

# Classrooms First Initiative Council

**December 14, 2016**



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**1** Office of the Governor

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- Twitter:
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## Website

- <http://education.azgovernor.gov/edu/classrooms-first-initiative>

# Approval of December 1, 2016 Minutes



# Presentation of Final Report



# Guiding Principles & Next Steps



The Council's [December 2015 report](#) was founded on a thorough review of the state's current, 35-year-old system of funding public schools. Through hours of presentations and testimony from a broad spectrum of education consultants and stakeholders, the Council delivered 17 findings related to equitable funding, transparency, and alignment of education funding to academic results. This final report to Governor Ducey builds and refines the December 2015 findings by incorporating concepts presented by education organizations during an open and transparent proposal process.

## Guiding Principle 1



The Council wishes to convey to Governor Ducey and all policymakers a strong belief that this process has been a great opportunity to make a strong statement that the state must take overall responsibility for funding an education system that provides an excellent education for every child in our state.

## Guiding Principle 2



The Council's recommendations are predicated on the belief that statutory changes must be implemented through a robust stakeholder process with legislative input and approval.

As such, the report identifies strategies for success but allows for a broader deliberative policy-making process that extends beyond the Council itself.

## Guiding Principle 3



The Council's recommendations under [Executive Order 2016-04](#) reflect a desire to approach an overhaul of school finance through a comprehensive reform package based on the foundational principles of equity under which the current system of school finance was developed in the early 1980's.

## Guiding Principle 4



The Council also recognizes that recommendations contained in this report that are beyond the scope of the original Executive Order reflect a concern by the Council on the adequacy of funding levels currently available to public schools and should be addressed. The Council also acknowledges that through almost 18 months of stakeholder engagement, a quality, outcome-based funding system must be built using best practices that move the needle on student performance.

## Guiding Principle 5



The Council provides these recommendations to Governor Ducey and policymakers as they consider investments and funding opportunities which were raised as the most impactful reforms by a diverse group of education stakeholders.

## Guiding Principle 6



# Summary of Recommendations



- **Recommendation 1:** Develop a simplified & single school finance formula for all public schools.
- **Recommendation 2:** Create standardized and consolidated tax rates across school district taxing jurisdictions to develop an equitable and fair funding structure, combined with state General Fund appropriations, that contributes to all K-12 students.
- **Recommendation 3:** Reduce reliance on local property tax funding generated outside of the revenue control limit through exploration of alternative funding sources for targeted programs.

## Summary of Recommendations



- **Recommendation 4:** Operationalize school finance laws in rule to increase efficiency in implementation and the understandability of our system of public finance.
- **Recommendation 5:** Allocate resources to public schools in lump sum funding and provide all public schools with the ability to operate without the constraints of onerous regulations.
- **Recommendation 6:** Direct school systems to provide parents school-level reports that account for actual per-pupil resources generated through the formula and the budgeted amount allocated to the school.

## Summary of Recommendations



- **Recommendation 7:** Develop a parent portal to explain Arizona’s school finance system that includes a mechanism in which parents can calculate the amount their child generates through the state’s funding formula.
- **Recommendation 8:** Empower school leaders to be more actively involved in internal budgetary processes, not only at their school level, but through system-wide budgetary decisions.
- **Recommendation 9:** Endorse the Arizona Education Progress Meter.

## Summary of Recommendations



- **Recommendation 10:** Tackle the Teacher Shortage head on through: a) increase teacher salaries across the board, b) incentivize teachers who transfer or remain teaching in high poverty, rural, and remote schools, c) expand teacher loan forgiveness programs, d) develop mentoring programs, and e) streamline certification requirements to reduce administrative burden to teachers.

## Summary of Recommendations



- **Recommendation 11:** Close the Achievement Gap by: a) addressing early literacy needs with a funding priority in low-income communities, b) reward academic outcomes, with special focus on high performing, low-income schools, c) institute a poverty indicator to address gaps in achievement (and to resolve student funding inequities across school systems), and d) address student learning inequities in rural communities.

## Summary of Recommendations



- **Recommendation 12:** Conduct an actuarial cost study on special education and identify ways to address adequacy of funding based on study results.

## Summary of Recommendations



# Other Considerations



- Capital Finance Reform
- Proposition 301 renewal
- Proposition 123 expiration

## Other Considerations



# Public Comments



# Adjourn

