

Report Card on American Education

The American Legislative Exchange Council has released its 15th Annual "Report Card on American Education." Just for background, there are two main organizations that specifically address state legislative issues - the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), which is seen as the more progressive group and ALEC, which is seen as the more conservative group. To read the entire report: <http://www.alec.org/am/pdf/ReportCard08.pdf>

Some of the most pertinent pieces from ALEC's Report Card on American Education as it relates to Arizona. The first three bullets are based on 2006-2007 information (the latest available). **Arizona:**

- * Ranks 50th out of 51 in per pupil spending (National Average is \$9,389; Arizona is \$6,248)
- * Even more interesting is that from 1986-87 through 2006-07, the percentage change in expenditures per pupil has been -0.96% in Arizona, while nationally it was 36.56% -- this is truly extraordinary when you think about Prop. 301 and some of the other investments that have been made in the recent past. It shows that the 1990s were truly a detrimental time for funding Arizona public schools.
- * Ranks 50th out of 51 in pupil-teacher ratio (National Average is 15.3; Arizona is 24.2)
- * As you dig deeper, it shows that only four states (including Arizona) experienced a growth in pupil-teacher ratios from 1986-87 through 2006-07, while nationwide the pupil-teacher ratio has fallen 11.9% over the last 20 years.
- * Arizona experienced a 31.72% change in its pupil-teacher ratio, ranking 51st in the nation
- * Ranks 25th out of 51 in average salary of instructional staff (National Average is \$46,593; Arizona is \$44,672)
- * However, as it relates to the percentage change in instructional staff average salary from 1986-87 through 2006-07, Arizona ranks 41st with a -5.49% decline (nationally is was -3.64%)
- * Ranks 21st out of 51 in 2008 ACT composite scores
- * Ranks 31st out of 51 in 2008 SAT composite scores
- * Since 1988 through 2008, Arizona has experienced a -1.52% change in SAT scores, ranking it 47th