

Day 1: New Mexico

Secretary Duncan's Day in New Mexico

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will launch his “Strong Start, Bright Future” back-to-school bus tour in New Mexico.

The kickoff event will take place at the Santa Fe Children’s Project Early Learning Center where Secretary Duncan will tour classes and hold a town hall on the critical importance of expanding early learning programs.

From Santa Fe, Secretary Duncan will then travel to Emerson Elementary in Albuquerque. There, he will highlight successful turnaround efforts aimed at transforming low-performing schools into sites of educational excellence. ED’s School Improvement Program has invested up to \$2 million per school to improve more than 1,300 low-performing schools.

Day One of the bus tour will end in Polvadera, north of Socorro, where Secretary Duncan will tour Midway Elementary and hold a town hall-style meeting about education in rural areas, the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning, and the President's ConnectED initiative to connect 99 percent of the nation's students to high-speed Internet.

Three Things You Should Know About Efforts to Improve Education in New Mexico

1. New Mexico is a 2012 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge winner, receiving a total of \$37.5 million to develop and support a system of early learning and development.
2. Socorro is serving as a model to other rural school systems that seek to bring Internet-enabled educational technology to students, teachers, and families. Due to the district’s partnership with the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, a cell tower on top of a mountain now brings wireless Internet to Midway and its sister schools.
3. At Emerson Elementary, turnaround efforts were initiated and the school moved from an “F” in 2012 to a “C” on the 2013 State School Grading Report. School turnaround efforts are challenging but show promise.

Additional resources

Fact sheet on what the Obama administration’s Preschool for All proposal would mean for New Mexico – [LINK](#)

Fact sheet on ConnectED: President Obama’s Plan for Connecting All Schools to the Digital Age -- [LINK](#)



Day 2: Texas and New Mexico

Secretary Duncan's Day in Texas and New Mexico

On Day 2 of the "Strong Start, Bright Future" back-to-school bus tour, Secretary Duncan will hold events in El Paso, Texas and Columbus, New Mexico.

Secretary Duncan will visit El Paso's Transmountain Early College High School, located adjacent to the campus of El Paso Community College, where he will tour classrooms and host a town hall on STEM education (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). The visit aims to spotlight collaboration between the high school and community college, in which the juniors and seniors take courses at the community college and graduate with college credits, incorporating some of the core elements that the Education Department is calling for as part of its high school redesign initiative.

In the afternoon, Secretary Duncan will travel to Columbus, New Mexico, where he will visit with the community of Columbus Elementary School to discuss challenges of teaching a diverse student population.

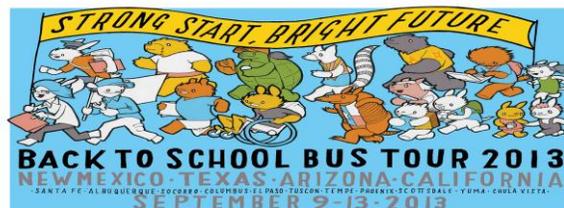
Three Things You Should Know About Efforts to Improve Education in New Mexico

1. Transmountain Early College High School offers robotics, rocketry, and individual student research. The school has partnered with NASA's Student Spaceflights Experiments Program—and a Transmountain experiment was placed on the final flight of the space shuttle Endeavour.
2. Under the Obama administration's proposal, Texas is estimated to receive \$308 million in the first year it participates in the Preschool for All program. This funding, combined with an initial estimated state match of \$30,800,000, would serve about 37,644 children from low- and moderate-income families in the first year of the program alone.
3. In 2012, Texas A&M University received a \$14.8 million i3 grant to improve language acquisition and literacy skills for English Learners and use technology to conduct virtual teacher observations and virtual professional development.

Additional resources

Fact sheet on what the Obama administration's Preschool for All proposal would mean for Texas— [LINK](#)

More information about the STEM programs at U.S. Department of Education – [LINK](#)



Day 3: Arizona

Secretary Duncan's Day in Arizona

On Day 3 of the “Strong Start, Bright Future” back-to-school bus tour, Secretary Duncan will make stops in Tucson and Tempe, Arizona.

Joined by U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, Secretary Duncan will start the day at Tucson Unified School District Bus Depot to discuss how school bus drivers are on the front lines of school safety efforts. Then Secretaries Duncan and Foxx will go on a school bus ride-along to Dodge Traditional Magnet School, where they will visit with students and teachers and participate in a service project to highlight the importance of strengthening communities.

Next, Secretary Duncan will visit Sunnyside High School to see how technology is being used to empower educators and engage students.

The Secretary will then attend a town hall at Arizona State University, where he will discuss college affordability and how to increase the Hispanic community's educational opportunities.

Finally, Secretary Duncan will visit the “Healing Field” Memorial in Tempe to honor victims and first-responders of the Sept. 11 attacks.

