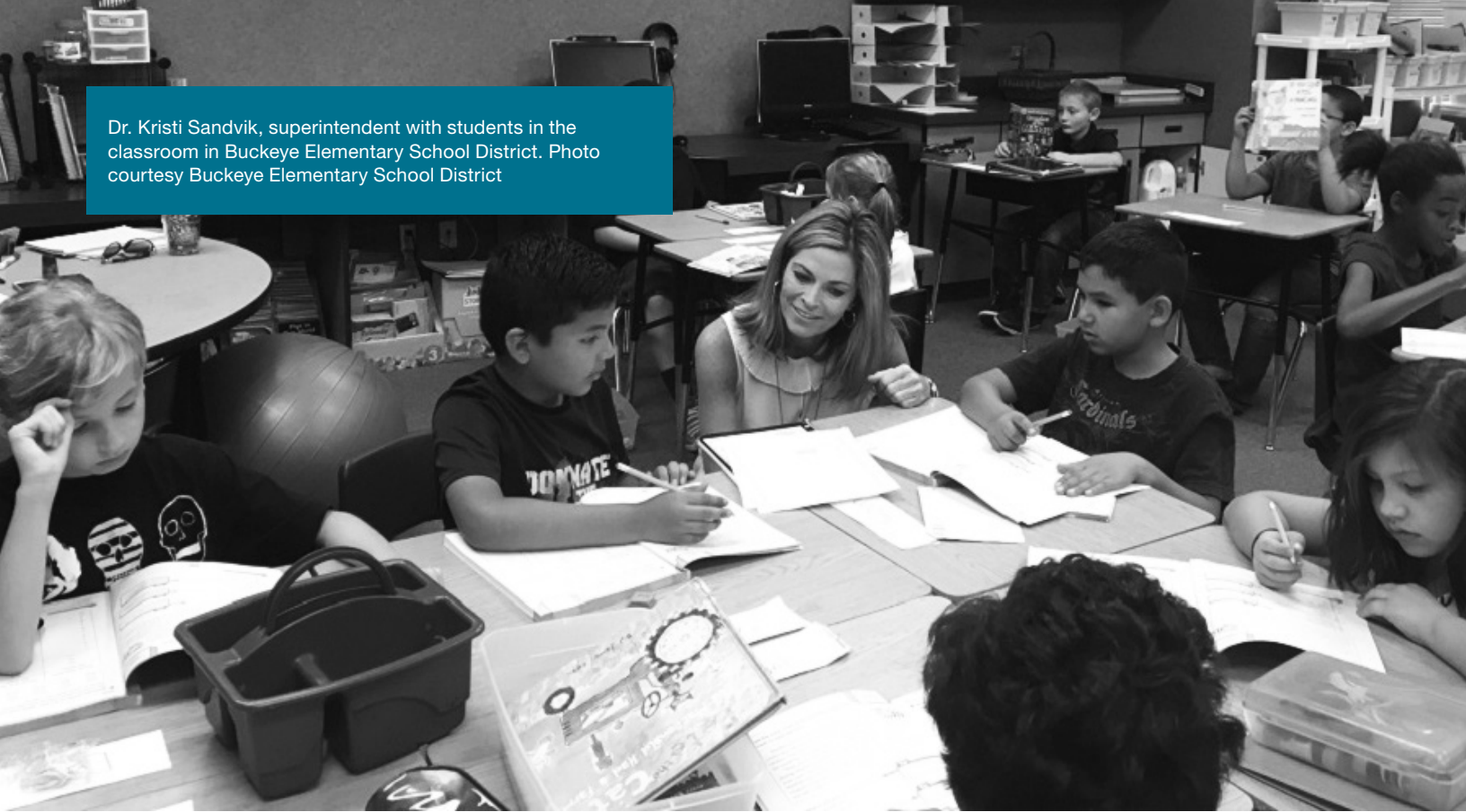
Connect2Compete partners with 300 community organizations, leaders and agencies in 18 states. Partners include the nation's leading internet service providers to offer affordable service, hardware and software manufacturers, digital content creators to provide devices and programs and more than 10,000 libraries, nonprofits and businesses to provide affordable technology and training.

