

## WUSD Model for the State

In 2010 the Arizona Legislature passed SB 1040, which established the requirement that all school districts adopt a new teacher evaluation system. The key difference between the new and old evaluation systems is that districts are now required to use student assessment data in analyzing teacher performance. In fact, a minimum of 33% of the evaluation tool must be focused on data under the new law.

To address the requirements of SB 1040, WUSD set up a teacher evaluation committee which met throughout the 2011-2012 school year. The committee, which was led by Carissa Hershkowitz, Director of Human Resources, and made up of teachers and administrators from our schools and the Wickenburg Digital Learning Program, developed a teacher evaluation system which is being piloted this school year. The new system focuses on the Essential Elements of Instruction (EEI), which is a key component of our reform efforts in WUSD, and uses AIMS and formative assessment data as well in measuring teacher effectiveness.

I am excited to announce that WUSD's new teacher evaluation system was reviewed by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and was selected as a model for the state of Arizona. If you go to the ADE website, which is located at [www.ade.gov](http://www.ade.gov), and scroll down the center of the home page to the location which says "Attention: Teachers and Principals" you find WUSD's teacher evaluation by clicking on the link at that location. I want to commend our committee for this recognition and thank them for once again bringing WUSD to the forefront as a lighthouse district in the state of Arizona. The WUSD committee included Jackie Jacobson – WHS, Rachelle White – Hassayampa, Debbie Hodgkiss – Hassayampa, Karin Carlson – Festival, Jhannin Zent – Festival, Darlene Levin – Vulture Peak, Tara Cleveland – WHS, Lyndsey Hoffman – WHS and Coleen Peterson – WDLP.

I will continue to provide the community with updates on this new teacher evaluation system as we continue to tweak the document and transition from the pilot to full implementation stage. I am proud of the work which has been accomplished thus far and believe we have a tool that will assist our teachers in honing their skills as time progresses.