

RESUME

ANABEL APORTELA, PH.D.

310 W. Earll Dr. Unit 203
Phoenix, AZ 85013
602-803-6356
aportela1@gmail.com

Professional Profile

- Experienced in the field of education policy at the state and local level, with an emphasis on school finance, charter schools, student assessment, school accountability, and data-driven decision-making.
- Experienced in the design, budgeting, management, and implementation of small and large-scale research projects.
- Comfortable in a fast-paced, complex, collaborative work environment that requires attention to multiple projects, project teams, and deadlines.
- Effective communicator with years of experience presenting complex information, in a variety of formats, to diverse audiences.
- Skilled in large-scale database management and proficient in the use of various tools (SPSS, Tableau, Microsoft Access & Excel) for analysis and reporting.

Education

- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ph.D., Education Leadership & Policy Analysis, 2010
- Stanford University, M.A., Educational Administration & Policy Analysis, 1995
- Stanford University, B.A., Public Policy, 1993

Professional Experience

Director of Research & Evaluation, Center for Student Achievement, 2012-present

- Lead the Center's research efforts to inform education policy in the state through the investigation and reporting of the impact or potential impact of key education policies
- Identify best practices in district and charter schools in order to inform the Center's professional development efforts aimed at improving the quality of instruction in all Arizona public schools.
- Provide technical assistance to charter and district schools in the areas of school accountability, data-driven instruction, and resource allocation.

Associate, Picus Odden & Associates, 2006-present

- Conduct school visits and interviews with school and district personnel to investigate the use of resources in schools. States include Maine, North Dakota, and Arkansas
- Build and troubleshoot electronic school funding models to simulate the impact of the Evidence-Based Model in various states and policy contexts. Projects include Maine, Texas, Wisconsin, and Ohio.
- Perform school expenditure analyses using statewide school finance expenditure databases. Projects include Arkansas and Wyoming

Resource & Sustainability Administrator, Rewarding Excellence in Instruction & Leadership (REIL) Grant, Maricopa County Education Service Agency, 2011-2012

- Problem-solved and made recommendations on issues of sustainability aimed at ensuring that grant accomplishments remain in place after the REIL Grant expires.
- Worked with and guided REIL Grant districts to reallocate district resources to fund district contribution of REIL teacher incentives (REIL is a \$51 million Teacher Incentive Fund grant)
- Designed funding model for each REIL Grant district to simulate options for resource reallocation and alternative salary schedules
- Sought out alternative sources of revenues to fund district portions of teacher incentives, including drafting proposed legislation
- Worked in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education in the development of the data management system to support REIL Grant objectives
- Facilitated requirement-gathering meetings among grant stakeholders to determine the business needs for the data management system
- Assisted REIL Grant Program Director in meeting budgeting, monitoring, and reporting requirements of the grant

Consultant, Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC), 2008-2010

- Managed the ABEC's School Finance Reform Initiative (SFRI) aimed at redesigning Arizona's school finance system so that it supports increasingly higher levels of student learning
- Developed policy proposals and facilitate their discussion among stakeholders and policymakers
- Conducted analyses of the current Arizona school finance system and present results to education stakeholders and policymakers
- Supervised Project Analyst in the development of an electronic simulation model of Arizona's school finance formula in order to simulate the costs of the SFRI

Consultant, City of Phoenix, Communities Learning in Partnership (CLIP), 2009-2010

- Provided data analysis support to the CLIP-Phoenix site, a collaboration between the City of Phoenix, the Phoenix Union High School District (PUHSD), the Maricopa Community College District (MCCCD), and other community-based organizations seeking to improve college-completion rates among low-income youth in Phoenix
- Built and maintained the CLIP Database, linking student-level demographic and transcript data from PUHSD and the MCCCD, allowing for longitudinal analyses of students' trajectory through high school and community college

- Conducted analyses exploring the relationship between high school course and sequence, grades, and high school exit exam scores to community college matriculation patterns and completion of degrees or certificates

Consultant, National-Louis University, 2009-2010

- Built an electronic simulation model of Illinois' school finance formula in order to simulate the costs of the recommendations of the Illinois Study of School Finance Adequacy

Research Staff, Strategic Management of Human Capital, a Project of the Consortium for Policy Research in Education, 2008

- Conducted case studies of teacher recruitment, preparation and professional development organizations

Project Assistant, Consortium for Policy Research in Education, School Finance Project, 2005-2008

