



# ADE Supporting Schools Through the Pandemic and Beyond

Kate Wright, Chief of Staff



# Arizona Snapshot

- **State 48 is home to:**
  - **1.1 million students**
  - **2,000 schools (district + charter)**
  - **60,000 educators**
  - **22 Tribal Nations**



# Arizona Department of Education

**Vision:**

**Equity for all students to achieve their full potential**



# Additional Supports for LEAs

- Creation of:
  - Educator Recruitment & Retention team
  - Associate Superintendent of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Expansion of Office of Indian Education
- Internal Strategic Funding Committee
- Weekly zoom calls for Education Leaders



# Serving ADE

**ADE leadership continues to prioritize supporting mental health + well-being of staff**

- **Created the first ever ADE "Wellness Toolkit" in response to COVID-19**
- **Routinely work with ComPsych and other partners serving state employees**
- **Provide space for leadership to share best practices with each other**
- **Hosted internal webinars to communicate and respond to concerns**



# Distributing Federal Recovery Dollars (ESSERs)

- **Strategically leverage federal funds for statewide initiatives**
- **Expand schools' access to evidence-based programs and trainings**
- **Measure success and impact of these investments**



# Student Equity & Achievement

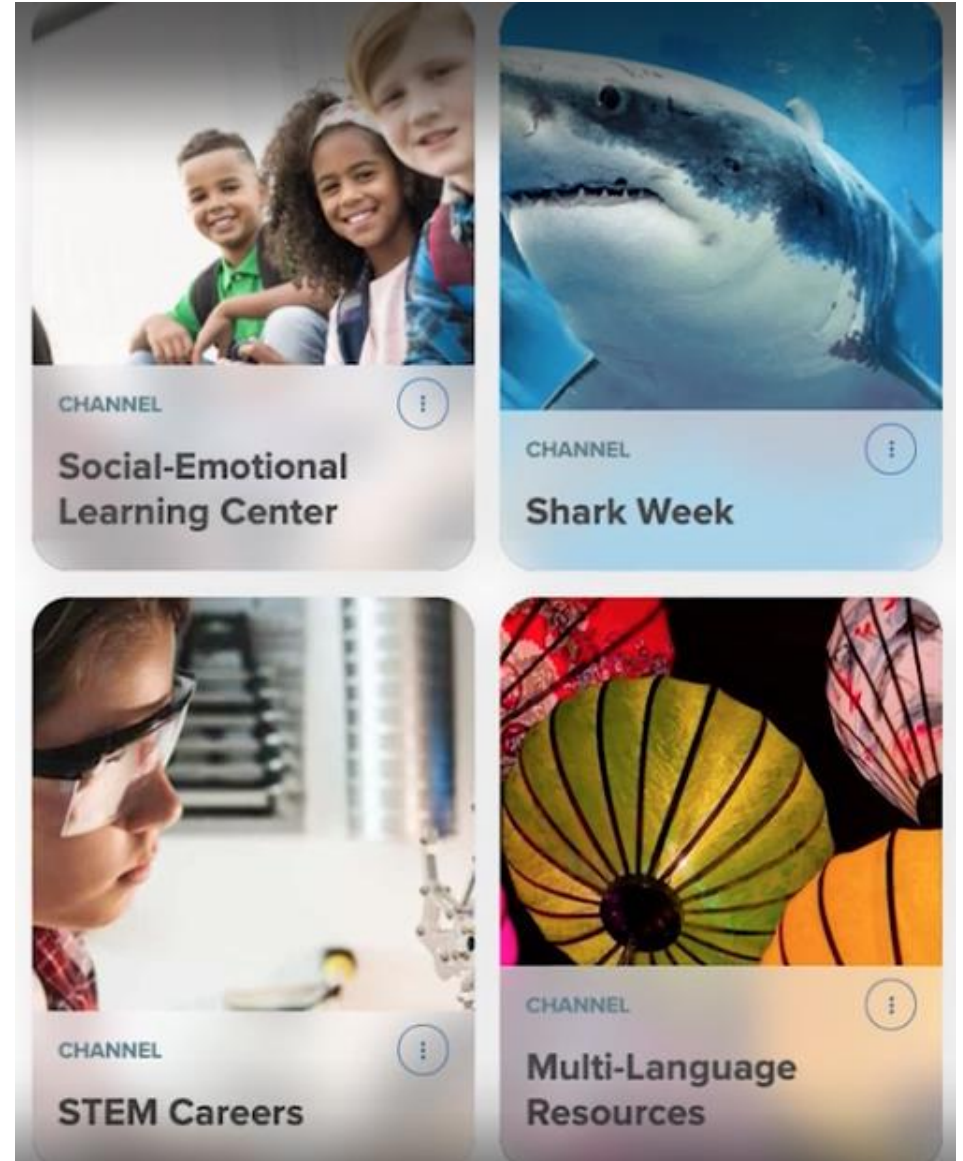
- Discovery Education
- Math Momentum (ASU)
- SPED Cost Study



