STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 11, 2013

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Senate Bill 1293 (schools; outcome-based funding; simulated pilot)

Dear Secretary Bennett,

Today, I signed into law Senate Bill 1293. The bill's sponsor, Senator Chester Crandell, and I agree that we should modernize Arizona's school funding system by tying funding more directly to school performance and improvement, rather than simply pupil enrollment.

Unfortunately, SB 1293 doesn't go far enough. I am concerned about the possibility that results of this pilot program may be misinterpreted. It is only a simulation.

I urge the Arizona Legislature to adopt my Performance Funding plan for schools. This is the only real way to see how financial incentives for districts will drive the kind of innovation, accountability and excellence we all want for Arizona classrooms. My initiative takes a conservative, cautious approach by phasing-in over five years, and would only represent a small fraction of overall school funding.

It is not enough to merely measure our schools. We must fund the academic results we want, rather than continuing to feed our current system. It is time to bring Arizona's school-finance system into the 21st Century.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Cc: The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Andy Biggs
The Honorable Chester Crandell

1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
602-542-4331 • FAX 602-542-7602