Arizona Department of Education's Research Agenda

Overview of Arizona Department of Education

Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is a service organization committed to raising academic outcomes and empowering parents.

ADE's values include honesty and integrity, sense of urgency, spirit of service, quality, and continuous improvement.

ADE is led by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, an elected position. The Superintendent is required to make a report to the legislature and governor each year. The report must include "plans for the management of schools" and "other information related to the educational interests of this state as he deems expedient." Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 15-255(B)(11)-(12). The Superintendent is tasked with directing the "performance of executive, administrative or ministerial functions" of ADE and its employees; thus, ADE conducts research and enters in research partnerships pursuant to this direction and in accordance with A.R.S. §15-251(5).

ADE diligently works to support increased academic achievement for all students regardless of race, ethnicity, income level, language background, disability status, or gender. The department is comprised of program areas that work to serve the approximately 640 Local Education Agencies, Career and Technical Education centers, and Adult Education Centers. ADE has a full-time staff of approximately 650 people.

Purpose

The Research Agenda of ADE works to serve the State of Arizona. This document outlines the research objectives of the department and processes to conduct research on ADE's behalf, as ADE does not have the resources to address all research that would benefit Arizona education.

Agency Priorities

1. **Every student has Access to High-Quality Instruction to Improve Student Outcomes.**
   For example:
   i. Move On When Reading
   ii. Student achievement proficiency data by economic group
   iii. Achievement Tutoring
   iv. School Choice
2. **Supporting Quality instruction - Every School and District Works to Retain and Support Effective Teachers and Leaders.**
   For example:
   i. Leadership training
   ii. Teacher retention and recruitment
   iii. Teacher preparation colleges
   iv. AZ digital education library
   v. Improvement Teams (Project Momentum)
3. **Preparing Arizona Students for Post K-12 Education**
   For example:
   i. AZ Education Economic Commission
   ii. County Consortium
4. **Ensuring School Safety Standards.**
   For example:
   i. School safety –SROs & SSOs on campuses
   ii. Character education
   iii. Reduce red tape for schools
   iv. Physical safety of students
   v. Administrative Support for teachers with classroom deportment.

Research Request Process

1. **Requestor** prepares Data Request for Research (e.g., research proposal, CVs of researchers)
2. **Requestor** Submits research proposal via webform https://www.azed.gov/data/data-requests
3. **ADE Review process**
   a. Compliance with data sharing standards
   b. Relevance to department priorities.
   c. Availability of data
   d. Capacity of ADE Program Areas
4. **Data Council** reviews for final approval
5. **Data Governance** drafts agreements for approved requests and works with Researchers to determine signatories, annual meeting cadence, and deliverables.
6. **Data Governance** / **Program Area** provide data to the requestor.
   a. If sharing Personally Identifiable Information, Researchers obtain Virtual Machine access for data analysis.
   b. If unredacted public files, Researchers receive data via secure file transfer.
7. **Review of analysis and results prior to publication.**
   a. For **Virtual Machine Access**
      i. Researchers email Data Governance to review their results on the Virtual Machines.
      ii. Data Governance / Program Area reviews data analysis.
      iii. Data Governance provides feedback to Researcher in a timely manner.
      iv. Once approved, Data Governance securely sends aggregated data / results to the Researcher.
      v. Review reports / publications for approval.
   b. For **data received via secure file transfer**,
      i. Researchers email completed reports / publications to Data Governance for review.
      ii. Data Governance / Program Area reviews data analysis and aggregated data prior to approving use.
      iii. Data Governance emails to the Researcher with feedback or approval.

8. Six months **prior to the end of the agreemen**t, Data Governance contacts Researchers about end of agreement terms (e.g., data destruction, turning off access to Virtual Machines).
9. At the end of the agreement Virtual Machine access is turned off or a data destruction certificate is provided to ADE.

For examples of research and projects resulting from Data Sharing Agreements, see https://www.azed.gov/data/research-partnerships.