FEBRUARY 2015
25  Spring Legal Webinar (1st of series) – Register

MARCH 2015
6    Spring Legal Webinars (2nd of series) – Register
27   Spring Legal Webinars (3rd of series) – Register

APRIL 2015
8    Pre-Conference: The Equity Event in Phoenix – Info/Register
8    HNAIC Golf Tournament, Phoenix – Sign up
9-10 ASBA’s The Equity Event in Phoenix – Info/Register

Please join us for A Day at the Capitol and speak out for education
Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 9-11 a.m. and meet us at the Arizona Capitol Museum Old Senate Chamber, 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix, to show your support for students in public education in Arizona. Here is the agenda:
- 9-9:40 a.m.: Training and sharing survey results
- 9:45-10:15 a.m.: Capitol Tour and Request to Speak sign up
- 10:30-11:30 a.m.: Panel discussion with key policymakers
It’s important to let our legislators know that they need to start understanding that our schools, inside and outside the classroom, are critical for developing the whole child.
Information/register

10 Facts you should know about Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs)
Bills that would expand empowerment scholarship accounts are moving through the Legislature. All board members, education leaders, district personnel and concerned community members need to be informed about ESAs: what they are, who they affect, the pros and cons. ASBA has put together an ESA Fact Sheet to answer your questions and share within your networks.

Spring Legal Webinar Series: Join in live or watch on demand!
ASBA kicks off the first session of this year’s Spring Legal Webinar Series on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 9 a.m., with two important sessions for board members and school district administrative personnel: a legislative update from Janice Palmer, director of governmental relations and public affairs, and the latest legal update from Chris Thomas, general counsel/director of legal and policy services. There will also be a presentation on employee rights from John Richardson and Sesaly Stamps from the law firm of DeConcini, McDonald, Yetwin & Lacey, P.C. Even if you cannot make the first session (or any of the three sessions), by signing up online for the series you will have access to all of the sessions which are being recorded and will be available for on-
demand access. PLUS, your one-time $200 registration fee covers all three sessions for as many board members and administrative personnel as would like to participate through a single device/connection. Registration and Agendas for each session are available online. Webinar dates:

- **February 25**: Spring Legal Webinar (1st of series)
- **March 6**: Spring Legal Webinar (2nd of series)
- **March 27**: Spring Legal Webinar (3rd of series)

**Mark your calendar: New dates in June for ASBA’S Summer Leadership Institute**

We'll still be at the Little America Resort in Flagstaff for our popular Summer Leadership Institute, but this year’s dates will be June 11-12. Be sure to mark you calendar and look for information in upcoming Report Cards.

**PolicyBridge Program goes online March 2**

ASBA Policy Services will be implementing the new PolicyBridge program on March 2 at 8 a.m. The program provides subscribers an interactive, faster and more accessible policy experience. To prepare districts for PolicyBridge, 18 training meetings were conducted throughout the state this past summer and fall. In a further effort to prepare districts, information related to self-training efforts has also been posted on the ASBA website. ASBA has automatically assigned the superintendent’s administrative assistant of each district as the “superuser” of the PolicyBridge program. This is the person who has language edit responsibilities and will communicate—through the program—with ASBA Policy Services. Should a district decide to designate a different person for this “superuser” responsibility, they will need to email Steve Highlen, senior policy consultant, at shighlen@azsba.org with the full name, position title and email address of the new “superuser.” Also, for additional information regarding this exciting new program, please refer to the article authored by Chris Thomas, ASBA general counsel/director of legal and policy services in the winter 2015 issue of the ASBA Journal, which mails out next week.

[Online training](#)  
[Training Manual](#)

**Help close the opportunity and achievement gap by attending ASBA’s The Equity Event**

This conference has been designed to explore strategies and solutions that address the challenges facing K-12 education today. ASBA, and its partners the Helios Education Foundation and WestEd, have joined together to encourage board members, district personnel, education leaders and community members to attend this first-of-its-kind event. Watch the Equity Video.

In addition to outstanding keynote speakers and general sessions, there be 12 breakout sessions. Topics are:

- Intervention models that improve outcomes
- Raising rigor for all
- Developing college- and career-ready cultures
- Early education
- Family engagement
- Leadership to create a culture of equity
- Equity-focused policies and practices
- Challenges common to urban and rural school boards
- Civil rights, equity and opportunity
• Funding models that support equity
• Identifying and addressing discipline disparities
• Positive behavioral intervention and supports

Learn about leadership strategies and promising practices for closing the opportunity and achievement gaps in public education. View the agenda.

