

February 14, 2022

The Honorable Karen Fann
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington Street, Room 205
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Rebecca Rios
Minority Leader
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington Street, Room 213
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Russell "Rusty" Bowers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington Street, Room 223
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Representative Reginald Bolding, Jr.
Minority Leader
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington Street, Room 320
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Mrs. Fann, Mr. Bowers, Mrs. Rios and Mr. Bolding:

As business and community leaders, we value our education system as both a pipeline for our future workforce and as essential to our employees with children today. **We are writing to ask for your support to allow K-12 schools to exceed the aggregate expenditure limit this year.**

Our success as businesses and local economies depends on the strength of our education system today and in the future. The AEL is putting \$1.1B of existing funding in jeopardy for our schools. Should the cut be allowed to proceed, it is possible that schools could consolidate classes, shorten the school week, or close for the remainder of the school year.

When our schools aren't open, our students can't learn and our employees can't come to work.

The state has done so much to ensure the economy has stayed strong during the pandemic; however, if schools go to a shorter school week or close for the rest of the school year the burden will be felt by businesses across the state who are already struggling to find and keep employees.

We respectfully ask for your leadership in addressing the aggregate expenditure limit and allow schools to exceed the limit this year. This action must take place prior to March 1st or schools will face a 16% cut to this school year's budgets.

The funding in question has already been appropriated to schools by the legislature; they just need your approval to spend it.

Additionally, the JLBC has made it clear that there's no funding from Prop 208 included in school funding this school year. This means that action on the AEL can happen prior to the superior court offering their ruling.

This issue will also need a long-term solution as it is anticipated that schools will exceed the AEL next year as well. Your leadership will also be needed to develop a long-term solution once this year's AEL is addressed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The undersigned 200+ statewide business and community leaders:

Businesses & Organizations

- Access Ventures
- ALL In Education
- ARIEL EQUITIES, LLC
- Arizona Bioindustry Association Inc. - AZBio
- Arizona Business & Education Coalition
- Arizona Community Foundation
- Arizona Grantmakers Forum
- Arizona Peer and Family Coalition
- Arizona PTA
- Arizona School Administrators
- Arizona School Boards Association
- Arizona Teachers of The Year: Michelle Doherty, Kristie Jackson, Beth Maloney, Kareem Neal and Lynette Stant
- Arizona Technology Council
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley
- Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Building Community, LLC
- Cameron Investments, LLC
- Center for the Future of Arizona
- Chaparral Capital
- Chandler Chamber of Commerce
- Chasse Building Team
- Chicanos Por La Causa
- Chicanos Por La Causa Action Fund
- Coconino Coalition for Children & Youth
- Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
- Coolidge Chamber of Commerce
- Desert Palms PTSA
- Diné College
- City of Douglas, Donald C. Huish, Mayor
- Douglas Education Partnership Council
- Douglas Merchants Association
- dougisyourlender.com
- DrivingMBA
- Education Forward Arizona
- Gilbert Chamber of Commerce
- Glendale Chamber of Commerce (AZ)
- Glendale Elementary School District
- Goodmans Interior Structures
- Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona
- Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation
- Healthy Future US
- Helios Education Foundation
- Industrial Development Authority for City of Sierra Vista
- Jaxs House Boutique
- Justice Java: Cold Brew with a Cause
- KEO Marketing, Inc.
- Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce
- Kingman/Golden Valley Association of Realtors®
- Latz Negotiation Institute
- League of United Latin American Citizens, District 3
- Marana Chamber of Commerce
- Marshall Foundation
- Mosquito Joe of Buckeye-Sun City
- Northern Arizona Leadership Alliance - NALA
- ONE Community
- Paradise Valley United Parent Council
- PHX East Valley Partnership
- Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
- Read Better Be Better
- Rim Country Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Rodel Foundation of Arizona
- Ryan Companies
- Shadle Family Foundation
- Sky Search Partners
- Slake Consulting LLC
- Slow Food Prescott
- Somerton School District #11
- Southern Arizona Leadership Council
- The State of Black Arizona
- Town of Miami, Sammy Gonzales, Mayor
- Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- UnidosUS
- Valley of the Sun United Way
- West Valley Women Networking Association
- Yuma Education Advocacy Council

Individuals:

- Eve Adams
- Rosemary Agneessens
- Jamie Aldama
- Sophie Allen-Etchart
- Christopher Amos
- Daniel Arredondo
- Danny Austin
- Todd Bankofier
- Rachael Barkley
- Jerry Barnier
- Tricia Beck
- Cheryl Belluomo
- Tom Benson
- Gary Beverly
- Thomas Blondi
- Courtney Bowman
- Gene Brown
- Mary Lou Brncik
- Bruce Burke, former TUSD School Board Member
- Sal Cabibo
- Brandon Clarke
- Dino Camuñez
- Linda Capcara
- Susan Carlson
- Evelyn Casuga
- Alaina Chabrier
- James Christian
- Rick Collins
- Jeffrey Colson
- Shari Colson
- Suzanna Conklin
- Tom Curzon
- Richard Daniel
- Kristine Demlong
- Deb Dillon
- Rosemary Dixon
- Brian Dolasinski
- Rich Dozer
- María-Elena Dunn
- Katrina Eaton
- Linda Elliott-Nelson
- Julie Engel
- Pearl Esau
- Shelly Esque
- Chuck Essigs
- John Fees
- Mayra Flores
- Dick Foreman
- Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego
- George C. Galliher, III
- Grady Gammage, Jr.
- Dawn Gerundo
- Elizabeth Green
- Clarence Gregory
- Mayor John Giles
- Amy S. Gill
- John Graham
- Bruce Gwynn
- Mike Hammer
- Erin Hart
- Andy Heinemann
- Paige Hill
- Jenny Holsman Tetreault
- Raelene Hopf
- Richard Hybner
- Rand Jenkins
- Julie Johnson
- Bernard Kendall
- Jane Kessler
- Tim Kinney
- Susan Kissel
- Yvonne Knaack
- Anne Landers
- Margaret Landry
- Andy Lasure
- Renee Levin
- Laurie Liles
- Lowell Lilley
- Gary Linhart
- Maria Lynam
- Jennifer Maher
- Jeff May
- Carol McDermott
- Mayor Craig McFarland
- David McWatters
- Brian Mee
- Hugh Meier

- Kirsten Mellinger
- James Mello
- Shelley Mellon
- Mayor Jen Miles
- Terrie Minnick
- Reyna Montoya
- Mayor Tom Murphy
- Cheryl Nanberg
- Robert Nanberg
- Randy Nelson
- Rich Nickel
- Bob Olshan
- Shelby Pedersen
- Jerry Pence
- Dave Perry
- James Pierson
- Susan Podshadley
- Patrick Polanco
- Michael Pressendo
- Todd Pyne
- Bailey Reynolds
- Jenny Richardson
- Alissa Robinson
- Ana Ruiz
- Jacelyn Salabye
- Cherish Sammeli
- Jeffery Saunders
- Matt Scanlon
- Melissa Silva
- Tracy Spooner
- Janice Suderman
- Trish Stark
- Debra Stevens
- Lorraine Stofft
- James Swanson
- Jim Taszarek
- Clark Tenney
- Tom Tyree
- Scott Vanderpool
- John Waechter
- Virginia Watahomigie
- Julia Watson
- Kathleen Wiebke
- Gloria Yeager
- Rhonda Zachreson
- Jim Zaharis
- Olivia Zepeda

CC: Members of the Arizona House of Representatives

CC: Members of the Arizona State Senate

Updated: 2/22/22 at 11:00am