



Recommendation for District Schools Consolidation and "Right-Sizing"

PRESERVING THE EXCELLENCE OF AMPHITHEATER PUBLIC
SCHOOLS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The Core Challenge



Why Now? A Convergence of Factors

- **Demographic Realities:** Arizona birth rates have declined **36%** since 2007.
- **Financial Erosion:** Over **\$13.5M** in district funding now follows students to ESAs/Vouchers.
- **Operational Inefficiency:** We are maintaining space for **19,000 students** while serving **11,000**, in a state funding environment which continues to deprive our school systems.
- **The Bottom Line:** We must transition from "funding empty seats" to "funding student success."
- **Insolvency:** Without consolidation, it is unavoidable next fiscal year.

Unavoidable Impact



- **Revenue Losses:** A **\$4.3 million** loss in a single year (24-25), combined with known and anticipated losses this year and continuing hereafter, necessitates immediate structural change.
- **Market Competition:** 21 charter and private options exist within our boundaries.
- **Resource Alignment:** Consolidating allows us to build and strengthen existing programs that are currently hampered by low enrollment levels, also ensuring against losses of vital programs like all-day Kindergarten, Elementary Art, Music and PE, athletics and extracurriculars, and expanded course offerings.

Closure Recommendations



Proposed School Closures (Effective June 2026):

After a nearly year-long study process, the Superintendent recommends the closure of the following schools:

- **Copper Creek Elementary**
- **Donaldson Elementary**
- **Holaway Elementary**
- **Nash Elementary**

Transition & "Welcoming Schools"



Ensuring a Smooth Path Forward

Impacted Campus	Primary Welcoming Site
Copper Creek	Wilson K-8 / Harelson
Donaldson	Mesa Verde
Nash	Keeling / Walker
Holaway	Rio Vista

- **Logic:** Proximity, capacity, cost-effectiveness and maintaining established high school feeder patterns.
- **Responsive Change:** Inclusion of, and change to, Wilson K-8 based directly on community forum feedback.



Honoring Our People and History

A Commitment to Our Community

- **Staff Stability:** An expectation that almost all impacted staff will be offered positions within the District through natural attrition and other means.
- **Legacy Preservation:** Every school has a story. We will host "Legacy Events" to celebrate the history of these four campuses prior to closure.
- **Student Support:** Comprehensive "Welcome Days" for families at their new campuses in Spring 2026.
- **Productive Repurposing:** Current discussions with various entities (governmental, including one public school system) for potential use of closed District properties with resulting financial benefit to the District.
- **Positive Impacts for All Schools:** Reduction of costs and income from closed facilities allow strengthening and expansion of programs.

Conclusion & Action



Protecting the "Promise of a Graduate"

- **The Goal:** A fiscally solvent district where we maximize the dollars reaching the classroom, and continue our efforts and successes in school improvement.
- **The Future:** Strengthening our remaining schools to propel student achievement levels even further, as evidenced by student outcomes and such measures as more school "A" ratings and **A+ Excellence** awards.
- **Action Requested:** Approval of the Superintendent's Recommendation for Consolidation.