



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AZEDITION

December 2024

## A Message from Superintendent Tom Horne

I encourage every school district to sign up for **Khanmigo**, which we have identified as the most effective application of artificial intelligence tutoring to support teachers and enhance students' academic performance.

### Don't worry—training will be provided!

It's important to emphasize that AI is *not* a substitute for teachers. There is no replacement for the personal connection between teachers and students. On the contrary, AI is designed to assist teachers by acting as the equivalent of at least two aides, handling routine tasks so that teachers can focus on creative, impactful teaching.

The most significant benefit of AI tutoring is its ability to provide **one-on-one support**. This allows students to master essential knowledge and skills that may not have been fully grasped during class instruction. When students move to the next grade without mastering critical concepts, it compromises their preparation for college or a career. AI tutoring can help bridge these gaps and prevent such outcomes.

I became a firm believer in the value of AI after watching a one-hour interview with Salman Khan on C-SPAN. [[Click here to watch the interview](#)] or visit our website at [azed.gov](http://azed.gov).

To further our understanding of AI's potential, I asked our associate superintendents and deputy associate superintendents—about 32 individuals—to read Salman Khan's short book, *Brave New Words*. Their enthusiastic discussion about its insights confirmed the transformational potential of this tool.

If your district or charter school has not yet signed up for Khanmigo, I urge you to advocate for it. This initiative is a crucial step in supporting teachers and improving student outcomes.

Our department has allocated **\$1.5 million** to provide the first **100,000 Arizona teachers and students** with free access to Khanmigo. After that, subscriptions will be available for a modest fee. Additionally, districts and schools that sign up by **February 28, 2025**, will receive access to Khanmigo for the **2025–2026 school year** at no additional cost.



Tom Horne  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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**Eighth Grade Examination for Bullitt County Schools, November, 1912**  
**Spelling**

Exaggerate, incentive, conscious, pennyweight, chandelier, patient, potential, creature, participate, authentic, bequeath, diminish, genuine, vinegar, incident, monotony, hyphen, antecedent, autumn, hideous, relieve, conceive, control, symptom, rhinoceros, adjective, partial, musician, architect, exhaust, diagram, endeavor, scissors, associate, saucy, benefit, masculine, synopsis, circulate, eccentric. 100

**Reading**

1. Reading and Writing, (given by the teacher.)

**Arithmetic**

1. Write in words the following: .5764; .00003; .123416; 653.0965; 43.37. 10
2. Solve: 35-7 plus 4, 5-8 plus 5-14-59-112. 10
3. Find cost at 12½ cents per sq. yd. of kalsomining the walls of a room 20 ft. long, 16 ft. wide and 9 ft. high, deducting 1 door 8 ft. by 4 ft. 6 in. and 2 windows 5 ft. by 3 ft. 6 in. each. 10
4. A man bought a farm for \$2400 and sold it for \$2700. What per cent did he gain? 10
5. A man sold a watch for \$180, and lost 16% . What was the cost of the watch? 10
6. Find the amount of \$50.30 for 3 yrs., 3 mo. and 3 days, at 8 per cent. 10
7. A school enrolled 120 pupils and the number of boys was two thirds of the number of girls. How many of each sex were enrolled? 10
8. How long a rope is required to reach from the top of a building 40 ft. high, to the ground 30 ft. from the base of the building? 10
9. How many steps 2 ft. 4 in. each will a man take in walking 2 1-4 miles? 10
10. At \$1.62½ a cord, what will be the cost of a pile of wood 24 ft. long, 4 ft. wide and 6 ft. 3 in. high? 10

**Grammar.**

1. How many parts of speech are there? Define each. 20
2. Define proper noun; common noun. Name the properties of a noun. 10
3. What is a Personal Pronoun? Decline I. 10
4. What properties have verbs? 10
5. "William struck James." Change the Voice of the verb. 10
6. Adjectives have how many Degrees of Comparison? Compare good; wise; beautiful. 10
7. Diagram: The Lord loveth a cheerful giver. 10
8. Parse all the words in the following sentences: John ran over the bridge. Helen's parents love her. 20

