



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 24, 2014

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

Re: House Bill 2316 (schools; local control; student privacy)

Dear Secretary Bennett,

Today, I vetoed House Bill 2316, which would have limited the authority of Arizona to set academic standards and placed important aspects of the state's education system at risk.

The language in the bill is redundant and unnecessary. Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards were not developed or mandated by the federal government. The State Board of Education, Arizona's constitutional entity charged with adopting state standards, is already required to use an open and transparent process. The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) does not mandate curricula or instructional approaches unless specifically required by law. Accordingly, it is unnecessary to pass a law that requires government agencies to follow the law.

The bill also prohibits ADE from requiring school districts and charter schools to use specific instructional approaches. Therefore, it could have likely preempted ADE from stipulating that schools teach early reading with a phonics-based emphasis, and from enforcing the requirements of the Structured English Immersion Program.

These concerns are among the primary reasons I vetoed House Bill 2316.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Andy Tobin  
The Honorable Andy Biggs  
The Honorable Justin Pierce