



MEETING OF: October 23, 2012

TITLE: Office of Civil Rights Directive to the Arizona Department of Education Re: AZELLA (English Language Testing)

ITEM #: 4

Information: X

Study:

Action:

PURPOSE:

The Arizona Department of Education entered into a voluntary resolution agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division on August 31, 2012. The agreement requires that school districts in Arizona take action which will impact schools and 1st through 12th grade students in Tucson Unified School District.

DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Arizona Department of Education since SY 2007-2008, was using a composite score on the test (AZELLA) given to determine if a student was an English Language Learner (ELL). The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights determined that the use of this composite score under identified students in all grades, and as a result, these students did not receive the English Language support critical to their success.

The Arizona Department of Education sent a directive to school districts on September 28, 2012 outlining requirements of our District and schools. These requirements include offering intervention services up to two hours daily within the school day in reading and/or writing, and optional before and after school intervention programs. There must be a parent consultation with a parent/guardian of each child affected by December 15, 2012. The TUSD plan for intervention services began with explanations to school administrators on October 11th and October 18th and will include student services, state required parent consultation forms and all necessary documentation.

This item relates to Superintendent's Goals No. 1 - Achievement and No. 6 - Desegregation.

Maggie Shafer will be available to respond to questions.

BOARD POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS:

For all Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs), Initiator of Agenda Item provides the name of the agency responsible for recording the Agreement after approval:

For amendments to current IGAs, Initiator provides original IGA recording number:

Legal Advisor Signature (if applicable)

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

_____ District Budget
 _____ State/Federal Funds
 _____ Other
Budget Cost Budget Code

Budget Certification (for use by Office of
 Financial Services only):

Date

I certify that funds for this expenditure in the amount of \$ are
 available and may be:

Authorized from current year budget

Authorized with School Board approval

Code: Fund:

INITIATOR(S):

John Pedicone, Ph.D., Superintendent

10-17-12

Name

Title

Date

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED/ ON FILE IN BOARD OFFICE:

ATTACHMENTS:

Click to download

- [OCR - AZELLA Directive E-Mail 10-23-12](#)
- [Directive Re AZELLA Resolution Agreement 10-23-12](#)
- [Parent Consultation Form AZELLA Resolution 10-23-12](#)

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD AGENDA ITEM
 CONTINUATION SHEET