**Geography.**

1. Define longitude and latitude 10
2. Name and give boundaries of the five zones. 10
3. Tell what you know of the Gulf Stream. 10
4. Locate Erie Canal; what waters does it connect, and why is it important? 10
5. Locate the following countries which border each other: Turkey, Greece, Servia, Montenegro, Roumania. 10
6. Name and give the capitals of States touching the Ohio River 10
7. Locate these cities: Mobile, Quebec, Buenos Aires, Liverpool, Honolulu. 10

8. Name in the order of their size three largest States in the United States. 10
9. Locate the following mountains: Blue Ridge, Himalaya, Andes, Alps, Wasatch. 10
10. Through what waters would a vessel pass in going from England through the Suez Canal to Manila? 10

**Physiology.**

1. How does the liver compare in size with other glands in the human body? Where is it located? What does it secrete. 10
2. Name the organs of circulation. 10
3. Describe the heart. 10
4. Compare arteries and veins as to function. Where is the blood carried to be purified? 10
5. Where is the chief nervous center of the body? 10
6. Define Cerebrum; Cerebellum. 10
7. What are the functions (or uses) of the spinal column? 10
8. Why should we study Physiology? 10
9. Give at least five rules to be observed in maintaining good health. 20

**Civil Government**

1. Define the following forms of government: Democracy, Limited Monarchy, Absolute Monarchy, Republic. Give examples of each. 10
2. To what four governments are students in school subjected? 10
3. Name five county officers, and the principal duties of each. 10
4. Name and define the three branches of the government of the United States. 10
5. Give three duties of the President. What is meant by the veto power? 10
6. Name three rights given Congress by the Constitution and two rights denied Congress. 10
7. In the election of a president and vice-president, how many electoral votes in each State allowed? 10
8. Give the eligibility of president, vice-president and Governor of Kentucky. 10
9. What is a copyright? Patent right? 10
10. Describe the manner in which the president and vice-president of the United States are elected. 10

**History.**

1. Who first discovered the following places.—Florida, Pacific Ocean, Miss River, St Lawrence River? 10
2. Sketch briefly Sir Walter Raleigh, Peter Stuyvesant. 10
3. By whom were the following settled: Ga., Md., Mass., R. I., Fla 10
4. During what wars were the following battles fought:—Brandywine, Great Meadows, Lundy's Lane, Antietam, Buena Vista. 10
5. Describe the battle of Quebec. 10
6. Give the cause of the war of 1812 and name an important battle fought during that war. 10
7. Name 2 presidents who have died in office: three who were assassinated. 10
8. Name the last battle of the Civil War; War of 1812; French and Indian War, and the commanders in each battle. 10
9. What president was impeached, and on what charge? 10
10. Who invented the following.—Magnetic, Telegraph, Cotton Gin, Sewing Machine, Telephone, Phonograph. 10

William Foster, }  
 Ed C Tyler, } Bullitt County Board of Education.  
 J E Magruder, }  
 F T Harned, }  
 Ora L. Roby, }  
 Chas. G. Bridwell, Truant Officer.

*This is a 1912 8<sup>th</sup> Grade examination. The DNA of students from 1912 is no different than the DNA of children today. If students cannot handle an examination of this kind, it is not their fault, it is our fault. Student achievement will not change until adult behavior changes.*

*- Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction*

## More than 16,000 Narcan kits headed to Arizona schools

Result of efforts of STOP-IT Task Force, partnership with state agencies

Flanked by representatives from multiple state agencies and members of department's task force who worked to procure lifesaving Narcan for Arizona schools, state Superintendent Tom Horne announced more than 16,000 Narcan kits are ready for distribution to school campuses.

Superintendent Horne formed the School Training Overdose Preparedness and Intelligence Taskforce, (STOPIT) in May and it includes representatives from schools, health care, law enforcement and representatives from other state agencies tasked with addressing this growing problem.



Horne stated, “Lives will be saved because these kits will be in schools throughout Arizona. The STOP-IT Task Force has done incredible work to address the Fentanyl crisis among school-aged children and this is a major step to protecting the lives of students and raising awareness of this terrible scourge.”

