



June 14, 2022

Superintendent's Report





Around the Schools



Amphitheater graduated more than 900 students at Canyon del Oro, Ironwood Ridge and Amphitheater High Schools, as well as at the Rillito Center and Amphi Academy Online.

Congrats to the Class of 2022!



Around the Schools



Schools around the District also celebrated promotions. Above, La Cima eighth-graders got their send-off to high school. Top right, Prince Elementary School scholars look forward to moving to middle school, and at bottom right, Wilson K-8 kindergarteners perform for their families during their promotion to first grade.



Around the Schools



Our Amp Up! summer programs are in full swing. At Amphi Middle School, far left, students are getting a taste of CTE (Carpentry) by learning to build toolboxes. At our elementary schools, including Copper Creek, center, and Holaway, above, students have been learning about Australia as they also study Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.



Arizona Voter Interest in Education

- Survey of 500 likely voters in Arizona conducted by the Center for the Future of Arizona
- Voters surveyed were those with a history of electoral participation
- Survey group was balanced to model the likely turnout of voters across party, age, region, and gender
- Live interview modality in English and Spanish by HighGround Public Affairs
- Based on previous midterm election trends, the partisan advantage was set at +8% GOP
- The margin of error is $\pm 4.3\%$



“The Arizona Voter Agenda”

- Developed from the survey results
- Includes what a *majority* of likely voters say are the critical issues facing the state
- Makes clear voters want to hear candidates’ positions and plans
- Counters the narrative of division and polarization that dominates political dialogue
- Meets **all of** the following criteria:
 - “Strongly Agree/Support” is 50% or more among All Likely Voters
 - Sum of "Somewhat Agree/Support" and "Strongly Agree/Support" (i.e., Total Support) is also 50% and above among every political affiliation and age group surveyed



Key Themes in Voters' Agenda

The majority of likely Arizona voters *across the political spectrum* agree on what they value and what they want from their political leaders:

- Responses to the open-ended question, “What do you want the candidates to be discussing as they compete for your vote in this year's election?” revealed consistent and key themes
- The top responses (in order of the number of mentions, in descending order): immigration, economy, education, environment, politics & elections



Our Common Ground on Education

- **Top education issue for Arizona voters: “Ensuring that Arizona schools have quality teachers and principals**
 - Supported by 97% of likely voters
 - Supported by 96% among Republicans
 - Supported by 95% independents/unaffiliated
 - Supported by 98% Democrats
- Also, the top education finding from CFA’s report on the Gallup Arizona Survey conducted two years ago in 2020.



Our Common Ground on Education

“Increasing teacher pay” is another key education issue for Arizona’s voters’

- “Strongly Supported” by 72% of voters
- Rises to 88% if you include those who “somewhat support”. This includes:
 - 80% of Republicans
 - 90% of independents/unaffiliated
 - 98% of Democrats

65% strongly support the broader concept of “Increasing funding for K-12 public education”

- Another 17% somewhat supporting it, including:
 - 69% of Republicans
 - 90% of independents/unaffiliated
 - 97% of Democrats

Voters continue to believe that schools are underfunded and teachers are underpaid



Our Common Ground on Education

- Fifty-eight percent of voters strongly support “Closing gaps in educational outcomes for vulnerable populations, including low-income, those with disabilities, and English language learners,”
- A solid majority (52%) are firmly in favor of “Increasing access and affordability of early learning for three and 4-year-olds.”
- These policy goals are rooted in the fact that **97% of voters agree** that “Every school should have the resources necessary to deliver quality education that prepares every child for the future, no matter their skin color, background, or zip code.”



Our Common Ground in Plain Numbers

Increasing funding for K-12 public education.

All Respondents		Republican	IND/Oth.	Democrat	Age 20-29	Age 30-39	Age 40-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+
Strongly Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support
65%	82%	69%	90%	97%	92%	82%	82%	84%	78%

Ensuring that Arizona schools have quality teachers and principals.

All Respondents		Republican	IND/Oth.	Democrat	Age 20-29	Age 30-39	Age 40-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+
Strongly Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support
89%	97%	96%	95%	98%	93%	98%	100%	96%	96%

Increasing teacher pay.

All Respondents		Republican	IND/Oth.	Democrat	Age 20-29	Age 30-39	Age 40-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+
Strongly Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support	Total Support
72%	88%	80%	90%	98%	95%	90%	90%	85%	86%



Our State Leaders' Failures in Plain Numbers

- A Census Bureau report last month detailed that Arizona spent \$8,785 per pupil in 2020, besting only Utah and Idaho
- Arizona is **dead last** – 51st among states and the District of Columbia – in the amount spent on actual instruction: just \$4,801 per pupil
- National averages: \$13,494 overall per pupil and \$8,176 on instruction
- In September 2021, 25.9% of teacher vacancies were unfilled in Arizona; and fully 55.4% of teacher positions were filled by teachers who did not meet the state's standard certification requirements



Our State Leaders' Failures in Plain Numbers



- Arizona has a budget surplus this current fiscal year of more than \$5 billion



- The Arizona Legislature has cut school funding in Arizona by \$4.56 billion since 2009 and *has never restored those cuts*



- Education groups have asked that just \$1.2 billion of this surplus go to education in Arizona – which would only raise Arizona to 30th place (still below the national average)



- Current proposals (not yet in writing) suggest the Legislature is considering \$440 to \$550 million in basic education funding increases, contingent on giving taxpayer dollars to private school scholarships



- There are 12 business days left in the current fiscal year, and Arizona's schools have no sign of a budget for day 13





Those Doing More with Less



On May 31, 2022 Painted Sky Elementary School principal Bethany Papajohn drove her inaugural bus route with kids! These Thunderbirds were surprised to learn that Ms. Papajohn is their bus driver for summer school. Ms. Papajohn fulfilled a lifelong dream to be a bus driver by completing training through our Transportation department and is thrilled to be able to help out during a nationwide driver shortage. Note: The bus was stopped and parked for the photo!