



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Meeting Minutes

BACKGROUND: Meeting minutes of the April 18, 2014 Regular Meeting are included for review and possible approval.

RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Director recommends review and approval of the April 18, Regular Meeting minutes.



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board
Gila Regional Partnership Council
Regular Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2014

Call to Order, Welcome and Roll Call

The Gila Regional Partnership Council Regular Meeting was held on Friday, April 18, 2014 at Besh Ba Gowah 1324 S. Jesse Hayes Road Globe, Arizona 85501.

Regional Council Chair Yale called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Regional Council Members in attendance:

Audrey Opitz, Carol Welsh, Debby Bunney, Diane Bricker, Kayla Van Cleve, Fernando Shipley, Sharri Moody, Sherry Dorathy and Sue Yale

Regional Council Members not in attendance:

Ann Tolman and Tashina Smith

Meeting Minutes

Chair Yale presented the minutes of the February 21, 2014 – Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Member Opitz to approve the meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Member Shipley. Motion carried 9-0.

Call to the Public

Chair Yale announced the Call to the Public, there was no response.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Chair Yale requested Regional Council Members review the meeting agenda and declare any possible conflicts of interest at this time. No conflicts were declared at this time.

Regional School Readiness Benchmarks

Hazel Chandler, Regional Director reminded the Regional Council that benchmarks had been proposed by the Regional Council for School Readiness Indicators #2, 7 and 10. The benchmarks include:

Quality Early Education Indicator

- Benchmark A: 90% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars by 2020
- Benchmark B: 16.3% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars by 2020
- 248 children enrolled in early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars by 2020

Healthy Weight Indicator

- 75% of 2-4 year olds in Gila Council area at a healthy weight by 2020

Confident Families Indicator

- 48% of Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being by 2020.

These benchmarks have been vetted publicly and received positive feedback. Member Shipley requested that the Quality Early Education Indicator Benchmarks be clarified to distinguish regulated care and Quality First Centers as discussed during previous meetings.

A motion was made by Member Bunney that the Gila Regional Partnership Council School Readiness Benchmarks for Indicators #2, 7 and 10 for State Board approval with the clarifications discussed, seconded by Member Shipley. Motion carried 8-0-1. Member Bricker abstained from the vote.

SFY2015 Renewals

Ms. Chandler reviewed the SFY2015 grant renewals. The Gila County Library District submitted their Parent Outreach and Awareness grant renewal for \$85,000 to include part-time outreach staff, indirect funds and the addition of a 1 year subscription to Ladybug Magazine for children at age 5.

A motion was made by Member Bunney that the Gila Regional Partnership Council renews the Government to Government agreement GRA-RC004-14-0616-01 with the Gila County Library District, in the amount of \$85,000 for the Parent Outreach and Awareness strategy for the contract period of July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, seconded by Member Van Cleve. Motion carried 9-0.

Ms. Chandler informed the Regional Council that the Young Unified School District submitted their Community Based Training – Parent Education Rural Schools grant renewal that includes continued use of Love and Logic and Creative Curriculum twice a week for 3 hours. For the current fiscal year, the grantee is reaching 100% of children 0-5 in Young. Although expenditures are low, pending reimbursements indicated that the program will expend the majority of the current year allocation.

A motion was made by Member Bunney that the Gila Regional Partnership Council renews the Government to Government agreement GRA-RC004-13-0497-01 with Young Unified School District in the amount of \$12,000 for the Community Based Training – Parent Education Rural School strategy for the contract period of July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, seconded by Member Opitz.

Member Bricker requested more evaluation data of the program to be received by the Regional Council. Ms. Chandler informed the Regional Council that the program is not a licensed pre-school and that the scope of work does not require screening or progress evaluation on the children. She stated that she will request the pre and posttest included in the Love and Logic curriculum data to help evaluate outcomes.

Motion carried 9-0.

Ms. Chandler informed the Regional Council that the Gila County Health Department submitted their Care Coordination/Medical Home grant renewal for their third grant cycle. Staff has been hired for Globe and Payson offices. Low target service numbers are due to delayed staff hiring and training. The grantee is planning to expand developmental screenings into the school system/Head Start programs by fall 2014 and have screenings embedded into hospital delivery departments soon.

Member Bricker declared a conflict of interest with this strategy. She is affiliated with an organization that is involved with the tool used for this strategy. As a result, she recused herself from any discussion and vote related to the strategy.