We ask that education agencies interested in receiving Narcan® kits complete the [Narcan® Request – District/Charter Information Form](#). The identified district or charter school representative will receive an Adobe Sign workflow requesting completion of the Narcan® for Arizona Schools Request Form on behalf of all campuses under the education agency's control. Requests received from public and charter school organizations will be addressed prior to considering requests submitted on behalf of private schools.

Education agencies not interested in receiving kits will be asked to complete a form indicating that they want to opt out of this free resource. The District Superintendent/Executive Director's signature is required for all forms submitted to the ADE. All requests will be cross-referenced to ensure that requests are in compliance with district policy.

ADE has partnered with the Army National Guard to coordinate regional efforts to distribute kits throughout Arizona. We ask that districts distribute the allocation, as approved, to the individual sites. Distribution to all regions of Arizona will begin in November 2024. The maximum number of kits made available to each requesting entity will be based on student population for each campus (1 kit per 300 students) and kit availability. Should the need exceed the supply of Narcan®, the allocation may be adjusted at the Arizona Department of Education's discretion.

Please note: Only those designated to pick the order up on the LEA's behalf will be allowed to receive kits. Designees must be listed on the Narcan® distribution form.

Questions?

Email the [STOP-IT Inbox](#).

Kind Regards,  
Arizona Department of Education, School Safety Unit

## Recognizing Native American Heritage Month this Fall

Native American Heritage Month, observed every November, is a time to celebrate the history and diverse cultures of Native American communities. Schools and communities throughout the 22 tribal nations in Arizona celebrated through storytelling, education, and cultural events such as parades, arts and crafts, school assemblies, and more. At Puente De Hozho Elementary School, students participated in a Cultural Night event where each grade performed traditional songs or dances. At Marana Unified School District, families came together to decorate their own ornaments with cultural designs. The Office of Indian Education and Arizona



Humanities hosted a virtual Indigenous Author's Panel highlighting the work of four indigenous authors and how their books highlight Native American history, experiences, culture, family, and tribal languages.

To learn more about the Office of Indian Education, please visit: [www.azed.gov/oie](http://www.azed.gov/oie)

## Arizona Department of Education's Effective Teachers & Leaders Unit

### NEW this year

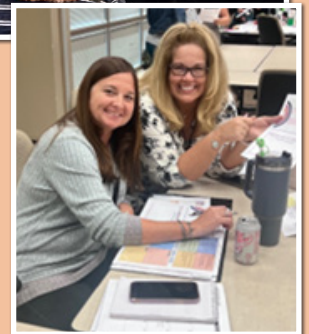
The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) kicked off Instructional Coaches' Academy this year! The academy features six in-person sessions and ongoing individualized mentoring. The 2024-2025 Instructional Coaches' Academy Cohort was highly recommended by instructional leaders across the state of Arizona. If you are an instructional coach interested in growing your coaching skillset, we hope you will join us for the 2025-2026 academy!

The new Teacher Leaders' Academy has been a huge hit! We recognize that many educators want to continue their influence in the classroom while simultaneously expanding their impact beyond the students they teach. Grounded in the recently adopted AZ Teacher Leader Standards, this training includes 4 full-day, in-person trainings and quarterly virtual cadre sessions. If you are a teacher who is interested in developing your leadership skills, please join us for the 2025-2026 academy!

### Coming SOON

We are excited to announce our first School Board Training set to launch in February. This training is designed to empower school board members with the knowledge and skills needed to govern effectively and create conditions for academic improvement. Keep an eye out for more details.

Visit us at: [Welcome to Effective Teachers and Leaders | Arizona Department of Education](https://www.azed.gov/effective-teachers-and-leaders)



## Robert Bracker Blue Ribbon Event a Homecoming of Sorts for 2 Educators

Deputy Superintendent, Margaret Garcia Dugan, and Deputy Associate Superintendent of English Language Acquisition Services, Adela Santa Cruz, visited Bracker Elementary School of the Nogales Unified School District on October 28, 2024. The Blue-Ribbon Award from the USDOE was presented to the school for the second time in the school's history.

