

## **Pinal County Educational Service Agency** **Program Effectiveness**

The Pinal County Educational Service Agency (PCESA) provides resources to encourage collaborative use of services, facilities, knowledge and funding among schools, districts, and the Arizona Department of Education. Serving as a support agency, PCESA personnel help to keep schools current on new regulations and mandates that must be met by the No Child Left Behind Act. Pinal County Educational Service Agency also provides a platform for supporting the efforts of the Arizona Department of Education to train school staff on Arizona Academic Standards reforms, Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards, English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act, Procurement Law, and Grants Management, etc. In addition, to meet the needs of our schools and districts, PCESA encourages a close working relationship between the Pinal County School Office and the higher education institutions of Central Arizona College (CAC), Arizona State University (ASU) and Northern Arizona University (NAU). Representatives from CAC and NAU sit on the Pinal County Educational Service Agency advisory board and partner with Pinal County to provide classes and programs. All work has been coordinated and funded through Pinal County schools IGAs, contracts and grants written by PCESA personnel.

### **Program Resources, Consortia, and Services Developed Under Pinal County ESA**

The Pinal County Educational Service Agency provides many programs and services, as specified below, to the schools of Pinal County. The staff members at PCESA manage several consortia, which provide an opportunity for Pinal County schools to combine resources for quality educational opportunities.

#### **The following consortia are developed and administered through PCESA:**

- Pinal County Curriculum Consortium (PC3)
- Paraeducator Curriculum Consortium
- Pinal County Reading Consortium
- Pinal County Title III Consortium (ELL)
- Pinal County Math, Science, Reading Training Center/Consortium (MSRTC)
- Pinal County Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools Consortium
- Pinal County Gifted and Talented Consortium
- Rural County Consortium (RCC)
- Pinal County School Improvement Grant (SIG)
- Pinal County Arizona Rural Systemic Initiative Consortium (AZ-RSI)
- Counseling Assistance for Rural Students (CARS)

**The following program resources are developed and administered through PCESA:**

- Pinal County Resource Library and Center
- Pinal County Educators' Conference
- Pinal County Recruitment Web Page and Brochure and Common Application.

**Pinal County Curriculum Consortium (PC3) Monthly Training**

The PC3 is made up of representatives from every school district in the county, higher education, and charter school representatives. The PC3 is the advisory board for Pinal County Programs and the RCC. It has the following membership: superintendents, principals, teachers, curriculum directors, federal project directors, university representatives and community liaisons. Topics and training addressed through the PC3 monthly trainings and meetings:

- ELL Strategies and Compliance Workshop  
Hosted three English Language Learner workshops for Sheltered Emersion Instruction
- Legal responsibilities of reporting child abuse.
- The process of evaluation for the AZLEARNNS Profiles and Adequate Yearly Progress
- Terra Nova and AIMS, DPA training for administrators. Review of Consolidated Plan.
- Provide an overview of the certification rule changes, give an overview of the reauthorization of IDEA, approve the Pinal County Comprehension Plan and discuss program needs for spring and summer.
- Round table discussion on models of teacher evaluations aligned to the Professional Teaching Standards
- Work session to review, evaluate and update the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan. It is also used as a model to encourage development and use of consolidated plans
- Pinal County Three Year Staff Development Plan  
Four day work sessions to gather data, evaluate the data and revise the Pinal County Three Year Staff Development Plan  
This is also used as a model for districts to learn the process

**Paraeducator Curriculum Consortium**

The Paraeducator Curriculum Consortium is made up of representatives from county districts and coordinated by Central Arizona College and PCESA staff. The focus of the paraprofessional program is to implement successful professional development that address the needs of the participating schools and school districts.

- Increasing Content Knowledge
- Preparing to be a Highly Qualified Paraeducator

## **Reading Consortium**

The Reading Consortium is made up of all districts in Pinal County and coordinated by the PCESA staff. This consortium provides training, resources and programming for teachers and administrators.

- Standards-Based Reading Instruction for K-3 and 4-6
- Integrating Reading into the Content Areas for Secondary Teachers
- Reading First and AZ READS for teachers and principals
- Elements of Effective Reading Instruction
- Five Essential Reading Components
- Reading Intervention Strategies
- DIBELS overview and training
- Small Group Instruction
- Reading Institutes for K-3
- Summer Reading Institute
- Quarterly Meetings

## **Title III Consortium (ELL)**

The Title III/ELL Consortium is made up of 10 districts and coordinated by Educational Services Staff. This consortium provides training, resources and programming for teachers and administrators.

- Sheltered Immersion Observation Protocol (SIOP) Training
- English Language Learner (ELL) Strategies and Compliance Workshop
- Student Identification Process Training
- IDEA Proficiency Test (IPT) Language Test Training
- Differentiated Instruction
- Strategies for the English Language Learner (ELL) and the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) Essay and Reading
- English Language Learner (ELL) Instructional Materials and Software Evaluation
- Written Individual Comprehensive Plan (WICP) Strategies

## **Math, Science, Reading Training Center/Consortium (MSRTC)**

The mission of the MSRTC/Title II is to improve the quality of mathematics and science teaching and learning in Pinal County classrooms. In collaboration with the Arizona K-12 Center, the MSRTC Consortium has provided area-educators numerous professional development opportunities in the areas of mathematics, science and technology. Activities have included:

- Math Standards Academy
- Science Standards Academy
- Number Sense Workshop

- Discreet Mathematics Workshop
- Math Renaissance/Accelerated Math Technology workshops
- Using Data with Pivot Tables
- Methods and Materials for Teaching Algebra
- About Teaching Mathematics
- Making Math Connections
- Science Olympiad Team Training
- Science Olympiad Student Tournament (Students demonstrate their ability to apply mathematical and science skills)

### **Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools Consortium**

Eleven districts participate in the Pinal County Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools Consortium. This program promotes the use of effective, proven practice programs. To provide quality programming in Pinal County Schools the following support and workshops are provided:

- Pinal County Leadership Camp for Students
- Student Assistance Program Training
- Adventure Based Curriculum Training
- Crisis Intervention Workshop
- Brad Barton - Using Magic to Prevent Violence and Abuse

### **Gifted and Talented Consortium**

The Gifted and Talented Enrichment Consortium is made up of 15 districts and coordinated by the Educational Service Agency staff. This consortium provides training, resources and programming for gifted/talented students and their teachers. Activities that have been provided to students and teachers:

- Robotics training for teachers
- Orienteering and Geo Caching (Twelve one-day trainings)
- Robotics Workshops for Students (Ten one-day trainings)

All students in the Gifted Program have been identified and evaluated by state required testing.

### **Rural County Consortium Services**

This is the ninth year the Pinal County Educational Service Agency has participated in the Rural County Consortium (RCC) .

#### **The following are services provided, utilizing RCC funds:**

- Standards Based Teaching:  
Standards Academies are offered to provide training on standards alignment, unwrapping the standards, effective teaching strategies and mathematics/science content

- **Brain Research:**  
Participants receive training on how students learn and explore brain-based instructional strategies that will help all students succeed.
- **Writing to Learn:**  
Working with teachers to improve writing content skills and increase student writing proficiency using the standards.
- **Six Traits of Writing – Beginning & Advanced**  
Workshops are provided for beginning and advanced teachers to provide foundational knowledge and practice using the Six Trait Model for Writing and to explore the use of children’s literature in teaching the six traits. Teachers also learn a variety of techniques to promote the use of Arizona Academic Standards in writing instruction.
- **Paraprofessional Training (four-day credited workshop)**  
A four day credited class to prepare paraeducators to become highly qualified.
- **Cognitive Coaching and Mentoring**  
Administrators and lead teachers learn the norms of collaboration, qualities and roles of an effective coach, coaching cycle in action, how to develop a Self-Assessment for your coaching practice and standards-based lesson design.
- **Classroom Management Strategies (Grades K-6)**  
Classroom Management: What are the Others Doing?  
Classroom Management: Sessions 1, 2, 3, GR K-3  
Classroom Management: Increase classroom performance by improving effective management skills and classroom behavior.  
Classroom Management: Moving to small group instruction.
- **Classroom Walk-Through for Administrators and Mentors**
- **Reading Comprehension**  
Activating prior knowledge in grades 4-8.  
Content Area Reading/Reading Apprenticeship  
Overview of Reading Apprenticeship and active reading strategies.
- **New & Experienced Substitute Teacher Training**  
Preparation of new teachers for classroom.
- **Tools for Thinking: Focus on Comprehension A4-6**  
Tools for Thinking: Focus on Comprehension a 7-12  
Tools for Thinking: Focus on Comprehension B4-6  
New teachers gained active reading strategies, comprehension strategies, how to use graphic organizers, textbook awareness & linking content area with reading standards.

### **School Improvement Grant Consortium (SIG)**

The School Improvement Grant Consortium is made up of the Pinal County Charter Schools and is coordinated by Educational Service Agency Staff. This consortium provides training, resources and programming on Special Education for teachers and administrators through the following activities and classes:

- Regular Meetings

- School Site Visits
- Special Education Law
- No Child Left Behind Presentation
- About Teaching Mathematics

### **Pinal County Arizona Rural Systemic Initiative Consortium (AZ-RSI)**

Through PCESA, the consortium collaborates with ASU on the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the AZ-RSI on behalf of the Pinal County school participants. The AZ-RSI curricular areas include mathematics and science. Programs offered through the AZRSI include:

- Data Collection and disaggregating
- School Improvement
- Cognitive Coaching

### **Counseling Assistance for Rural Students (CARS)**

The CARS Project is a consortium effort designed to bring vital counseling services to elementary school children enrolled in eight rural, high need school districts. Schools that are participating in this project serve a student population that has a high percentage of ethnic minorities and poverty. The focus of these counseling services is to increase student's understanding of peer and family relationships, work and self, decision making, academic and career planning and/or to improve social functioning. Activities offered include:

- Suicide Prevention
- Stress Management
- Art Therapy
- Anger Management
- Sand Tray Therapy
- Peer Mediation
- Drug Trends of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Bullying Prevention Training
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### **The following technology services are provided through the PCESA:**

Technology for the classroom, in collaboration with Tucson Regional Training Center

- Introduction to Excel
- Integrating Excel
- Introduction and Integrating Power Point
- Organizational Classroom Technology Tools
- Inspiration/Kid Inspiration
- Internet Resources for Teachers
- Multimedia in Classroom

- Assessment Tools
- Arts, Music and PE
- Introduction to Web Quest
- Introduction to Web Quest Part II
- Introduction to Web Quest Part III
- Technology Integration – Language Arts
- Technology Integration – Science
- Technology Integration – Math

Many of these programs are taught several times through out the year and all programs have follow through.