

Executive Order 2013-08
Reaffirming Arizona's Right to Set Education Policy

WHEREAS, Arizona has the constitutional right to set its own education policies and has adopted aggressive goals to significantly increase the number of students graduating from high school ready to succeed in college and in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's previous standards and assessment did not adequately prepare Arizona's students for higher education and their careers; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education adopted new Arizona standards for mathematics and English language arts in 2010 that raise the expectations and accountability for Arizona's public district and charter school students so they graduate prepared for success in college and in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, no official state reading list or list of example texts has been adopted by the State Board of Education nor will my administration endorse any state reading list or list of example texts; and

WHEREAS, business and community leaders throughout Arizona have supported the new standards because they will improve our economy by supplying a more skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, teachers are fully implementing the standards this year; and

WHEREAS, school leaders across Arizona are working diligently to ensure teachers are trained to improve lesson plans and instruction to prepare students for Arizona's new assessment next year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. To clarify the underlying purpose of the standards adopted by the State Board of Education on June 28, 2010, I direct executive agencies and encourage the citizens of Arizona and education stakeholders in this state to refer to these standards as Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards.
2. No standards or curriculum shall be imposed on Arizona by the federal government.
3. The power to set and define learning standards for students in Arizona's public districts and charter schools shall remain with the State Board of Education.
4. Decisions regarding curriculum, instructional materials, and literature shall be made at the local level in order to maximize parents' control and influence so that schooling best meets families' educational needs and expectations.
5. A new assessment aligned to Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards shall be selected through an unbiased and impartial procurement process to ensure it best meets Arizona's needs to measure student learning.
6. Arizona citizens are encouraged to engage their local school boards to ensure that local curricula meets the rigorous expectations found in Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards and that school leaders and teachers are effectively implementing these standards.
7. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon signature.



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


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twentieth day of September in the Year Two Thousand Thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Eighth.

ATTEST:


Secretary of State