We were able to visit every classroom and witness high quality instruction from experienced and well-trained teachers. Time on task was observed from bell to bell. The students were attentive, and the positive environment permeated the entire campus.

Last year their third-grade students were administered the state assessment for reading comprehension and out of 67 students, 65 passed the test. The remaining students were given extra assistance and later passed the test. Therefore, all students who entered fourth grade this year are now reading at grade level: A testament to the belief that all students can learn, and that teachers make the difference in our schools. At one time, many of Bracker's students were English language learners, and their reclassification rate this past year was 29 percent, while the State average was 12 percent. In no more than 3 years, all of their students will be proficient in English. On the State Assessment administered to all students in public schools, Bracker scored in the top third of all schools. In language arts, Bracker scored 51%, average proficiency, state 40%, math, Bracker 47.5% average proficiency, and state, 32%.

In addition, principal, Joshua Payne, stated he rarely has new hires. Nogales enjoys the best teacher retention in the State. Principal Payne has only had to replace three teachers during his tenure, and these teachers have been teachers from other schools in the Nogales School District. Bracker's teachers embrace accountability for student achievement, and their sense of efficacy is obvious as they deliver high quality instruction.

From the time we stepped onto Bracker, until the time we concluded our visit, Adela and I, who have been in the business of English Language Learning as students, teachers and administrators, felt we had experienced the standard of teaching and learning that far exceeded our expectations. We both urge any Arizona school to visit Robert Bracker and take gold nuggets of information and instructional practices to incorporate into their schools.

If all the nation's schools operated like Robert Bracker, "no one would have ever considered our schools at risk".

For a list of all the 2024 Blue Ribbon Schools, see pages [8-9](#).



## Horne announces new, streamlined online educator certification system

*Latest service enhancement for educators*

The Arizona Department of Education has launched its new innovative online certification system that increases efficiency and accessibility for educators seeking certification in the state.

State school Superintendent Tom Horne said, “The Arizona Department of Education is a service organization, and I am dedicated to cutting red tape and eliminating barriers to those who want to become educators. Streamlining the certification process with this online system makes it easier for current educators and those who are just entering the profession to get all the documents they need to thrive in their work.”

The new online certification is now live and it represents a significant advancement in the way certification applications are processed and managed. Initial reports from users say the system is easier to use and faster than the one it replaced. It provides educators with a seamless and intuitive method to submit applications, track progress, and receive real-time updates.

Key Features of the online certification system include:

- **Simplified Application Process:** Educators can now complete all certification applications entirely online, eliminating the need for cumbersome paperwork and manual submissions. The intuitive interface guides applicants through each step of the process, ensuring accuracy and completeness.
- **Real-Time Application Tracking:** With the new system, applicants can track the status of their certification applications in real-time. From submission to approval, educators have full visibility into the progress of their applications, reducing uncertainty and providing peace of mind.
- **Automated Notifications:** The online certification system will send automated notifications to applicants at key milestones throughout the certification process. Whether it’s confirming application submission, requesting additional documentation, or notifying of approval, educators stay informed every step of the way.
- **Enhanced Customer Support:** A dedicated support team is available to assist educators with any questions or issues they may encounter while using the online certification system. From technical assistance to guidance on application requirements, support services ensure a smooth and seamless experience for all users.

The online certification system is now available for educators to use. All users must have an ADE Connect account. If they have previously logged into the online application system, they have an ADE account, and the username and password will not change. ADE Self Registration Link: <https://adeconnect.azed.gov/Account/SelfRegistration/General>

## Educator Recruitment and Retention

The Educator Recruitment and Retention's Military Community Liaison launched the Arizona Purple Star School program on July 15, 2024, joining 40 other states supporting military-connected and highly mobile students. Schools that meet Arizona and Department requirements can be designated an Arizona Purple Star School (AZPSS) for two years. Understanding these students' unique circumstances and implementing an AZPSS program has been shown to improve school culture and climate. For more information visit <https://www.azed.gov/teach/azpss-program>