A motion was made by Member Bunney that the Gila Regional Partnership Council renews the Government to Government agreement GRA-RC004-13-0556-01 with Gila County Health Department in the amount of \$190,000 for the Care Coordination/Medical Home strategy for the contract period of July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, seconded by Member Moody. Motion carried 8-0-1.

RFGA – Community Based Training for Pregnant and Parenting Teens

Chair Yale announced that executive session would be required for discussion of this agenda item. She reminded the Regional Council and the public that only those non-council members reasonably necessary to the executive session discussion may attend the executive session. All others were asked to leave the room after the motion and vote and to take all of their materials including your brief cases and cell phones.

In addition, she reminded all members and staff that, matters discussed in executive session must be kept confidential by those attending pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (C), except in some very limited circumstances, such as in the course of an Open Meeting Law investigation by the Attorney General or County Attorney.

She also reminded the members and staff that the executive session is subject to the provision of the Open Meeting Law.

Chair Yale called for a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (A) (1) and ARS 38-431.03 (A) (3), for purposes of; Agenda Item #7 – Discussion of confidential information on RFGA - Community Based Training for Pregnant and Parenting Teens.

A motion was made by Member Bunney that the Regional Council enter into Executive Session pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (A) (1) and ARS 38-431.03 (A) (3), for purposes of Agenda Item #7 – Discussion of confidential information on RFGA - Community Based Training for Pregnant and Parenting Teens, seconded by Member Moody. Motion carried 9-0 at 11:02 a.m.

Chair Yale called for a motion to close Executive Session.

A motion was made by Member Bunney that the Regional Council closes Executive Session, seconded by Member Welsh. Motion carried 9-0 at 11:21 a.m.

A motion was made by Member Bunney that the Gila Regional Partnership Council accepts the review committee's recommendations for RFGA# FTF-RC004-15-0496-00- Parent Education Community Based Training – Pregnant and Parenting Teens in the amount of \$115,000 for the funding year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, seconded by Member Welsh. Motion carried 9-0.

SFY2016 – 2018 Strategic Direction

Ms. Chandler informed the Regional Council that due to declining tax revenue, the State Board has requested the Arizona State University research revenue projection models and analyze expenditures. These reports were submitted to the First Things First Finance Committee and they reviewed how allocations are set; discussed the variables involved in the allocation process; examined how future allocations would support current spending budgets; looked at how regional fund balance is related to and impacts spending; reviewed how the organizational fund balance can be used to support a targeted spending level; and, developed recommendations for the Board on future program spending budgets and how the regional fund balance should be used. Two formal recommendations have been made to the Board. They include:

- 1) Beginning in FY16, the start of the new three-year Funding Plan Cycle, allocate \$126.6 million in revenues to support Program spending (statewide and regional combined), and keep this amount constant for successive years
- 2) In FY16, the total means of financing available to support regional allotments should equal the targeted \$126.6 million level, and so regional allocations should be adjusted such that each region's projected fund balance (regional carry forward) is part of the allocation level rather than being in addition to.

These will be discussed at the April 2014 Board meeting and voted on at the June 2014 Board meeting.

Regional Partnership Council Member Updates

Member Opitz announced that there will be a Parent Education meeting Friday, April 25 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center. Chair Yale announced that in her physical absence during the May and June meetings, Vice Chair Tolman will be acting Chair.

Regional Director's Report

Ms. Chandler reviewed the report and provided updates to the Regional Council.

Next Regional Partnership Council Meeting

The next Regional Council Meeting will be held on Friday, May 16, 2014 at the Tonto Apache Tribal Chambers Highway 87 Mile Marker 251 Payson, Arizona 85541 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Chair Yale adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Gila Regional Partnership Council

Gila Regional Partnership Council

Sue Yale, Chair
Dated this 16th day of May 2014

Hazel Chandler, Regional Director
Dated this 16th day of May 2014



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AGENDA ITEM: FY2015 Expansion Strategy Government to Government Agreements

BACKGROUND: The Regional Council has approved an Expansion Strategy for FY2015. The Regional Council has requested that a government to government agreement be negotiated with the Globe and Miami Unified School Districts for this strategy. The strategy was originally a FY2014 strategy, but due to timelines to complete the necessary government to government agreements strategy funding has been moved to FY2015.

RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Director recommends review and approval of the government to government agreement with the Miami Unified School District and Globe Unified School District.