Read full article at azednews.com to learn more about school district and business partnerships to help students gain internet access at home.



Students using laptops during class in Roosevelt Elementary School District. Photo courtesy Roosevelt Elementary School District

Dr. Kristi Sandvik, superintendent with students in the classroom in Buckeye Elementary School District. Photo courtesy Buckeye Elementary School District



Shortage has school leaders attracting teachers in new ways

Originally published
September 14, 2016

With more than 2,000 teaching positions unfilled soon after the start of this school year, Arizona school district superintendents are employing creative short-term solutions to fill the vacancies and searching for strategies to reduce the problem in the future.

About 2,041 teacher positions were unfilled by August 28, 2016, in 130 Arizona school districts and charter schools, according to a survey released by the Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association on Sept. 7, 2016.

“The problem is that the pool of teachers is very narrow. It really is, so this is going to be a problem for

school districts all over Arizona for several years,” said Dr. Doug Wilson, superintendent of Marana Unified School District.

Many school districts have used long-term substitute teachers to help during this shortage, said Dr. Mark Joraanstad, executive director of the non-profit Arizona School Administrators and former Saddle Mountain School District superintendent.

Read full article at azednews.com to find out other strategies districts are utilizing, plus a video interview with district superintendents.

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What is the purpose of public education?

The 2016 Phi Delta Kappan Poll shows that Americans do not agree on the purpose of a public school education.

Work 25% Citizenship 26% Academics 45%

Is it to prepare students for work, citizenship or further academics?

Where should the focus be?

Career-technical/Skills-based classes **68%**

Honors/Advanced academic classes **21%**

Key results from the poll of 1,221 adults in 50 states

- Most graded the nation's public schools a C, but gave their local public school a B.
- For the 15th year, Americans say lack of funding is the No. 1 problem confronting local schools.
- 59% oppose letting parents excuse their kids from standardized tests.
- 59% of parents say new standards are changing what's being taught in their child's school.
- 53% support raising property taxes to improve their local public schools.
- 47% did not think more funds would result in school improvements.

Respondents' priorities for increased school funding

- Teachers: 18% hiring more, 14% raising salaries **34%**
- Supplies **17%**
- Classes/Extracurriculars **17%**
- Infrastructure improvements/New schools **8%**
- Learning specialists/Counselors **6%**

Source: 2016 PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools

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Your Vote, Your Voice

Arizona 2016 Primary

August 19
Last day to request an early/mail ballot.

August 24
Last day to mail in ballot to ensure it's counted.

August 30
Primary polls open at close a

Independents may select a partisan ballot at the po

2016 General Election

October 10
Registration deadline to vote

October 12
Early voting begins

October 13
Last day early/m

November 2
Last day to mail in ballot to ensure it's counted.

November 3
Election day polls 6 a.m. & close a

Source: Center for the Future of Arizona's voter info

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Guides aim to show levels of legislators' support for public schools

Originally published August 18, 2016

Snapshot: Arizona Children

1.6 million kids

How has life changed for Arizona children from 2009 to 2014?

AZ data from

Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2016 Kids Count

Children's Action Alliance's Arizona Kids Count

- 26% live in poverty
- 51% live in low income households
- Median family income drops nearly 12%

Preschool enrollment

Preschool enrollment for AZ 3- and 4-year-olds rose to 36% in 2014, but remains below the national rate of 47%.

Reading proficiency

Only 40% of AZ 3rd-graders scored proficient or above on the AzMERIT English/Language Arts assessment in 2015.

Graduation rate

AZ's high school graduation rate was steady at 76% in 2014, but remained below the national rate of 82%.

