



June 10, 2025

Superintendent's Report





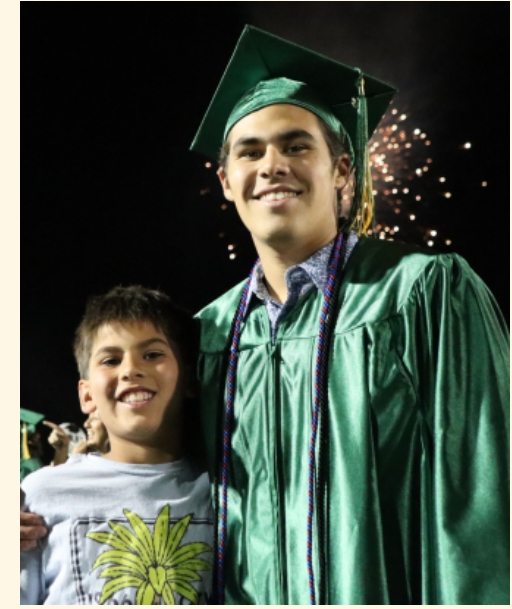
Class of 2025



Congratulations to our Class of 2025! In all, more than 900 seniors crossed their graduation stages this year, earning their high school diplomas. Our Canyon del Oro, Ironwood Ridge and Amphi High students are ready for their next steps: more than 700 graduates heading to four-year colleges; about 120 starting at Pima Community College; 30+ pursuing skilled trade education; and approximately 30 joining the Armed Forces. And, our seniors left us with \$22 million in scholarship offers! We are so proud of this group of outstanding graduates!



Canyon del Oro



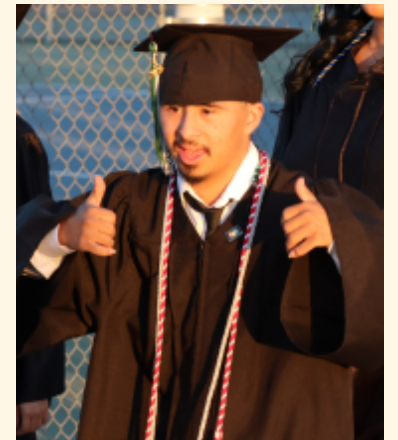


Ironwood Ridge





Amphi High





Graduation Set-Up Crew



The Facilities Support Services team made sure that everything was set up and good to go for each of our graduations, starting with prepping CDO on a Sunday to finishing up at Amphi High a few days later. Thank you to this team that worked so hard to make our ceremonies seamless.



End of Year Activities



Eighth-graders across the District also celebrated promotions. Above left is the ceremony at Amphi Middle School. And, at right, you see our Rillito Center graduate for this year, Marcus. I felt blessed to join attend Marcus' graduation ceremony and see his family, and all the Rillito staff, celebrate a wonderful moment for a single student. What an example of the Pride (and heart) of Amphi!



End of Year Activities



Our elementary schools celebrated milestones at the end of the year as well. Above, Rio Vista preschoolers celebrate promotion to kindergarten. At right, Wilson K-8 kindergarteners performed for their promotion ceremony, and at far right, we see our Innovation Academy fifth-grade promotion. Congrats, everyone!



State Budget Status

- Last week, I received a letter to district superintendents from ADE stating that Districts should prepare for only a partial payment of our state funding this month.
- The letter states that ADE's K-12 coffers will be approximately \$206M "short" for the current fiscal year unless the legislature approves a supplemental appropriation by June 13th.
- Given the fact that the Arizona Legislature is not set to return to floor session until June 16, a 40% cut to public schools' June remittance from the state is all but certain.
- This shortage is triggered by the staggering ESA private school voucher costs, which are set to surpass \$1 billion in the upcoming fiscal year – obscenely exceeding the \$360M originally budgeted by our legislature.



State Budget Status

- Last year, Superintendent of *Public* Instruction Tom Horne bragged about “surpluses” in his department, arguing that ESA vouchers were not causing budget deficits.
- Yet, now, ADE has submitted a massive supplemental funding request due to vouchers.
- Notably, voucher funding is drawn down by ADE quarterly, so it is disbursed before public school funding
- Thus, vouchers are paid first, while our state's public schools are apparently left empty-handed.
- If this is unresolved, summertime cuts will have a significant negative impact on schools across the state, particularly on our smaller or rural school district colleagues.



State Budget Status

- While the state House reconvened for one day last week to debate and vote on a handful of bills, the state Senate has been shuttered for a while. Again, both chambers will reconvene on June 16 – to hopefully address this issue, as well as the FY26 state budget.
- Inside track info: the Republican plan is to introduce budget bills on the day they return to the floor and send a budget to the governor's desk by June 19.
- Budget negotiations are continuing, but lawmakers are very far apart.
- Resolution may well push up against the June 30 deadline, or perhaps even beyond.
- One pressure to resolve: Rep. Matt Gress (R-4) must leave for his wedding in Italy on June 22, and other House and Senate members are also attending – potentially leaving the Republicans with a minority on both floors.