Gila Regional Partnership Council
Expansion Strategy
Miami Unified School District
GRA-RC004-15-0712-01

Summary: One Government to Government Agreement. Total requested funds are \$40,000.00

Applicant	Amount Recommended by the Review Committee	Description of Program & Rationale for Council Recommendation
Miami Unified School District – Little Vandals Pre-school	\$40,000	<p>Rationale: The Expansion Strategy will support the purchase of equipment, curriculum and materials that align with Quality First standards to open an additional classroom to provide full day pre-school and child care at Little Vandal Preschool. This will provide approximately 20 full day slots for early care and education for 3 and 4 year old children.</p> <p>Brief Description: Anticipated Outcomes: This grant will provide funding for furniture, classroom materials, curriculum, licensure and supplies to open an additional classroom to accommodate approximately 20 children ages 3 and 4 for a full day early learning and child care program. The Expansion/start-up strategy is intended to facilitate the development of a program that is intended to become a permanent part of the local early childhood system. A sustainability plan for when the Expansion Strategy is complete will insure children continue to access quality full day services. Future funding mechanisms include Quality First Scholarships, parent fees, D.E.S. child care assistance, and Foundation Funding through A Stepping Stone.</p> <p>Impacts: The Expansion Strategy will provide high quality child care for an additional 20 children in the Miami area.</p>

Summary Funding Information:

- Total Recommended Funding for the initial award period:
 - \$40,000.00 available in initial funding period
 - \$40,000.00 recommended funding for initial funding period

- Funding Cycle Information
 - Initial Funding Period: July, 2014 – June 30, 2015 – One year only

Gila Regional Partnership Council
Expansion Strategy
Globe Unified School District
Copper Rim Elementary School
GRA-RC004-15-0711-01

Summary: One Government to Government Agreement. Total requested funds are \$40,000.00

Applicant	Amount Recommended by the Review Committee	Description of Program & Rationale for Council Recommendation
Globe Unified School District – Copper Rim Pre-Kindergarten	\$35,000	<p>Rationale: The Expansion Strategy will support the purchase of equipment, curriculum and materials that align with Quality First standards to open an additional classroom to provide full day pre-school and child care at Copper Rim Pre-Kindergarten (Copper Rim Elementary School). This will also support first month salary of teacher to allow development, planning and implementation of the program and provide a bridge to funding from parent fees and other funding sources. This will provide approximately 20 full day slots for early care and education for 3 and 4 year old children.</p> <p>Brief Description: Anticipated Outcomes: This grant will provide funding for furniture, classroom materials, curriculum, initial staffing and supplies to open an additional classroom to accommodate approximately 20 children ages 3 and 4 for a full day early learning and child care program. The Expansion/start-up strategy is intended to facilitate the development of a program that is intended to become a permanent part of the local early childhood system. A sustainability plan for when the expansion project is complete will insure children continue to access quality full day services. Future funding mechanisms include Quality First Scholarships, parent fees, D.E.S. child care assistance. In the first year the program will operate from 8:00am to 3:00pm, with potential to add additional hours according to the community and parent needs and available parent fees or other funding to support the additional hours.</p> <p>Impacts: The Expansion strategy will provide high quality child care for an additional 20 children in the Globe area.</p>

Summary Funding Information:

- Total Recommended Funding for the initial award period:
 - \$35,000.00 available in initial funding period
 - \$35,000.00 recommended funding for initial funding period

- Funding Cycle Information
 - Initial Funding Period: July, 2014 – June 30, 2015



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- AGENDA ITEM:** FY2015 Community Based Training – Parent Education Government to Government Agreements
- BACKGROUND:** The Regional Council has approved expanding the Community Based Training Parent Education – Rural Schools program to include the Tonto Basin and Hayden/Winkelman School Districts in the FY2015 funding plan. The Regional Council chose the funding mechanism of a government to government agreement with Tonto Basin School District and Hayden/Winkelman School District to implement this strategy.
- RECOMMENDATION:** The Regional Director recommends review and approval of the government to government agreement with the Tonto Basin School District for FY2015. The Hayden/Winkelman School District government to government agreement will be on the June Regular Meeting agenda.

