



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Michele Reagan  
Secretary of State  
1700 W. Washington, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Secretary Reagan:

I signed S.B. 1289.

As we improve the A-F accountability system, I urge the State Board of Education to set the bar high. Our "A" schools should be an accurate representation of Arizona's best public schools. The accountability measures in the letter grades should provide parents with a better picture of the quality of the school. The Arizona Board of Education should look to best practices in other states, like Florida, Massachusetts and Indiana, and replicate what works in these states here in Arizona. The State Board of Education, along with the Department of Education, should use the transition period wisely for public engagement and stakeholder input. During this transition, parents must continue to have access to school performance indicators as they make important decisions about their children's education. Once complete, the A-F system should be simple for parents to understand and have clear expectations of quality for schools to follow.

As the State Board of Education considers the future of the A-F accountability system, I call upon the State Board of Education to report to me and the Legislature on the feasibility of including a menu of local and/or statewide assessments in the improved accountability system. Local control, and the flexibility to use the curriculum and assessment tools that works best in each individual school and classroom, furthers accountability and gives freedom to the teacher to teach and the student to learn.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Andy Biggs  
The Honorable David Gowan  
The Honorable Kelli Ward