Sources

Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2016 Kids Count Data Book

Children's Action Alliance's Arizona Kids Count Data Book August 2016

Photos courtesy of PVSchools and Mesa Public Schools

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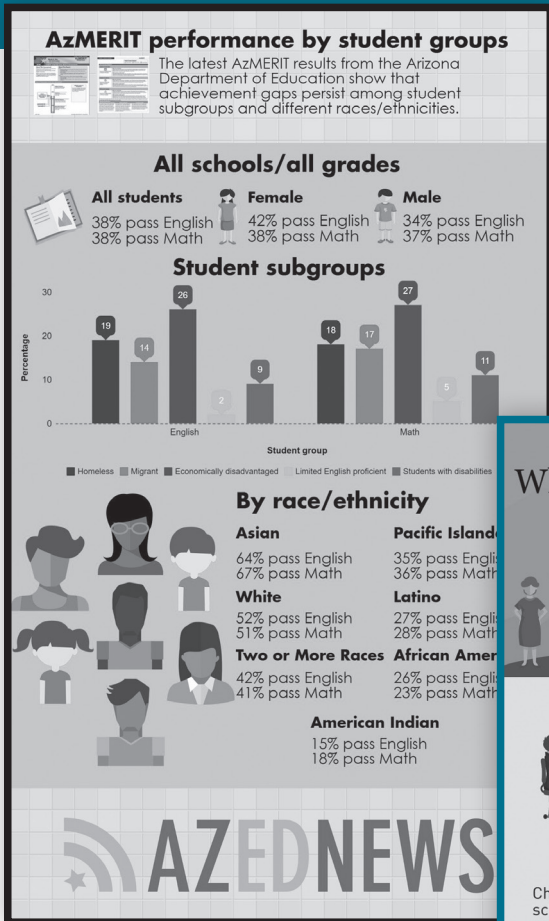
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Americans speak up on purpose of a public school education

Originally published September 28, 2016

infographics?

inform!



The latest AzMERIT results show achievement gaps persist

Originally published September 15, 2016

AZ education issues to watch this school year

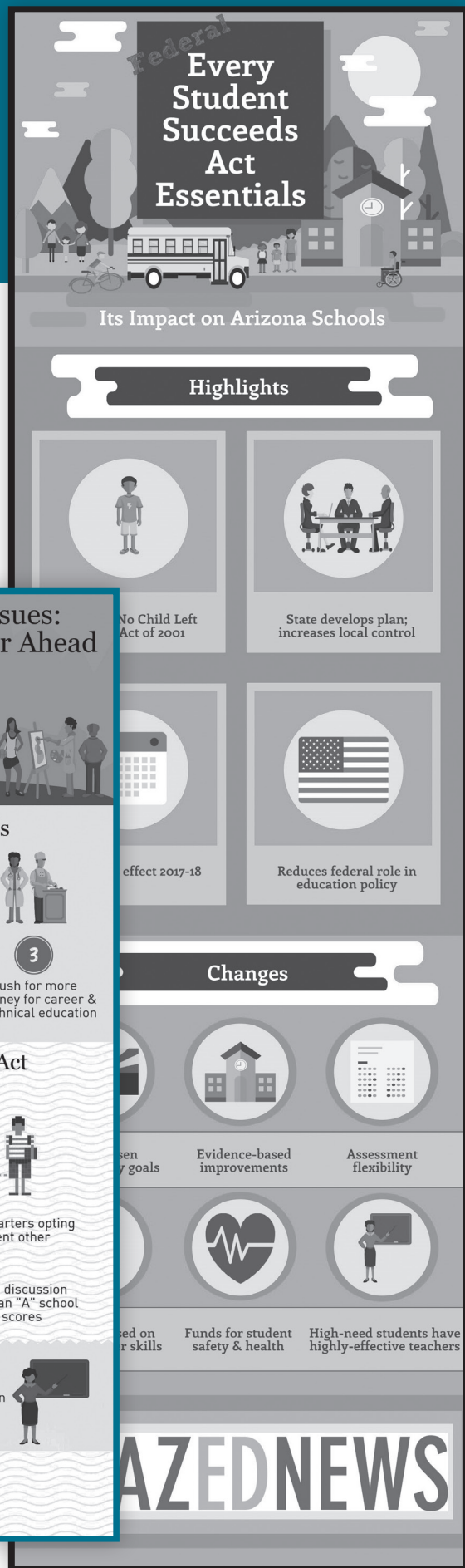
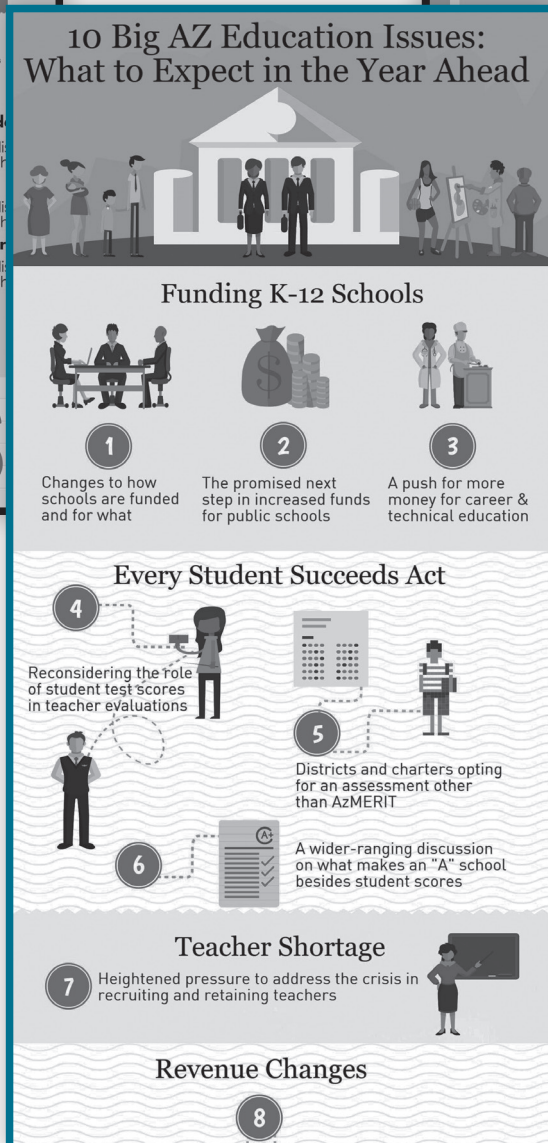
Originally published August 2, 2016