A Tale of One Charter

- After much delay (both recently and over years), the Arizona State Board of Charter Schools voted last week to move forward with revoking the charter of Primavera, the state's largest online charter school.
- The school has often provided summer and other online courses to students simultaneously enrolled in school Districts, including Amphi, leading to funding losses for the districts.
- Primavera has years of dramatically poor student performance academically, as well as financial issues.
- Damian Creamer, the school's founder and a major donor to the Republican Party, is seeking support from Republicans .
- Creamer is offering students with a 2.0 GPA or better \$500 scholarships in exchange for essays "about how Primavera helped them succeed" to aid him in his efforts.



A Tale of One Charter

- Primavera also operates American Virtual Academy. It is the only charter school in Arizona that the state Board of Education slapped with a “D” rating in each of the last three years.
- The state charter board has given Primavera its second worst rating (Does Not Meet Standard) for the last two years.
- The charter board has also given its very worst rating (Falls Far Below Standard) to Primavera four times since 2017.
- And yet:
 - Primavera received nearly \$80 million in state funding last year alone.
 - And, Mr. Creamer has reportedly personally pocketed \$24 million in public money just since 2016 – throughout the levels of poor performance mentioned above. *(Source: 12 News, Phoenix)*



Our Federal Education Budget Status

- Ten days ago, the Trump Administration released additional budget materials to Congress for FY26.
- Overall, the FY26 Budget Summary for the USDOE calls for a \$12 billion cut in funding and presents Congress with some proposed trade-offs.
- The relative good news:
 - Title I, Part A would receive level funding
 - IDEA Part B (Grants to States) would receive a \$677 million increase
 - These two programs would receive a total of \$14.9 billion
- However, these “increases” are somewhat performative given reductions to various other special education programs.



Our Federal Education Budget Status

- The budget also proposes a K-12 Simplified Funding Program (K12 SFP) which would “consolidate most currently funded formula and competitive grant programs for elementary and secondary education into a single State formula grant program” to provide greater flexibility to districts and reduce administrative burden.
- However, the total for this block grant would be \$2 billion, while cutting programs (at right) that total more than \$6 billion - a significant reduction education funding.

Programs Consolidated in K-12 SFP	FY24 Allocations (since not all FY25 numbers are final)
Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	\$2.19 billion
Title IV, Part B: 21 st Century Community Learning Centers	\$1.33 billion
Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Enrichment Grants	\$1.38 billion
Neglected, Delinquent, and At-Risk Children and Youth	\$49.2 million
Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants	\$194 million
Innovative Approaches to Literacy	\$30 million
State Assessments	\$380 million
Promise Neighborhoods	\$91 million
McKinney Vento	\$129 million
Native Hawaiian Education	\$45.9 million
Alaska Native Education	\$45 million
REAP	\$220 million
American History and Civics Education	\$23 million
Magnet Schools Assistance	\$139 million
Javits Gifted and Talented Education	\$16.5 million
Statewide Family Engagement Centers	\$20 million
Arts in Education	\$36.5 million
School Safety National Activities	\$216 million
Total	6.535 billion



Our Federal Education Budget Status

- Programs that are proposed to be eliminated and not included in K-12 Simplified Funding Program:
 - Title I, Part, C (Migrant Education)
 - Title III (English Language Learner funding)
 - Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants
 - Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grants
 - Full-Service Community Schools



Our Federal Education Budget Status

- Federal Voucher Bill:
 - Last week, the US House Ways & Means Committee approved the nation's first federal voucher program — titled "Qualified Elementary and Secondary Education Scholarships".
 - This program is embedded in President Trump's "one big, beautiful" bill and would fund a voucher program that would cost US taxpayers a projected \$20 billion over the next four years.



But Our Good Work Continues – as It Must!

- SUMMER SCHOOL:
 - We have approximately 100 MS students who are participating in math acceleration opportunities (@WIL, CRS, LAC, and AMS).
 - We have approximately 300 HS students (165 @ IRHS, 135 @ AHS). They are enrolled in 50+ courses (@IRHS) and 30+ courses (@AHS).
 - And across the district and for the first time, we providing students with access to Clever, which gives students access to our digital curricula for both summer enrichment and their own learning interests. Students can build on their learning of previously taught materials or expand beyond what they learned last year.



More Good Work This Summer!

- SUMMER INSTITUTE:

- Professional Development Courses currently being offered for our educators – 11 categories of learning with 67 distinct courses:
 - AVID
 - Educational Technology
 - Online Learning for Students -- Khan Academy, Edgenuity
 - Educational Technology
 - Interdisciplinary – Co-teaching, Universal Design for Learning
 - Microsoft and Google for educators
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Math
- 925 total course registrations (not unique users).