

April 14, 2026

Superintendent's Report





Roving Chef Program



Students at Nash, Holaway, Copper Creek and Donaldson elementary schools recently participated in the Roving Chef program led by SFE. The program gives students hands-on cooking experiences, developing real-world skills and earning certificates along the way. The program will continue visiting additional schools this month.

Junior Achievement Day



Holaway kindergarten students explored financial literacy during Junior Achievement Day last month, with help from University of Arizona Blue Chip Club volunteers. It's never too soon to build skills that will support them well into the future. Thank you to our University of Arizona partners for helping make this a meaningful experience for our Holaway Coyotes.



Amphi Foundation Gala



Students from La Cima Middle School, Canyon del Oro High School and Amphi Middle School were among those who showcased their talents at the Amphi Foundation Gala, from mariachi and band performances to academic demonstrations. Thank you to the Amphi Foundation for its continued support of our students and schools.

Science Collaboration



Prince Elementary third-grade students recently visited Amphi Middle School, where seventh graders brought science to life by sharing creative cell models and explaining each part and its function. The experience sparked curiosity, encouraged great questions and gave older students the opportunity to step into teaching roles.

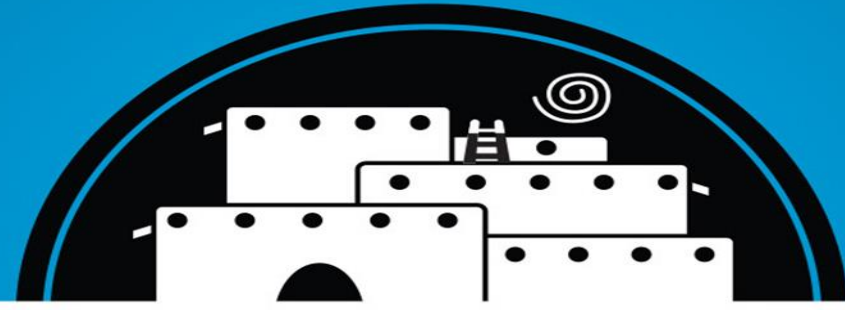


Experiments at Painted Sky



Last week, students in Mrs. Vandermyde's class at Painted Sky Elementary explored what plants need to grow through hands-on lessons, testing the roles of water, soil and sunlight. As they observed their radish plants, students saw firsthand how conditions affect growth.





AMPHITHEATER

P u b l i c S c h o o l s

April 14, 2026 Governing Board Meeting
Superintendent Report

Legislative Update

The 2026 Landscape – What the Board Needs to Know

Headline: A Session Focused on Mandates, Notifications, and the Ballot Box

- The Big Picture: The legislature is intensely focused on school safety transparency, strict budgetary formulas, and educator boundaries.
- The Shift to the Ballot: Many of the most consequential structural changes are potentially bypassing the Governor and heading straight to the November 2026 ballot.



Campus Safety & Threat Notifications

Headline: HB 4109 – The 24-Hour Rule

- The Legislation: Currently advancing through the Senate, HB 4109 requires public schools to notify parents and staff within 24 hours of any serious threats or incidents involving violence on campus.
- Impact:
 - Significantly compresses the timeline for threat assessment and community communication.
 - Requires tight coordination between building leadership and the District leadership and communication team.
 - The Challenge: Balancing the mandate for rapid transparency with the need to prevent unnecessary panic or the spread of misinformation during active investigations.



Student Discipline & Classroom Instruction

Headline: Navigating Scrutiny on Speech and Conduct

- **HB 2575 ("Antisemitism in Education Act"):**
 - Creates explicit disciplinary and civil penalties for educators who are deemed to promote antisemitism.
 - Districts must be prepared to support history and social studies teachers who must navigate complex, controversial current events, as the bill allows for public complaints and civil lawsuits against staff.
- **SB 1241 (Absenteeism & Discipline Reporting):** Continued legislative scrutiny on how districts enforce discipline rules (ARS 15-843), specifically regarding excessive absenteeism and the reporting of illegal substance suspensions to the state.



Campus Medical Readiness

Headline: Upgrading Emergency Health Protocols

- SB 1131: This bill mandates that all public schools officially adopt and implement comprehensive cardiac emergency response plans by the year 2027.
- SB 1009: A companion bill that specifically requires high school students to receive Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training before graduation.

Impact: Districts would need to audit their current AED locations, purchase additional devices, and establish dedicated campus response teams to comply with the SB 1131 mandate. At the high school level, PE and Health teachers would need to integrate the mandatory AED training into the curriculum.



CTE Funding & Operational Flexibility

Headline: Navigating HB 4034 and Our Technical Education Pathways

HB 4034): This bill refines how Average Daily Membership (ADM) is split for students attending satellite CTED campuses, capping the district side at 1.0 ADM and the CTED side at 0.25 ADM unless a specific intergovernmental agreement dictates otherwise.

Funding Flexibility: Notably, the bill allows school districts participating in a CTED to carry forward up to 25% of received CTE funds into the next fiscal year.

This requires a close review of our current agreements with Pima County JTED to ensure our satellite programs remain properly funded. However, the new carry-forward flexibility will allow our campuses to better plan for larger, long-term CTE equipment purchases.



Facilities, Leases, and District Property

Headline: Tighter Controls on Real Estate Assets

- **HB 2383 & HB 2384:** Lawmakers are mandating stricter state oversight on how public school districts manage, lease, and sell physical property. By October 2026, districts would be required to submit a comprehensive annual report of all real estate holdings to the state.
- **Financial Restrictions:** If a district leases or sells property to a non-school entity for over \$100,000, these bills restrict using those funds for Maintenance & Operations (M&O), forcing proceeds toward paying down bonded indebtedness or reducing local taxes.
- **Admin Impact:** As we evaluate building utilization across the district, these bills restrict our flexibility to leverage unused property to fund immediate, day-to-day classroom operations.



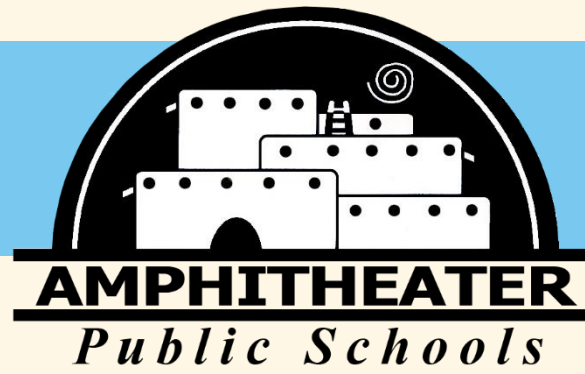
The 60% Instructional Spending Mandate

Headline: Preparing for SCR 1032 on the November Ballot

SCR 1032: Passed by the Senate in March (pending in House), this legislatively referred ballot measure would mandate that targeted districts spend at least 60 cents of every dollar specifically on "direct instructional expenses" (primarily teacher pay).

- This mandate does not apply statewide. It explicitly targets school districts with more than 7,500 students located in Arizona's three most populous counties: Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima.
- The Penalty: If voters approve the measure in November, districts that fail to hit the 60% mark would face escalating financial penalties, beginning with a 25% loss of their Classroom Site Fund allocations and eventually reaching a 100% loss for continued non-compliance.
- As district leaders, we must be aware that the state's definition of "instructional expenses" strictly excludes vital support roles like counselors, nurses, social workers, and building administration, as well as costs like utilities, transportation, custodial support, and security. If this passes, Districts will face intense pressure to reallocate funds away from these and many more operational areas to reach the 60% threshold, new operational efficiencies on our campuses.





Thank you.

