# Rewarding Excellence in Instruction and Leadership

## At A Glance: Year Two, 2011-2012



Developing Talent, Enhancing Careers, Improving Student Learning



An Initiative of the Maricopa County Education Service Agency





Rewarding Excellence in Instruction and Leadership (REIL), an initiative of the Maricopa County Education Service Agency, engages six Maricopa County school districts in implementing systemic change aimed at transforming how schools recruit, retain, support, and compensate effective teachers and principals. The ultimate goal is building the capacity of educators to improve student learning.

Rigorous, fair and transparent educator evaluations, targeted professional learning, tools for measuring student success, establishment of multiple career pathways, and sustainable, differential, performance-based compensation are critical elements of REIL.

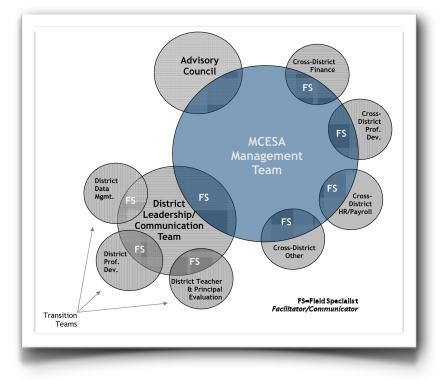
The five-year initiative, which will culminate in 2014-15, is funded by a \$51.5 million Teacher Incentive Fund grant from the U.S. Department of Education.



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### A Dynamic Communication Structure

This first year has seen our dynamic communication structure come to life! District-level transition teams and crossdistrict teams, comprised of over 300 individual members, have worked collaboratively to implement the Rewarding Excellence in Instruction and Leadership (REIL) program. These teams developed teacher and leader observation instruments, informed our career pathway and STEP processes (Selecting Teachers to Enter Pathways), participated in data management system planning, identified opportunities for program sustainability,



and assisted in the refinement of policies and practices.

#### Additional Year 1 Highlights include:

- Strategic professional development opportunities including an intensive 30-hour qualified evaluator training for administrators and up to 18 hours of training for teachers on the Learning Observation Instrument.
- Participation of over 70 individuals, including governing board members, district, county, and state leaders, and professional organization leaders in the REIL Governing Board Symposium.
- Unprecedented collaboration between the Maricopa County Education Service Agency and Arizona Department of Education, with the support of Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, to pool human and capital resources toward development and implementation of a statewide education data management system.

## **Developing Talent**

Develop talent in teaching and leading through a sustainable, comprehensive program of performance-based evaluation and support.

## **Enhancing Careers**

Enhance careers for effective teachers and principals by implementing a fiscally sustainable performance-based compensation system.



- Hard-to-staff positions finalized.
- STEP process finalized.
- Hard-to-serve schools identified.
- Data extraction teams begin course mapping.

- First cycle of teacher observations complete.
- First set of professional development modules aligned to observation instruments complete.



- Master Educator Observation Instrument complete.
- Districts adopt revised hiring process for filling vacancies for hard-to-staff positions.



• First round of

teacher and

feedback on

observation

instrument

and science

leaders begin

PLC training.

• Grade 7-12 math

collected.

principal

## Improving Student Learning

Ensure students graduate college-and-career ready by increasing student achievement and growth in all content areas.



- Phase 1 Data Management System in place.
- STEP process screening complete for career pathway candidates.
- Second cycle of teacher observations complete.

April

2012

- Second round of teacher and principal feedback on observation instruments collected.
  Feedback collected on pre-
- post- pilot for Galileo.

May

2012

• Validation process complete for observation instruments.

June

2012

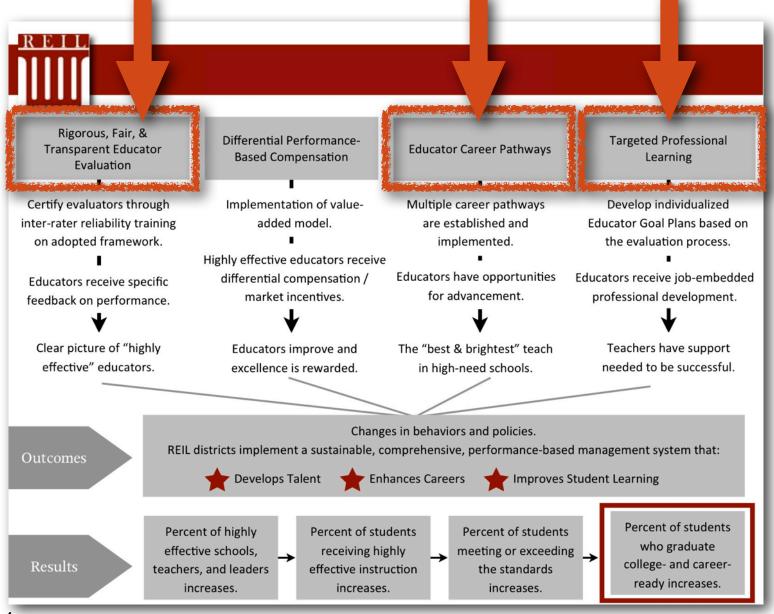
- Adoption of observation instruments and processes.
- REIL Guidebooks completed for each employee group.
- REIL Annual Performance Report complete.
- Phase 1 Pre-/postassessments in place for core subject areas.
- All evaluators are qualified and certified.

- Phase 1 videobank complete.
- Phase 1 data management system dashboards complete.
- Master educators & peer evaluators in place.
- Online observation tool complete.

July 2012 August 2012 September 2012 <sup>3</sup>

### Achieving REIL Change

The Rewarding Excellence in Instruction and Leadership program began Year 1 with a focus on the development of a rigorous, fair, and transparent educator evaluation system. In Year 2, this effort will expand to include establishment of career pathways, identification of highly effective educators to serve in those positions, establishment of educator goal plans for 2012-13, and ongoing support for teachers and administrators in the implementation of the Learning Observation and Leading Observation Instruments. At the end of these first two productive and collaborative years we will have created the infrastructure and systems necessary to support continuous improvement of teachers and leaders so that all children will graduate college-and-career ready.



#### An Initiative of the Maricopa County Education Service Agency in partnership with

Alhambra Elementary School District Gila Bend Unified School District Isaac Elementary School District Nadaburg Unified School District Phoenix Union High School District Tolleson Elementary School District Arizona School Boards Association Arizona School Boards Association Arizona School Administrators Arizona Education Association Arizona Association of School Business Officials Arizona Department of Education Greater Phoenix Educational Management Council Chairmen of the Arizona Senate & House Education Committees Office of the Governor