Government to Government Agreement Recommendations

Grantee	Proposed Program	Target Service Numbers	Research on Program	Recommendation
<p>Tonto Basin School District</p> <p>GRA-RC004-15-0698-01</p>	<p>The community based parent education program proposed by the Tonto Basin School District will provide a center-based parent education play-based program for parents, grandparents, caregivers, kith and kin providers and their children, focusing on families with children age two and three. The program will use “Love and Logic” curriculum for the parent education program which is the same curriculum that is currently in use in the Young and Pine/Strawberry programs. The pre-school teachers that will implement the program have been trained in “Love and Logic” and have experience in implementing this program previously in the Pine/Strawberry area. The proposed program will run four eight week sessions during the school year meeting for two hours twice a week. Parents will participate in parent education as well as interact with their children in play based programming in the Little Red Schoolhouse, which was built by the community to house the school’s pre-kindergarten program. The program will operate when the pre-k is not in session.</p>	<p>Program will serve parents, grandparents, kith and kin providers and other caregivers and their children. The Target numbers are 10 unduplicated adults with at least 10 adults completing a series of sessions.</p>	<p>Love and Logic is a highly regarded program to assist parent in raising engaged and responsible children. The program is based on four important concepts including: 1) Build the child’s self-concept, 2) Share the control, 3) Provide a strong dose of empathy before delivering the consequences, 4) Share the thinking. It includes many tools for helping families develop building blocks that they need to create children who grow up to be responsible and successful in school and life. Topic build parent skills in handling potty training, Temper tantrums, routines, bedtime, whining and the creation of hassle free mornings.</p> <p>Kirsten Sharp who will be the teacher for this program has received this “Love and Logic” training and has successfully built a program in the Pine/Strawberry school district using this parenting program.</p> <p>The model has extensive training and although the research is not completed it seems to be an effective program to help parents work effectively with their children to develop strong social emotion bonds as well as responsible children.</p>	<p>Approval of Government to Government agreement in the amount of \$12,000 with a contract term of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. This contact may be renewed for two additional years. The renewal periods are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st renewal period: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 • 2nd renewal period: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 <p>Note: This funding includes salaries, employee related expenses, purchase of a computer and printer, program supplies and materials as well as training costs. Classroom is fully set up and has the necessary equipment to implement the program. Program supplies and materials will be focused on the “Love and Logic” curriculum as well as some additional classroom materials appropriate for the 2 and 3 year olds that will be participating in this program.</p>



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AGENDA ITEM: SFY2016 – 2018 Strategic Direction

BACKGROUND: The State Board sets Regional Allocations based on tobacco tax revenues. The State Board and their workgroups have been holding discussions on the funding levels for SFY2016-2018 over the past few months. Over the past few years tobacco tax revenues have decreased significantly. These decreases have triggered numerous discussions of long term sustainability for First Things First. This provides an update of the State Board activities toward setting funding levels for SFY2016-2018.

RECOMMENDATION: This is provided for information and discussion only. This will also provide Regional Council input into the SFY2016-2018 Strategic Planning Process.



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DRAFT STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FUNDING PLAN TIMELINE

June 2014

- June 9-10 - State Board meets in Flagstaff and will discuss and possibly approve strategic direction for setting funding allocations going forward.
- June 20 – Gila Regional Council Meeting – Payson
Suggested meeting agenda will include a review of programs and presentations by current grantees and Quality First Centers.
- Draft Needs and Asset Report received

July 2014

- No Regional Council meeting scheduled
- Possible Regional Council Workgroups – Review of the Needs and Assets for each community

August 2014

- August 15 - Regional Council Meeting – Globe
Strategic planning session with Southern Gila Stakeholders, review and approval of Needs and Assets report, review of SFY2014 year-end grantee data.
- August 18-19 – First Things First Summit – State Board Meeting to discuss regional allocations
- Possible Regional Workgroups

September 2014

- September 19 – Regional Council Meeting –Payson
Strategic planning session with Northern Gila Stakeholders
- September 29 -30 – State Board meeting
Final Regional Allocations will be approved.

October 2014

- October 17 – Regional Council Meeting – Globe
Combined Strategic Planning, review of Needs and Assets, developing priorities, determining First Things First role with each of the priority areas and setting strategic direction for the funding planning.

November 2014

- November 21 – Continued work and final approval of the funding plan.

December 2014

- Internal funding plan review – Regional Council meeting only if necessary to complete funding plan.

