

April 5, 2016

Statement in Support of the Arizona Department of Education's AzEDS Project

The AELAS monitoring team from WestEd and CELT just finished its third quarter 2015-2016 monitoring site visit to ADE as is required by A.R.S. 15-249. The team's visit yielded positive progress on all major issues observed during the previous visit. ADE is making significant and positive progress toward the rollout of an exemplary data system that positions ADE as one of the leading state education agencies in terms of their technological data infrastructure. One of the monitoring foci in the past year has been the transition from the old data system, SAIS, to the new system, AzEDS. This has been a concern internal to ADE as well as the districts it serves. The monitoring team's findings indicate that ADE has been conducting appropriate testing and reviews of the business rules to insure the accuracy of the data and make as smooth a transition as possible to AzEDS from SAIS. It is essential to note that SAIS was an antiquated system that could not be maintained indefinitely. AzEDS provides the state and local education agencies with a modern and sustainable data system that also will help to ensure more accurate data and funding allocations over time. The progress ADE is making is commendable. The monitoring team has confidence in ADE's ability to overcome the risks that remain for this project and implement AzEDS to the districts across the state of Arizona.

Ellen Mandinach, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist
WestEd
emandin@wested.org
(609) 426-1572