



State of Arizona  
Department of  
Education



# Research Agenda

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**Research Vision Statement:** The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) serves as the expert research authority on PK-12 data in the state of Arizona.

**Research Mission Statement:** The mission of ADE is to improve education for all students in the state of Arizona through relationships with education stakeholders, providing data resources and collaborating on various research projects.

**Purpose:** ADE has identified topics and questions that align with the ADE's strategies, goals and priorities. While this Research Agenda outlines areas of interest, ADE does not have resources committed to answering each question. ADE welcomes proposals from independent, non-partisan researchers interested in addressing these questions and topic areas.

**Process:** Please use the following links to resources, guidance and data request applications.

[Data Management Main Site](#)

[Types and Processes of Data Request Overview Video](#)

[Public Data Set](#)

[Data Request Form](#)

**All research should integrate the following themes:**

## Equity

Equity ensures that each student has educational opportunities and support to reach their full potential.

All research should include a component and perspective on equity and opportunity as it relates to Arizona students. For example, there is a need for researchers to assess subgroups like English Learners, Arizona's Native American students and Economically Disadvantaged students to evaluate issues related to equity and their access to opportunities that put them on the same footing as other students.

## Data Quality

An important responsibility of ADE is the delivery of clearly defined data for confident decision-making and to demonstrate statutory and regulatory compliance. Sources and methods selected to capture data for analysis and presentation are important aspects of data quality. The research design, analysis and reporting should ensure high quality products. All research proposals should address how the research will support and inform ADE data quality efforts and how to achieve an acceptable level of data quality in research results.



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## Research Topics

Research topics, developed and outlined with a diverse group of stakeholders, are listed below. These topics are areas of focus for the Arizona Department of Education. It is encouraged that research requests focus on these topics for prioritization throughout the process.

### 1) Educator Professionalism (aka Effectiveness)

- a) Potential Topics
  - i) Educator Experience
  - ii) Educator Retention
  - iii) Indicators of Professionalism
  - iv) Educator Evaluation
  - v) Educator Innovation
  - vi) Professional Development of Education Staff
- *Sample Research Questions*
  - *Are all students provided equal access to highly effective teachers across our state regardless of their demographics or location within the state?*
  - *How are educators motivated to maintain classroom excellence and high achievement?*
  - *What factors lead to better retention?*

### 2) PK-12/20 Success Indicators

- a) Potential Topics
  - i) K-12 Indicators of Post-Secondary Success
  - ii) Math and Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM)
  - iii) School/ *Local Education Agency (LEA)* Success
  - iv) Achievement Gap Improvement
  - v) Early Support/Early Intervention
  - vi) Early Warning Indicators of High School Dropout
  - vii) College and Career Readiness Indicators
  - viii) English Learner Success
  - ix) Resource Student Achievement
- *Sample Research Questions*
  - *What are the opportunities in the schools for multi-lingual education and how successful are those programs?*
  - *Does the focus on individualized learning lead to greater achievement than focus on their subgroup(s)?*
  - *Do all third-grade students, regardless of their demographics and location within the state, have the opportunity to achieve reading proficiency by the end of third grade?*
  - *Are all students provided equal access to resources to be successful in Algebra I across our state regardless of their demographics or location within the state?*



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- *Are all students supported to stay on track to graduate on time (including credit achievement) across our state regardless of their demographics or location within the state?*
- *Are all students equally supported to be college and career ready across our state regardless of their demographics or location within the state?*
- *What impact does Career and Technical Education have on College and Career Readiness?*

### 3) Climate and Culture

#### a) Potential Topics

- i) School Qualitative Measures
- ii) Social and Emotional Development within Public Schools
- iii) Intervention, Services or Programs for Climate or Cultural Improvement
- iv) Behavioral Support/Discipline
- v) Counselors/Guidance
- vi) Community Enrichment
- vii) School Resource Officers
- viii) Bullying/Harassment

#### ● *Sample Research Questions*

- *Are students subject to similar behavioral/discipline practices across our state regardless of their demographics or location within the state?*
- *Does the number of counselors/guidance personnel impact the behavior/climate of a school campus?*
- *What are the impacts of school resource officers on a school's culture, climate or behavior?*

### 4) Early Services & Support (Intervention)

#### a) Potential Topics

- i) Access to Preschool Education
- ii) Early Intervention and Success of English Learners
- iii) Early Intervention and Success of Special Education Students
- iv) Student Success Based on Early Education Opportunities

#### ● *Sample Research Questions*

- *Do children have equal access to preschool opportunities across our state regardless of their demographics or location within the state?*
- *Does early education opportunities lead to greater elementary, secondary and post-secondary success?*

### 5) Mobility (Student Education Family Resources)

#### a) Potential Topics

- i) Rate of Mobility of Students within the State Regarding the Demographics and Locations
- ii) Rate of Mobility of Teachers within the State Regarding the Demographics and Locations



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### iii) Resource Availability in High Mobility Areas

- *Sample Research Questions*
  - *What is the achievement success based on mobility index of a school/LEA?*
  - *What is the reason for the high mobility of educators?*
  - *What services are available to address mobility in the state?*

## 6) School Choice

### a) Potential Topics

- i) Factors of School Choice
- ii) Advantage of School Choice
- iii) Academic Difference in School Choice

- *Sample Research Questions*
  - *What are the factors and their rating for school choice based on student, families and educators?*
  - *What are the differences in achievement based on similar demographics district schools and charter schools?*

## 7) Data

### a) Potential Topics

- i) Legislative Use of Educational Data
- ii) Data Governance
- iii) Data and Instruction
- iv) Data Quality and Availability
- v) Effective use of Data

- *Sample Research Questions*
  - *What is the impact on student achievement of legislative data driven decisions?*
  - *How are data driven decisions used in instruction to improve achievement?*
  - *How are data used in other educational venues outside of achievement and for what purposes?*
  - *Which core data is required to evaluate the impact of academic achievement?*
  - *What is the cost of accountability reporting at the state and federal levels, including the collection, maintenance, calculation, reporting and educating of all engaged resources?*

## 8) School Finance

### a) Potential Topics

- i) Expenditures Per Pupil
- ii) Local Education Dollar (Bonds and Overrides)
- iii) Complexity of School Financial Model
- iv) Facility Maintenance and Repair
- v) Charter Schools and Non-Charter Schools

- *Sample Research Questions*
  - *Is school funding equitable across schools within the state of Arizona?*



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- *Is school funding equitable across all subgroups and locations?*
- *How does Arizona school funding models compare to other states?*

## 9) Accessibility to Resources

### a) Potential Topics

- i) Academic offerings
- ii) Extracurricular programs
- iii) Professional Educators
- iv) Facilities
- v) Technology
- vi) Curriculum and Resources

### • *Sample Research Questions*

- *Is accessibility to the extracurricular programs and educational resources equitable across the state and across schools, and/or serving most of a subgroup population?*
- *How are accessibility to resources impacting education and student achievement across subgroups and locations in Arizona?*