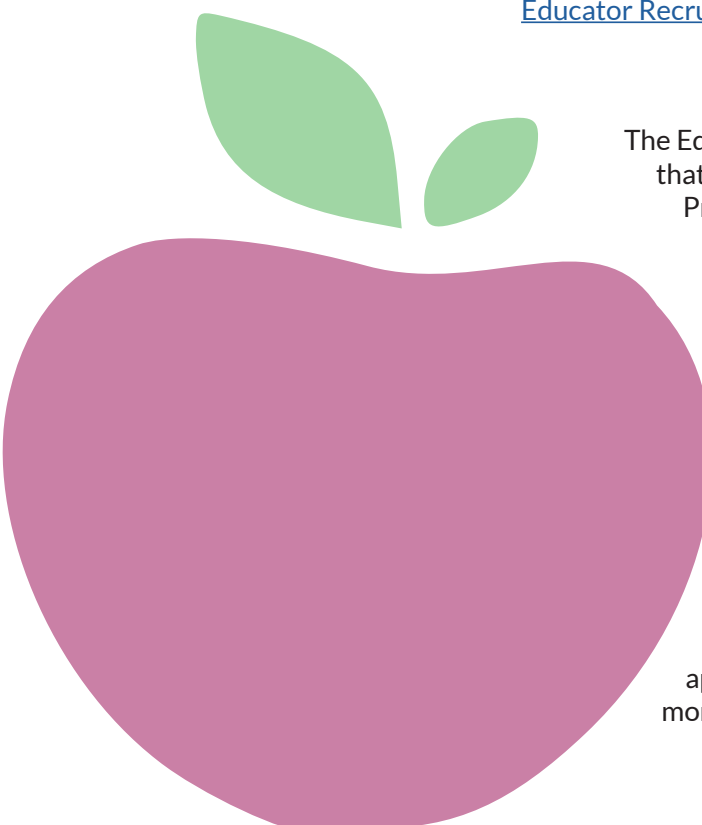
Educators from Arizona gathered on a special ADE task force to discuss current challenges with the Arizona educator shortage. The Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force Recommendations were published and released in March 2024. The team met and crafted recommendations that are a practical three-pronged approach to the teacher shortage that LEAs can implement to positively impact retention, which will ultimately impact student achievement. The Educator Recruitment and Retention Unit has been and continues to support local education agencies in their work focused on recruitment and retention, specifically on the three focus areas from the task force: Teacher Voice, Induction With Robus Mentoring, and Retention Plans.

For more information visit:

[Task Force Recommendations](#)

[Task Force Additional Information](#)

[Educator Recruitment and Retention Repository](#)



The Educator Recruitment and Retention (ERR) Unit is excited to announce that it will be launching an Arizona Registered K-12 Teacher Apprenticeship Program in the spring of 2025. A registered teacher apprenticeship program allows participants to become certified teachers for little to no cost to them while gaining hands-on experience under the guidance of a journeyworker (master teacher). The ERR team has been working with the Arizona Department of Labor for the past year to adopt standards and competencies for the soon-to-launch state-sponsored program. This program will assist in addressing teacher shortage challenges by building a pipeline of future educators, allowing apprentices to work alongside teachers while earning their certification, and building a faculty that better represents student populations. The ERR team will launch a pilot program first with selected local education agencies (LEAs) and educator preparation programs (EPPs). Additionally, the ERR team will host informational sessions for those interested at the apprentice, LEA, and EPP level once the program is fully launched. For more information: [apprenticeships@azed.gov](mailto:apprenticeships@azed.gov)

## The Arizona Department of Education congratulate and salutes our state's nationally recognized Blue Ribbon Schools!



1. **Shadow Ridge High School** (<https://www.dysart.org/mainsite/schools/shadow-ridge-high-school>)
  - a. In addition to the general curriculum, Shadow Ridge High School offers Advanced Placement and dual enrollment programs in which many students earn college credit while attending high school.
  - b. Shadow Ridge High School is home to the district's award-winning Engineering Career and Technical Education Program with classes including Honors and an Engineering Internship.
  - c. The visual and performing arts play a central role at Shadow with students participating in the Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency program.
  - d. Shadow Ridge High School has been recognized as an "A" School by the Arizona Department of Education, is listed in US News and World Reports top high schools in Arizona, and is an A+ School of Excellence.
  