Economy recovers, but poverty gap widens for Arizona's children

Originally published August 24, 2016

How the Every Student Succeeds Act will impact Arizona's schools

Originally published July 12, 2016



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Achieve60AZ: Increasing degrees, certification will boost income, state economy

Antontrey Begaye knew he wanted to become a physician after doing clinical rotations as a medical assistant in high school while taking career and technical education classes in the Flagstaff Unified School District. But he wasn't quite sure how to get there until he received help from mentors Eugene Begay and Kim Kryger at Northern Arizona University's Educational Talent Search. They encouraged Begaye to apply for financial aid through College Success Arizona and drove him to Phoenix for the interview. (Published November 5, 2015)

Funding for students: Where Arizona ranks nationally

Arizona ranks 15th in the nation for the number of students enrolled in public K-12 schools, but 48th in overall ... (Published September 6, 2016)

Teams in Tucson, Phoenix knock on doors to get teens back in school

Why were Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton knocking on doors this August? To get as many ... (Published August 26, 2016)

AZ education issues to watch this school year

With the school year starting, here are 10 Arizona education issues to watch now and during the upcoming legislative session....(Published August 2, 2016)

MCESA honored for community-led process to fill school board vacancies

Celebrations of the heritage and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans have been taking place Statewide, prospective school board members are busy collecting registered voters' signatures to get on the ballot for November's election. ... (Published July 28, 2016)

Parents offered cheat sheet for understanding, using kids AzMERIT scores

Statewide AzMERIT results received public attention when they were released in late June, but the real conversation about them will ... (Published July 20, 2016)

Data begins to paint picture as second year of AzMERIT scores released

This year, Arizona students in several grade levels showed increased proficiency in their AzMERIT results, when compared to the benchmark ... (Published July 20, 2016)

