Early Care and Education Updates (HSSCO)
AzSHA Quarterly Meeting
February 2022
Early Care and Education Investments

- Early Literacy Policy Framework ($47.2M)
- Quality Early Learning ($45M)
- Early Literacy Supports ($2M)
- Data Integration & ECE Financing Plan ($1.5M)
The High-Quality Early Learning Grant, offered through the AZ DES- CCA, is to assist Arizona in developing and enhancing capacity to deliver high-quality preschool programming as well as implement and sustain high-quality preschool for eligible children in selected high-needs programs.
Partnership with Bipartisan Policy Center

First phase: Child Care Gap Report/Tool (Fall 2020)

Second phase: Fiscal Mapping cohort of five states to analyze state and federal investments in child care and other early childhood supports (w/ Children’s Funding Project)

- Purpose: to understand how AZ is leveraging ECE resources across various funding streams

3rd Phase: Child Care Gap Part 2 & Fiscal map at municipality level

Work group: ADE, DES, FTF, Head Start
Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant
The Arizona CLSD project is a competitive grant that proposes to improve child literacy skills and instructional capacity on the science of reading. This grant project aims to strengthen collaboration, improve efficiency and drive innovation to accelerate language and literacy outcomes.

Grant Goals

- **Building the capacity** of educators to serve struggling and emerging readers more effectively.
- Increase the number of disadvantaged students who have access to high-quality instructional **staff trained in the Science of Reading**
- Increase state capacity and **infrastructure** to implement high-quality, evidence-based practices and strategies to support struggling readers.
Data used to determine those schools and early learning programs most-in-need

- Minimally Proficient ELA Trend Data
- Census Track Data: Poverty, Opp Zone, Rural, Tribal Land
- Free and Reduced Lunch Data
- Preschool Gap Data
Grant Beneficiaries

Impact of the CLSD Grant Initiative

- 12 Counties
- 23 Subgrantees
- 40 Sites

- 750 Educators
- 13,800 Students
Evidence-Based Strategies & Professional Development

- Literacy Coaching
- Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)
- Reading Fundamentals Training
- Tier I and Tier II Curricula
- Lectio- leveraging improvement science to make informed decisions
- Family Engagement
Resources

Supports Created for CLSD Grantees

- Evidence-Based Intervention Trainings
- Implementation Science Trainings
- Online Courses (CEUs)
- ESSA Tiers trainings
- Dedicated Office Hours
- Dedicated Science of Reading Website
Kindergarten Entry Assessment
• **Kindergarten Entry Assessment**

**SB1572**

Provide for universal screening of pupils in preschool programs, kindergarten programs and grades one through three that is designed to identify pupils who have reading deficiencies pursuant to section 15-704.
Vision For The Assessment

Assessment Features

At its core, the KEA should be a criterion-referenced assessment

- Widely Held Expectations (WHE) designations
  - Measure where a child’s development and learning fall relative to research-based expectations for their age, class, or grade
- Kindergarten-readiness (KR) designations*
  - Measure whether a child has achieved the knowledge, skills, and abilities that best prepare them for success in kindergarten

But also offers norm-referenced measures

- One kind of norm-referenced scores:
- Percentile scores (in quartiles)*
  - Measure how a child’s development and learning compares to that of same-aged peers from a nationally representative sample of children assessed during the same checkpoint period
**KEA**

History (Timeline)

- **2015**
  - Cognitive Labs
  - Assessment Pilots

- **2016**
  - Field Test
  - Examine validity and reliability

- **2017**
  - Request For Proposals
  - Tool Implementation

- **2021-**
  - KEA Legislation
  - RFP Process
  - Statewide Implementation

LRM
Kindergarten

https://www.azed.gov/ece/kindergarten

FAQ for Kindergarten

- What is the age requirement for Kindergarten entry in Arizona?
- What is the Arizona legislation regarding Kindergarten entry?
- Can a child enroll in Kindergarten if his/her birthday is September 1st or later?
- Is there a standardized placement exam for early Kindergarten entry?
- Can a child enroll in Kindergarten if he/she turns 5 after December 31st?