2. **Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center** (Prescott Valley: <https://www.aaechs.com/>)
  - a. The school has proudly served the students and their families of the Quad-City area for the past twelve years. The school has a population of 330 students.
  - b. Families want their children to participate in an early college program where they can earn their associate degree through Yavapai College before they graduate from high school.
  - c. The administration works with each student to plan their college classes, meets with each student multiple times a year, and guides students towards their college success. Teachers and staff work with students and prepare them for college by teaching them to become self-advocates.
  
3. **Xavier College Preparatory** (<https://www.xcp.org>)
  - a. Since 1943, Xavier has provided an environment where young women reach the highest standards in academic excellence and extracurricular activities.
  - b. Xavier's acclaimed programs in academics, arts, technology, and athletics continually evolve to meet changing educational and college requirements, as well as needs of students.
  - c. Project-based learning modules and partnerships with local universities increase student engagement. International study opportunities provide a global perspective of culture and service.
  - d. More than 30% of students graduate with Associate Degrees through the Dual-Enrollment Program, providing a significant advantage as they enter college.
  
4. **Marc T. Atkinson Middle School** (<https://www.csd83.org/Atkinson>)
  - a. Atkinson achieved an "A" rating from the state just one year after its transformation in 2022 from a traditional middle school to a gifted academy serving students throughout the Cartwright School District.



- b. The school's philosophy is embedded in its code-Community, Opportunity, Diversity, and Excellence. These pillars drive our students to discover their unique strengths, establish meaningful connections, and pursue academic excellence.
  - c. Atkinson students are encouraged to think critically and develop innovative solutions to real-world problems, preparing them to navigate and contribute to an interconnected world with confidence and empathy.
5. **Robert Bracker Elementary School** (Nogales: <https://www.nusd.k12.az.us/o/rmbes>)
- a. Bracker Elementary uses instructional strategies to improve reading comprehension in ELA (English language arts) and Math.
  - b. Teachers help students build vocabulary, Implement Depth of knowledge activities, and sequence and synthesize key concepts.
  - c. Bracker Elementary strives for English proficiency, reading proficiency, and offers a multitude of after-school programs and clubs, including robotics, yoga, art, fitness, music, band, and art classes to provide a comprehensive and 21st century learning experience for all students.
  - d. The school is known for its academic excellence, consistently earning a letter grade of "A" from the Arizona Department of Education. This achievement highlights the school's dedication to high academic standards and its effective use of Marzano's high-yield instructional strategies.
6. **Chandler BASIS** (<https://enrollbasis.com/chandler>)
- a. Since opening in 2011, BASIS has sustained their commitment to delivering a world-class education that fosters not just intellectual curiosity, but also character development, leadership skills, and profound personal growth.
  - b. The rigorous college preparatory education at BASIS readies students for the competitive university admissions process, helps them become eligible for scholarships, prepares them to prosper at top colleges, and enriches their lives.
  - c. Teachers are deeply committed to their academic subjects, and exhibit that commitment in guiding and mentoring students. Programs, like the Senior Research Project and diverse extracurricular offerings, ensure every student can foster and foment their interests and talents.

For more information on the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School program, please go to:  
<https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/>

Visit [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov) to stay informed!

## Certification

The Certification Unit successfully implemented a new certification application system on September 30, 2024. The new system has five portals to greatly enhance efficiency and user experience for educators, local education agencies (LEAs), and educator preparation programs (EPPs).

- ALL services are now available online.
- Applicants will be able to monitor their applications more closely and receive email updates during the application process.
- All users must have an ADE Connect account

**Applicants/ Educators:** to access the new system visit <https://mycert.azed.gov>

**LEAs and EPPs:** to access the new system visit <https://cert.azed.gov> *\*\*Please note that roles in the system must be requested by your entity admin*

**Educator Search Public Portal:** <https://mycert.azed.gov/public>