Discussion Questions for the Regional Council

1. What are your suggestions for the Strategic Planning/Funding Plan process?
2. Is there process changes that you would like to add or make to the timeline above?
3. How do we want to involve the communities across our region and their stakeholders in the process? Should we consider community forums or workgroup meetings in those rural areas of the region?
4. How do the strategic goals that we have set influence the work that we will do in this planning process?
5. How can we engage the Public, Private Partnerships influence the strategic direction that we

FISCAL POLICY DIRECTION-Talking Points

Review of Potential Policy Changes

- Tobacco taxes are a declining source of revenue
- By statute, the Board is responsible for ensuring that FTF funds are used as Arizona voters intended.
- Given that, one of their primary responsibilities is to set a fiscal policy that allows FTF to
 - 1) sustain program funding for the longest term possible (this was intentional by writers of the initiative that became FTF)
 - 2) maximize current and future revenues
 - 3) Promote thoughtful and proactive planning for future funding reductions to minimize impact to children and families in the state.
- Regional carry-forward balances became large for a variety of reasons. End of 2012-90+million
- In 2013 this fund balance did not grow, but it didn't decrease either.
- Next logical step is for the Board, through its Finance Committee (and support from FTF staff) to undertake a deeper review of revenue, organizational fund balance and regional carry forward
- This will establish the fiscal policy direction that regional councils can use as a basis for discussion of the next 3 year (SFY16-18) strategic direction and budgeting.

Summary of Finance Committee Recommendations to the State Board-

- Finance Committee Chair, Nadine Mathis Basha held several meeting with the State Board Finance Committee and representative from Regional Council's from across the State. At these meeting they reviewed and have developed recommendation for the State Board for setting allocations for the FY2016-18 funding plan years.

During these discussions they reviewed how allocations are set and made recommendation based on the

- 1) To discuss the variables involved in the allocation process
- 2) To examine how future allocations would support current spending budgets
- 3) To look at how regional fund balance is related to and impacts spending
- 4) To review how the organizational fund balance can be used to support a targeted spending level
- 5) Develop recommendations for the Board on future program spending budget and how the regional carry-forward should be used.

Recommendations-

- Two formal recommendations have been made to the Board-
 - 1) Beginning in FY16, the start of the new three-year Funding Plan Cycle, allocate \$126.6 million in revenues to support Program spending (statewide and regional combined), and keep this amount constant for successive years.
 - 2) In FY16, the total means of financing available to support regional allotments should equal the targeted \$126.6 million level, and so regional allocations should be adjusted such that each region's projected fund balance (regional carry forward) is part of the allocation level rather than being in addition to.
- The recommendations are based on reasonable (neither overly optimistic nor pessimistic) revenue projections and will allow FTF to maintain its program spending at a consistent level for an estimated 9-15 years.
- The Finance Committee acknowledged that this new allocation methodology will raise questions from regional councils as it will mean about a 30% reduction in total regional funds available for spending in SFY16. **GILA-28.9%**

- While this will be a challenge for regional councils to absorb initially, the following points were discussed by the Committee:
 - 1) All regions are looking at significant funding reductions in the near future.
 - 2) Updating the fiscal policy at the beginning of a three year planning cycle gives regional councils time to thoughtfully and proactively plan spending that reflects available revenues at the onset of a strategic planning process.
 - 3) The funding available for each region will be stable over time
 - 4) *Sets a targeted spending level and in SFY16 uses regional carry-forward in combination with new Board-allocated revenues to achieve that targeted spending level*
 - 5) We know there is no perfect spending, and regions may still experience carry-forward balance but these will be significantly lower and much more easily managed.

Program Committee

- Policy and Program committee are reviewing impacts to program budgets
- They have instructed staff to take a close look at Quality First costs, especially as it relates to scholarships as for many regions the Quality First programs costs will require 80% or more of the allocation to maintain current levels of service.
- It appears that the committee will recommend to the State Board that centers and homes currently in the Quality First program will be maintained on the program as part of the regional funding plans. Possible changes could be made to the scholarships program to help absorb some of the impact of decreased funding. At the Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting there was general consensus that the Regional Council do not want the Board to dictate policy on this issue. The discussion will be considered by the Policy and Program committee later this month and recommendations will be included in the June State Board meeting packet.



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AGENDA ITEM: Regional Director's Report

BACKGROUND: The Regional Director will report any updates since the last Regular Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: This document is being presented for information purposes only.