The conference will be held April 9-10 at the Hyatt Regency, 122 North Second St., Phoenix. The $285/person registration fee for both ASBA members and non-members includes all online materials, continental breakfast and lunch on both days and a hosted reception on Thursday, April 9. Deadline to register without additional fees is Wednesday, April 1. Registration is now open online.

Also, please join us for the April 8 pre-conference, which focuses on issues facing Native American Indian students immediately before The Equity Event (see below). ASBA has secured rooms at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix (888.421.1442) for a conference rate of $149 single/double. Be sure to mention the ASBA Equity Event if you are making reservations by phone. Deadline for reservations is Friday, March 27. You may also make hotel reservations online.

Fundraisers at The Equity Event
Each of the ASBA Caucuses will be holding fundraising events at The Equity Event with proceeds going toward student scholarships. For more information on how to participate:
• ASBA Hispanic Native-American Indian Caucus Golf Tournament Fundraiser
• ASBA Black Caucus Movie Night

Pre-conference dedicated to issues facing Native American Indian students
Immediately before The Equity Event, there will be a pre-conference on Wednesday, April 8, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., which will give attendees the opportunity to discuss and identify methods of closing the opportunity and achievement gap for Native American Indian students. Separate from The Equity Event, this pre-conference is also at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix. Registration fee includes all online materials and lunch and is $80/person. This is being held in partnership with the West Comprehensive Center at WestEd. Topics and presenters will be:
• “Where We Stand,” Jacob Moore, assistant vice president of tribal relations, Arizona State University, and member, Arizona State Board of Education
• The Board’s Role in Turnaround and Equity, Dr. Lauren Morando Rhim, strategic partner for the Center for School Turnaround, executive director of National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools, and author of “Moving Beyond the Killer B’s: The Role of School Boards in School Accountability and Transformation”
• “Thinking Differently about Student Success,” Jeff Fuller, superintendent of the Whiteriver Unified School District
• “The Family and Cultural Connection,” Theresa Price, director of Native American Education program for Mesa Public Schools and the Phoenix Indian Center’s 2014 Woman of the Year

Pre-conference registration

AZEdNews: Did you miss these important news stories?
Everyone gets so busy these days, but in case you missed reading all of ASBA’s AZEdNews in recent weeks, here’s a second chance at the most important stories you should take the time to read:

- **What’s driving the growth in career and technical education?**
  An increase in the access to career and technical education courses is making it possible for thousands of Arizona high school students to graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to establish high-wage, in-demand careers or help them pay their way through college.

- **Where Arizona students learn and what is spent on them**
  While Arizona’s K-12 students have remained around a million for the past 10 years, where they attend school has shifted only slightly over time and according to the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction’s recently released Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

- **Achieving faster, engaged better: More Arizona schools use blended learning**
  More Arizona students are taking part in blended learning by spending a portion of their time learning content through digital or Internet-based media in addition to traditional classroom instruction as a way to increase student engagement and achievement.

- **Public education advocate Diane Ravitch on testing, school choice and teaching**
  Public education is a civic responsibility not a consumer good, said Diane Ravitch, a research professor of education at New York University, to a recent gathering of Arizona educators and school board members. “Protecting our public schools against privatization and saving them for future generations of American children is the civil rights issue of our time,” said Ravitch, author of Reign of Error and 11 other books on education.

Coming this week: Districts are getting the word out on how the governor’s education budget will impact their students.

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**ASBA Executive Searches**

**SUPERINTENDENT, Continental ESD.** Closes March 2 at 5 p.m.

For more information: [recruiting@azsba.org](mailto:recruiting@azsba.org)

To apply: [Superintendent, Continental ESD](mailto:recruiting@azsba.org)

**OPENING SOON (to apply, check ASBA website on opening date listed):**

- **SUPERINTENDENT – Creighton Elementary School District**
  
  Opens February 26, closes March 16

- **SUPERINTENDENT – Gila Bend Unified School District**
  
  Opens February 27, closes March 18

- **SUPERINTENDENT – Willcox Unified School District**
Opens March 6, closes April 3

ALSO COMING:
SUPERINTENDENT – Douglas Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT – Queen Creek Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT – Window Rock Unified School District

Looking for an interim superintendent? ASBA can help. We maintain a database of people interested in serving as interim superintendents. We will post your requirements and send to this list, then provide you with applications from those individuals interested in your position. There is no charge for this service. For assistance in this area, contact Steve Highlen, ASBA Executive Search Consultant, at shighlen@azsba.org.

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  Contact Shirley Simpson, ASBA Membership Services Coordinator, at ssimpson@azsba.org.