# Discovery Education

All Arizona educators and students will receive access to the award-winning Discovery Education Experience at no cost.

- Provides educators and students with virtual tools and resources, aligned to the Arizona K-12 standards.





# ASU Digital Prep's Math Momentum

**Designed to boost math and digital literacy skills in middle school-aged students**

- **Resources can be customized based on the participating schools' needs**
- **Now serving 5,000 students at over 40 schools severely impacted by the pandemic, with plans to expand further over the next three years**
- **Examples:**
  - **For schools struggling to find appropriately certified math teachers, the program provides a dedicated teaching partner to assist with instruction.**
  - **For schools with sufficient math teachers on staff, learning coaches from ASU work with and assist the on-site teacher in delivering engaging math lessons to support the individual learning needs of each student.**



# Educator Recruitment & Retention

- Professional development through university programs
  - Arizona Virtual Teacher Institute (ASU)
  - Center for the Recruitment & Retention of Math Educators (UA)
  - Teacher mentoring w/ AZ K12 Center (NAU)
- Supports for Indigenous teacher prep programs (ASU, UA, NAU)



# Arizona K12 Center's Teacher Mentoring

**Keeping new teachers in the classroom beyond the first few years is critical to addressing the teacher shortage in our state**

- **Expanded mentoring program to 22 LEAs**
- **Builds a foundation of induction and mentoring by providing dedicated and trained instructional mentors for new teachers during their first three years in the classroom.**
- **Represent communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, as well as rural and remote districts with long-standing educator recruitment and retention issues.**



# Safe & Healthy Schools

- **Educator Peer Support Program ([www.AZeducator.org](http://www.AZeducator.org))**



- **SEL professional development for educators**
- **140 new school counselor & social worker positions**

# Addressing the Digital Divide

- **Technology Task Force**
- **Expanding rural broadband access through Final Mile Project**
- **Partnership with City of Phoenix to provide laptops/hotspots**
- **New ADE Office of Digital Teaching & Learning**



# Addressing Enrollment Declines

- **Statewide enrollment decline of ~38,500 students in SY 20/21**
- **Launched Ready for School Task Force**



# AZ Ready for School

Launched statewide reengagement messaging campaign over summer '21

- ReadyForSchoolAZ.org & AZListoParaEscuela.org
- Enrollment Hotline
- Paid media ran for ~4 months
  - +65 million digital impressions
- English and Spanish TV and radio ads
  - Including paid spots during Diamondbacks and Suns playoffs
  - Billboards and grocery store/gas station ads



# AZ Ready for School

- **Student counts have begun to rebound**
- **Current ADM is up approx. 3.5% from September 2020 to September 2021**
- **Awaiting final enrollment numbers, to become available in the spring**
- **Trends are cause for optimism**

**This effort was about more than just getting students back in school - it's about helping them heal and thrive.**





# American Rescue Plan (ESSER 3)

Stakeholder engagement - Equitable & Effective Schools Taskforce

Submit ARP plan to USED

New grant application process

#ARPinAZ



# ESSER 3 Set-Aside Priorities

**Goal: To accelerate academic success**

- 1. Enrichment and reinforcement to learning**
- 2. Mental, behavioral, and physical health support for students and educators**
- 3. Student and family re-engagement and support for critical transition periods**





Q + A