- Built an electronic simulation model of Wisconsin's school finance formula in order to simulate the costs of all possible scenarios in the design of Wisconsin's Study of School Finance Adequacy
- Provided research support for the Wisconsin School Finance Network, a group of education stakeholders seeking to redesign the state's school finance formula
- Conducted research on various school finance topics, primarily school finance adequacy, teacher compensation, and the link between resource allocation and student achievement

Director of Research, Dysart Unified School District, 2003 - 2004

- Performed analyses of the district's student achievement data, including trends and measures of student growth over time
- Reported results to district and school administrators
- Provided professional development to teachers on the interpretation of student achievement data and the use of these to help guide classroom instruction

Research & Evaluation Officer, Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona, 2002 - 2003

- Conducted research and program evaluation to support the Foundation's initiatives
- Laid the groundwork for the Foundation's School Finance Adequacy Study, interviewing bidders and helping to secure a steering committee of education stakeholders to guide the process

Director of Research & Policy, Arizona Department of Education (ADE), 2001 - 2002

- Led a group of education stakeholders in designing the AZ LEARNS school accountability methodology, the state's first school accountability system, which was later used to fulfill the state's No Child Left Behind reporting requirements
- Published, on an annual basis, the *AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles*, *Arizona School Report Cards*, *Graduation Rate Study*, *Dropout Rate Study*, *Arizona Measure of Academic Progress*, and *Arizona School Safety Study*
- Briefed and advised the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction on matters of school accountability and student achievement
- Presented report results to numerous school and public audiences and served as a representative of the Superintendent and the ADE with regard to school accountability and student achievement, including presentations to Spanish-speaking audiences

- Worked closely with the ADE's Press Secretary to provide members of the media with timely and accurate information
- Advised other units within the ADE on matters related to data collection, analysis, and reporting
- Collaborated with various state and national research organizations to produce original research
- Hired, directed, and supervised department research staff and web developers
- Managed a \$1 million department operating budget

Research Associate, Research and Policy, Arizona Department of Education, 1999 - 2001

- Co-developed and published the *Arizona Measure of Academic Progress*, the state's first measure of individual student growth, using value-added analysis
- Provided professional development to school administrators and teachers on the interpretation and use of the *Arizona Measure of Academic Progress* to inform school-level decision-making and classroom instruction
- Analyzed data and reported on various educational indicators to school and public audiences, including Spanish-speaking audiences
- Assisted the special education, school safety, early childhood education, and federal program units within the ADE with data analysis and reporting requirements

Program Specialist, Research & Evaluation, Arizona Department of Education, 1997 - 1999

- Coordinated with CTB/McGraw-Hill and NCS (now Pearson), the state's testing contractors, the development of the initial test forms of Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS), the state's criterion-referenced test
- Planned and oversaw the teacher committee meetings tasked with writing and reviewing AIMS test items
- Coordinated with the testing contractors and district administrators on the execution of AIMS field testing, pilot testing, and live administrations of the test
- Presented AIMS-related information to various school and public audiences, including Spanish-speaking audiences

Research Analyst, Research & Evaluation, Arizona Department of Education, 1995 - 1997

- Wrote a series of policy briefs for the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Tracked and analyzed proposed legislation for the Department's Legislative Liaison
- Assisted school and district personnel in the submission of data to the Department

Publications

Picus, L., Odden, A., Geotz, M., Griffith, M., Glenn, W., Hirshber, D., & Aportela, A. (2013). *An Independent Review of Maine's Essential Programs and Services Funding Act*. North Hollywood, CA: Lawrence O. Picus & Associates.

Aportela, A., & Laczko-Kerr, I. (2013). *School Ratings: Improving the Data in Data Driven Decision Making*. Phoenix, AZ: Center for Student Achievement.

Aportela, A., & Laczko-Kerr, I. (2013). *Oh, the Places They'll Go!: Arizona Public School Choice and Its Impact on Students*. Phoenix, AZ: Center for Student Achievement.

Mangan, M.T., Purinton, T., & Aportela, A. (2010). *Illinois School Finance Adequacy Study – Part I: A Comparison of Statewide Simulation of Adequate Funds to Current Revenues*. Chicago, IL: National-Louis University.

Glenn, W. J., Picus, L. O., Odden, A., & Aportela, A. (2009). The equity of school facilities funding: Examples from Kentucky. *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 17(14).

Odden, A.R., Picus, L.O., Archibald, S., Goetz, M.E., Mangan, M.T., & Aportela, A. (2007). *Moving From Good to Great in Wisconsin: Funding Schools Adequately and Doubling Student Performance*. Madison, WI: Center for Policy Research in Education.

Awards

- Arizona Governor’s Spirit of Excellence Award, 2000
- Arizona Administrators Association, Finalist, Employee of the Year, 1998