ASU Dean: Educators need curiosity, creativity and courage to teach

Under-resourced schools and low-paid teachers are not the answer to a well-educated populace, said Dr. Mari Koerner, dean of Mary ... (Published June 22, 2016)

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Company helps districts, cities make every penny count

As school districts seek ways to reduce expenses, some administrators have turned to experts to find utilities cost savings. (Published June 8, 2016)

Education leaders echo voters' desire for funding beyond Prop. 123

Now that Prop. 123 has passed, a coalition of Arizona educators, business leaders and parents say the next step is ... (Published May 23, 2016)

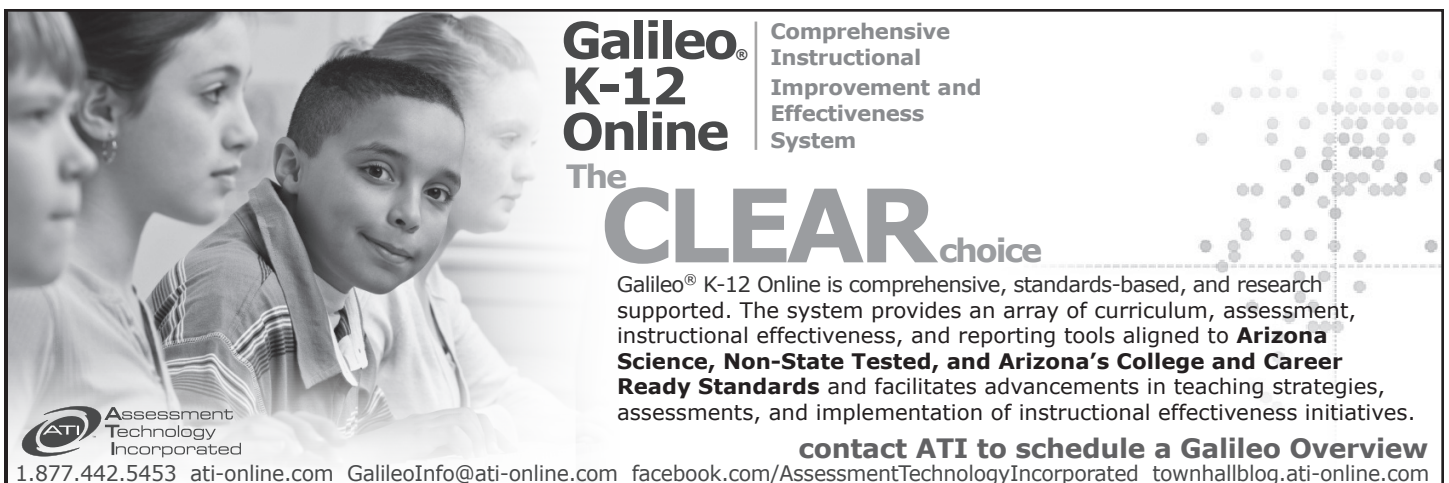
Community comes together to support education at #NowItStarts rally

Even before the results of the Prop. 123 special election were known, teachers, students, parents and community members came together... (Published May 20, 2016)

AZ groups inventing what STEM learning looks like

Arizona nonprofits, school districts, education organizations and businesses are putting their heads together to create learning environments for Arizona students ... (Published May 18, 2016)

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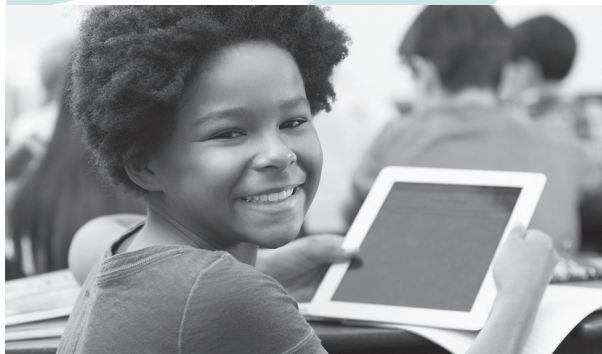
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