



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

DATE OF MEETING: February 9, 2016

TITLE: Resolution Opposing Legislation to Repeal Essential Desegregation Funding Statute (A.R.S. § 15-910)

BACKGROUND:

For the last several years, the Governing Board has been concerned about efforts at the state level to repeal a long-standing source of funding available to local school districts to comply with mandatory court orders of desegregation (“deseg”) and similar resolution agreements or decrees from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (“OCR”). Consequently, the opposition to any such legislation has been a tenet of the Governing Board’s legislative priorities for the District.

This legislative session, two bills have emerged to phase out this vital source of funding for existing Amphitheater programs and services for students, as well as 22,000 other students across Arizona.

A coalition of Districts that, like Amphitheater, have deseg court orders or OCR resolution agreements has formed to jointly oppose these bills.

Late last week, the coalition proposed that the Governing Boards of all affected school districts quickly adopt a formal resolution opposing these most recent bills, and the coalition provided a form of resolution (attached).

The administration has drafted a resolution for the Governing Board, and it is presented for consideration and adoption, if the Board deems the same appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is presented for the Board’s approval, which the administration recommends.

INITIATED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd A. Jaeger".

Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: February 8, 2016

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Nelson".

Patrick Nelson, Superintendent

Coalition Sample Resolution

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS REPEALING DESEGREGATION FUNDING

WHEREAS: There are 19 districts in Arizona who must budget for court orders of desegregation or OCR agreements;

CONSIDERING: That all programs funded in this way must be justified, budgeted and accounted for separately, and all expenditures must be detailed and reported to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), which then reports to the Governor on these programs;

UNDERSTANDING: About 22,500 ELL students would be harmed by the loss of funding that largely benefits them

KNOWING: In most districts, 90 to 100 percent of these funds go directly in the classroom

HAVING SEEN: That the Governor's Classrooms First Initiative Council has made progress to address critical needs such as these in our school funding formula; and

RECOGNIZING: The efforts to eliminate the ability of districts with these agreements and court orders to collect desegregation funding entirely and without a replacement source of funding to protect high quality programs for our most vulnerable children.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS GOVERNING BOARD:

1. Opposes HB2401 and SB1125, which would phase-out desegregation funding.
2. Supports all districts working hard to undo the history of discriminatory practices and provide an excellent school choice for the students that need it most.
3. Affirms its belief that getting rid of this funding takes dollars out of the classroom and harms our best-performing programs for the most vulnerable populations.