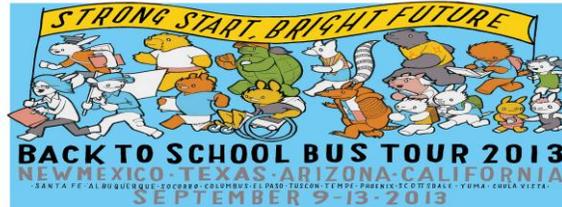
Three Things You Should Know About Efforts to Improve Education in Arizona

- 1.** School buses are the safest mode of transportation for bringing children to and from school. Less than 1% of all student fatalities that occur while traveling to and from school are students on school buses. Tucson Unified School District 1 has 332 school buses that transport more than 11,000 students to and from school.
- 2.** Arizona State University is a leader in its efforts to improve college affordability, completion. The cost of ASU's computer science course was reduced by half by taking it online—and student outcomes improved, with greater pass rates.
- 3.** Sunnyside Unified School District's mission is to provide one-to-one computing for every student in grades fourth through 12th grade. Sunnyside High School partners with COX Cable to offer discounted Internet service to eligible families with children who qualify for the national free and reduced-price school lunch program.

Additional resources

Fact Sheet on President Obama's Plan to Make College More Affordable -- [LINK](#)

The Obama Administration's Guides for Developing High-Quality Emergency Plans -- [LINK](#)



Day 4: Arizona

Secretary Duncan's Day in Arizona

On Day 4 of the “Strong Start, Bright Future” back-to-school bus tour, Secretary Duncan will visit Phoenix, Scottsdale and Yuma, Arizona.

In Phoenix, Secretary Duncan will tour the Bret Tarver Education Complex, where he will visit classrooms and hold a town hall on the critical importance of early learning programs.

Next, Secretary Duncan will travel to Scottsdale where he will consult with tribal leaders and discuss how we must continue to work on improving tribal education at all points along the education pipeline.

From Scottsdale, the Secretary will travel to Yuma, where he will visit a food bank, thank the volunteers, and commend their work to strengthen local communities. He will also join high school students who volunteer to fill backpacks with food to be delivered to disadvantaged students for the weekend.

Lastly, the Secretary will visit the Yuma Marine Corps Air Station to talk to military leaders and military families about the nation's commitment to supporting members of our armed forces.

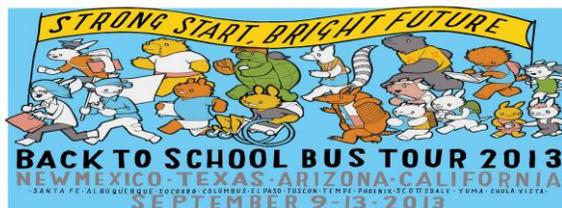
Three Things You Should Know About Efforts to Improve Education in Arizona

- 1.** Under the President's Preschool for All proposal, Arizona is to receive about \$78.2 million in the first year. Combined with an estimated state match of \$7.8 million, some 9,000 children would be served. Bret Tarver is a public preschool serving more than 200 predominately Hispanic students.
- 2.** ED's grant funds are supporting exciting and innovative efforts to serve Native learners – from Promise Neighborhood Grants to School Improvement Grants to transform struggling schools, like Alchesay High School in Arizona's Whiteriver Unified District.
- 3.** In Yuma, the Military Child Education Center will hold its latest no-cost training opportunity later this month to focus on meeting students' social and emotional needs.

Additional Resources

Blog post on the Administration's 8 Keys to Success: Supporting Veterans, Military and Military Families on Campus – [LINK](#)

Remarks of Secretary Duncan at the Fourth White House Tribal Nations Conference – [LINK](#)



Day 5: California

Secretary Duncan's Day in California

Secretary Duncan will wrap up the 2013 back-to-school bus tour with a visit to the Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood in Chula Vista, California.

Secretary Duncan will take part in a pep rally and give brief remarks at Castle Park Middle School.

Then, Secretary Duncan will hold a town hall with local school officials, education stakeholders and community leaders on Promise Neighborhoods, which focuses on cradle-to-career initiatives that call on the entire community to provide comprehensive place-based supports such as high-quality early learning, rich after-school activities, and crime prevention.

Following the event, leaders from each of the White House Initiatives will host a break-out session at Castle Park Middle School.

Three Things You Should Know About Efforts to Improve Education in California

1. Last year, Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood (CVPN) received a Promise Neighborhood grant from the U.S. Department of Education totaling nearly \$5 million for the first year of a five-year grant. CVPN has developed an implementation plan for a seamless continuum of cradle-to-career solutions that will provide all children with high expectations for success.
2. Thanks to community support, local partnerships, and hard work, Castle Park Middle School has a nearly 100% attendance rate, improved scores in core subject areas, and all students in algebra by 8th grade.
3. San Diego Unified School District has developed "i21", a personalized learning program to optimize teaching and learning through the use of mobile computing and formative assessment technologies across the curriculum. Kids who are months behind in their reading skills can use technology to catch up.

Additional Resources

More information on the U.S. Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods Program – [LINK](#)

Fact sheet on what the Obama administration's Preschool for All proposal would mean for California – [LINK](#)