

October 1, 2016

Diane Douglas
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Arizona Department of Education
1535 W. Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Superintendent Douglas:

As the statewide coalition working to bring Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to all corners of Arizona, we thank you for your recognition of the benefits that multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) and positive behavior supports bring to our students. By including these evidence-based approaches in the ESSA State Plan, schools will be in a better position to provide effective supports for student achievement. Schools throughout Arizona have already proven that when PBIS is implemented with fidelity, dramatic reductions in office disciplinary referrals are achieved, as well as reductions in suspensions, seclusions and restraints, and improvement in the overall school climate. Time saved on behavior challenges are minimized and classroom time for academics is restored. In addition, PBIS has been shown to be instrumental in recruiting and retaining teachers and in promoting meaningful parent engagement.

The PBISAZ Advisory Council is comprised of 28 organizations and individuals seeking to build the capacity to implement PBIS within Arizona schools, families, and communities, through high quality training and coaching, information sharing, and recognition for outstanding practice. We look forward to collaborating with you and your staff on this shared mission.

Sincerely,

Jean Ajamie

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