

Dear (fill in your Legislator's Name),

Governor Ducey recently announced his budget priorities, laying out very small investments for 15 different education initiatives. I support increased funding for public schools but ask you to focus all available new funding on permanent teacher salary raises.

Arizona has a teacher shortage crisis that is continuing to worsen. We cannot and will not be able to close the achievement gap or make progress on the goals outlined in the Arizona Progress Meter if our students lack qualified classroom teachers.

AZ Schools Now, which Arizona PTA is a member of, has outlined a proposal to increase teacher salaries by four-percent for the coming fiscal year using the same dollars the Governor has identified plus freezing tax cuts and private school tax credits. I support that proposal and ask you to do the same.

I also ask that you take the lead in convening stakeholder meetings to find long-term funding solutions that include an update to Prop. 301.

Our students and our state's future are counting on you!

Sincerely,