



Statement on the Dismissal of Superintendent Horne's ELL Case

Today, Superior Court Judge Katherine Cooper dismissed Arizona State Superintendent Tom Horne's frivolous lawsuit attempting to punish school districts for using highly effective dual-language instruction for English Learner students.

We appreciate the Court's acknowledgement that Superintendent Horne lacked the statutory authority to bring this lawsuit against the defendant parties and that even if he did, he "failed to make claims against them." Judge Cooper is just the latest in a string of public officials that have explained to him why these programs are legal, and vital to Arizona's students. Last summer, Horne heard from the State Board of Education, the Attorney General and the current Governor on this very issue.

In fact, the law which Horne has issue with passed unanimously at the Arizona Legislature in 2019. It was sponsored by a Republican in a Republican led legislature. It was the first bill signed into law that year, by a Republican Governor. It was vetted by Legislative Council. It was implemented by a State Board that was appointed by Republican Governors. And it has allowed local school districts, who know their children best, to step out of the one-size-fits-all approach that had been the hallmark of Horne's previous administration.

Rather than read up on the latest research, Horne decided to double down on his past "glory days" and try to create more fodder for the culture wars.

This is only one in a series of recent steps he's taken to exacerbate the notion of education as "us vs. Them." Requiring bogus "attestations" regarding local policies and adding ONLY the curriculum from a self-proclaimed ultra conservative organization to the Department of Education's website are just a few of the overtly political games he has been playing with Arizona's students, and our future.

We hope this marks the end of Horne's flagrant misuse of taxpayer dollars to try to overturn a law that was unanimously supported by Republican legislators, Governor, and State Board of Education members and is enabling Arizona school districts to achieve educational progress.

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Should he continue his ultra-extreme, misguided crusade against a law championed by his party, we and others committed to a stronger Arizona education system and a stronger economy will continue to strenuously oppose him.

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Stand for Children Arizona is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children, regardless of background, graduate from high school prepared for and with access to a college education. For more information, please visit www.stand.org/arizona/.