



Title IV-A

Educator & School Excellence Unit

Arizona Department of Education
1535 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Arts Educators, Administrators, Community Partners, and Title IV-A grantees:

It has been five years since I first wrote you introducing myself as your new Arts Education Specialist. It was four years ago that we celebrated my transition to the role of Director of Arts Education & Title IV-A. Throughout this time we have created together, dreamed together, wondered together, and dared together. We have awarded millions in Title IV-A dollars, creating safer communities filled with digitally literate students and staff all working toward the shared goal of providing equitable access to a high quality, well-rounded and artful education. We have seen our Title IV-A team quadruple, added six full-time positions to supporting Arts, PE, and Education Technology and have partnered to represent the best interests of our students. It has been an amazing 5 years!

Today I write to inform you of my transition and resignation from ADE. Beginning December 5th, I will have fully transitioned to my new role with LPE Associates as a Program Associate. In this role, I will be serving as the Technical Assistance Lead for the US Department of Education “Arts in Education Grants” and the Project Manager for the National Endowment for Arts “Arts Laboratories” program. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you. I have learned so much from our work and I know these lessons will inform the national supports I will strive to provide. It has been more than an honor to serve you, your students, and your staff.

In my first introductory letter, I promised to “...champion the artistic development of our students and schools.” I believe I have done all that I can to do so. We have accomplished so much toward this end, and I want to briefly celebrate these arts-based accomplishments with you:

- The creation of the Arizona Seal of Arts Education, now in its fourth year of implementation.
- The annual infusion of student creativity in our state ESSA and Title IV-A & B conferences.


- The creation of the “Catherine ‘Rusty’ Foley and Zarco Guerrero Arizona Student Art Gallery.
- The state-wide A3C Listening Tour completed in partnership with the Arizona Commission on the Arts.
- The formation of the Round Table Advisory Committee on Arts Education.
- The establishment of the Well-Rounded Education Access Report embedded within federal programmatic monitoring processes.
- The annual Arts & PE Summits.
- The Re-Entry Guidance for Arts and Physical Education COVID-19 response.
- The reformatted standards to include Arts and SEL connections, student-friendly standards, and a new interactive website with lesson plan and video examples.

These are just a few of our accomplishments and I could not be prouder of this body of work. Thank you for your support and collaboration!

Change can be stressful. I know I have felt stress as I began to explore this new opportunity. Please know that I plan on remaining in Arizona for the time being and that I plan to continue partnering as a parent, advocate, and consultant. I look forward to discovering new opportunities to create together! Please also know that I am leaving you in the amazingly capable hands of our Arts Education Specialist Julie Weissberg, and that ADE Leadership will begin posting my position in the coming weeks.

It has been a journey! Here’s to many, many more.

Yours in creation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dustin K. Loehr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Dustin K. Loehr, M.H
Former Director of Arts Education & Title IV-A
Arizona Department of Education