



BOARD AGENDA ITEM

ITEM NO: 6.1

BOARD MEETING DATE: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

NEW BUSINESS ITEM: Recommended Approval Opposition Letter
Regarding Potential Pima County Joint Technical
Education District Special Bond Election

SUBMITTED BY: Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

PRESENTED BY: Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

The administration of the Pima JTED is proposing a \$300M special bond election for November 2026. They have asked the Pima County member districts to support this special bond election.

The attached letter outlines collective concerns of Pima County Superintendents regarding the current draft proposal for a potential Pima JTED special bond election. While reaffirming strong support for Career and Technical Education (CTE), the proposed bond would disproportionately invest in central campus expansions at the expense of the decentralized satellite model that serves the vast majority of JTED students.

It is important to note that when voters created Pima JTED in 2006, they endorsed a system designed to ensure high-quality CTE access at local high schools. This approach continues to meet student needs effectively today.

Approximately 90% of all JTED students participate in satellite programs, yet recent administrative decisions and the draft bond scenario direct 80–85% of proposed bond funds toward central campus facilities, which currently serve a small fraction of students.

This shift contradicts JTED's founding vision, creates inequitable investment levels between central and satellite programs, and would not represent a responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Additional concerns include declining member-district funding allocations, increased restrictions on local use of JTED funds, and the absence of a community-driven planning process.

To contextualize the impact on CFSD, the following outlines current enrollment in JTED satellite and central programs:

Satellite (CTE at CFHS)

- 1,440 duplicated students enrolled
- 1,060 unduplicated students enrolled
- 969 unduplicated students (excluding 9th graders)
- 91 9th graders enrolled, of whom only 37 are eligible for 4th-year funding

Central Campus / Post-Secondary Enrollment

- 72 students attending articulated JTED Central Campus programs
- 19 students attending articulated post-secondary programs at Pima Community College

These figures demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of CFSD students access CTE through our satellite programs embedded in their regular school day at the high school. Only a small percentage enroll in central campus programs. The proposed potential bond would not benefit the majority of our students and families.

Member districts are asking their governing boards to sign the letter expressing our opposition for the draft proposal for a potential Pima JTED special bond election. Once signed, it will be presented to the Pima JTED Superintendent and its Governing Board.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: I move that the governing board approve signing a letter on behalf of the Governing Board to the Board and administration of Pima County Joint Technical Education District (Pima JTED) expressing formal opposition to the current draft of a potential special bond election under consideration for November 2026, as presented.