

CLASSROOMS FIRST INITIATIVE; INCREASED DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

**WHEREAS**, Arizona's K-12 public school finance code has existed for generations without the comprehensive reform needed to deliver adequate funding for teachers and classroom instruction;

**WHEREAS**, reform is needed for the additional reason that the public school finance code has not sufficiently integrated major substantive additions to the public education system, such as charter schools, open enrollment, and other school choice options;

**WHEREAS**, the Auditor General's report, "Arizona School District Spending (Classroom Dollars) Fiscal Year 2013," conducted by the Division of School Audits, concludes that only 53.8 percent of dollars spent on K-12 public education were spent on teachers and classroom instruction;

**WHEREAS**, to the greatest extent possible, every dollar should be spent on teachers and classroom instruction;

**WHEREAS**, K-12 education represents 43 percent of Arizona's FY2015 General Fund spending, and Arizona will spend more than \$10 billion on K-12 education in FY15 from all federal, state, and local sources;

**WHEREAS**, a modernized school finance code is needed to ensure adequate funding for teachers and classroom instruction, directly resulting in student success and ultimately a stronger workforce for the State of Arizona;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey**, Governor of the State of Arizona, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, do hereby establish the Classrooms First Initiative, "the Initiative," and I order as follows:

1. The Initiative shall be directed by an Initiative Council consisting of the following members, appointed by the Governor:
  - At least one chair;
  - At least one representative of the Governor;
  - The Superintendent of Public Instruction;
  - The President of the State Board of Education;
  - The President of the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools;
  - A county school superintendent;
  - A charter school operator or representative;
  - A school district superintendent;
  - A public school teacher;
  - At least one school finance expert; and
  - A taxpayer representative.
2. Members of the Initiative Council serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
3. The Initiative Council shall meet at least once per month and as often as required, as determined by the chair(s).

4. No later than September 1, 2015, the Initiative Council shall provide the Governor with a preliminary report and, no later than December 1, 2015, the Initiative Council shall provide the Governor with a final report.
5. The reports shall address the following:
  - Revisions to the K-12 public school finance code;
  - Maximizing the delivery of funds to teachers and classroom instruction; and
  - Any other items consistent with the policies and principles set forth in this Order.
6. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2015.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

*Douglas Ducey*

**GOVERNOR**

**DONE** at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twelfth day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Ninth.

**ATTEST:**

*Michele Reagan*