May 2014

Director's Report

Gila Regional Partnership Council

- CE Regional Area Forums was held April 22, 2014 in Safford. Many thanks to Sue Yale and Audrey Opitz for attending and their thoughtful participation in the discussion with the State Board members and FTF Staff in attendance.
- Northern Gila County officially became a Read On Community on May 9. The letter included over 45 community partners representing Payson, Star Valley, Pine, Strawberry, Tonto Basin and Young. The Hayden/Winkelman area has decided to include the full Copper Corridor (Kearny, Superior, Ray, Etc.) so submission of the letter will be submitted sometime in June. Children in Read On Communities will have free downloads of digital books from www.myon.com from April 15 – September 30, 2014. See flyer attached. The State Read On is working diligently to find funding to make service permanent for the Read On communities. Please pass the word to everyone you know as this is a great resource for encourage children to read this summer. Organizational meetings are being planned for the Globe/Miami areas as well as the Northern Gila area. The Read On Globe/Miami website should be live within the next couple of weeks. Take a look at the <http://readonarizona.org/> website. Our page should be up by mid to late May.
- STEM Fest was held in Payson, on May 3. It was a great first year with over 30 vendors and early estimates of attendance in excess of 200. We had more pre-school children than any other ages. We gave away almost 100 children's books and well over 100 children planted seeds. With a smaller group we had lots of time to talk with children and families about the importance of helping very young children develop a love for STEM subjects. Amy Plunkett from Amy's Child Care came with all of her children and their parents. They were the center that did the amazing STEM project so it was great to meet and talk with the children that did the project. They were very excited to talk about their adventures in STEM and very proud to see their pictures and work displayed.
- Save the Date for 2014 Summit to be held August 18 and 19th. This is going to be an incredible event that we hope every Regional Council Member can attend.
- Audrey Optiz attended the statewide Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting in Phoenix to represent our region. Most of the discussion was centered around planning for the FY2016-2018 funding cycle and the impacts of potential State Board decisions on the region's funding allocations.
- Hayden and Winkelman are planning a Health Fair for October. I will keep you posted with any updates.

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Next Regular Meeting

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Friday, June 20, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tonto Apache Tribal
Chambers





When Arizona Reads, Arizona Thrives

A DIGITAL LIBRARY FOR EVERY CHILD IN ARIZONA! INNOVATIVE READING SOLUTION TO KEEP KIDS READING ALL SUMMER LONG!



To help ensure that Read On Arizona is supporting kids reading all summer long we are offering all Arizona students, ages three years and older, access to a library of thousands of enhanced

digital books on computers, tablets and other devices, wherever they are over the summer. Books are available online anytime, anywhere a student has access to an internet connection, 24/7.

Reading over the summer is an important step in building vocabulary, giving children the exposure to stories that capture their interest and decreasing “summer slide” by having access to books that meet their interests and keep children reading over the summer. Also, free downloadable apps are available for off-line reading through iTunes or Google Play, or Kindle Store. The apps allow children to download up to 20 books at a time on a device and read them in an off-line setting.

Sign up begins April 14th and children have access to the digital library trial through September 30, 2014.

Families and readers will be able to choose from a collection that includes thousands of digital books in a variety of genres and formats. They will be able to read the books independently or activate audio and text highlighting to support their reading. An embedded dictionary provides help with pronunciation and definitions for words they may not know.

There is no limit to the number of times a child can read a book or to the number of children who can read the same book at the same time. All books are available whenever a child chooses to access them: during the day or evening, weekdays and weekends, and holidays.

We are delighted to make these books from myON, a business unit of Capstone—the nation’s leading publisher of school library books—available to Arizona’s students.



Encouraging a child to read independently or with a family members during the summer, even just 20 minutes a day, can make a huge difference!

Sign up today and start making a reader this summer!
It only takes a few simple steps to access myON books:

- 1** Go online to www.ReadOnArizona.org/myON
- 2** Click on myon.com then select the “Log In Now” button and enter the following information:
 - ★ School Name: *Read On Arizona, Digital Library*
(Begin entering the first few letters and then select from the drop-down menu)
 - ★ User name: *read*
 - ★ Password: *read*
- 3** Click on Sign In, select a book and start reading!

NOTE: Arizona is currently participating in this trial to explore the option of using myON digital books in schools and homes. This trial will extend through September 30, 2014, and we will be evaluating usage records and survey results to determine interest and need.

