

AN INVITATION to apply for the position of **SUPERINTENDENT**



PEORIA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



TIMELINE

Applications Due: Sept. 12 - Oct. 26 2023

Interviews: Nov. 13-16

Selection: TBA

Start Date: TBA

All dates and times are subject to change.

www.peoriaunified.org
6330 W. Thunderbird Rd.
Glendale, AZ 85306

POSITION PROFILE

Peoria Unified's Governing Board seeks, as its next superintendent, an experienced leader who has a proven record of improving student achievement, leading excelling schools, attracting and retaining highly-qualified employees and implementing the long-range strategic plan to enhance student success and effectively utilize district assets and facilities.

The board seeks a superintendent who will embrace, understand, and respect traditions, diversity and the culture of the community while continuing to move the district forward as a leader in preK-12 education.

PREFERRED ATTRIBUTES

- Demonstrates success in improving academic achievement for all students and a track record of making data-driven decisions
- Emotionally intelligent, courageous, and confident leader with the ability to build trusting relationships with staff, parents, community and demonstrated love of country
- Has successful teaching and administrative experience in schools and districts similar to Peoria Unified with an understanding of the challenges that are represented by demographic diversity
- An excellent communicator (speaking, writing and listening) and relationship-builder that models high integrity and ethics at all times
- A financial steward of district resources with the ability to align funds to district priorities and communicate those decisions transparently and effectively to the staff and community

REQUIREMENTS

- Sound financial and business experience
- District-level administrator experience
- Building-level administrator experience
- Proven record of improving student achievement and success
- Teaching, curriculum and instruction experience
- Current superintendent certificate

COMPETITIVE BENEFITS

- Comprehensive health care plans
- Participation in the Arizona State Retirement System
- Award-winning wellness initiatives and healthy worksite programs
- Additional benefit options and opportunities available

PEORIA UNIFIED GOVERNING BOARD

The Board consists of five members whom reside within the school district and are elected to four-year terms.



David Sandoval
Term 2021-2024



Bill Sorensen, Ed. D.
Term 2021-2024



Heather Rooks
Term 2023-2026



Melissa Ewing
Term 2023-2026



Vacant
Term TBD -2024

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Approximately 15 miles northwest of Phoenix, the Peoria Unified School District encompasses 125 square miles in the northwest metropolitan area.

The district boundaries are within the cities of Peoria, Glendale and Youngtown. Our diverse neighborhoods include active retirement communities, arts and culture, bioscience and medical industries, numerous colleges and thriving universities. This location also hosts recreation, cultural, entertainment, dining, shopping and tourist industries and endless opportunities to enjoy outside activities such as golf, hiking, trail riding and more.

The area is home to professional sports teams including MLB's San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners spring training at the Peoria Sports Complex, NFL's Arizona Cardinals and NHL's Arizona Coyotes. The three sports venues also host a variety of concerts and events.

Major entertainment and shopping locations include Westgate Entertainment District, P83 Entertainment District, Arrowhead Towne Center and Park West.



With easy access to an abundance of Valley of the Sun amenities, our community offers unlimited opportunities to live, work, study, shop and play.



Lake Pleasant Regional Park, three country clubs and several private and public golf courses reside within the district. With year-round play and award-winning courses, the area is a highlight for golf enthusiasts. With more than 23,000 acres of water and the natural beauty of the Sonoran desert, Lake Pleasant Regional Park is one of the most scenic recreation areas in the Valley with opportunities for boating, kayaking, fishing, scuba diving, camping and stargazing.

The community is also the setting for a variety of arts and culture which includes art galleries, historical museums, Arizona Broadway Theatre, Peoria Center for the Performing Arts and West Valley Symphony.

DISTRICT PROFILE

VISION:
Every Student, Every Day,
Prepared to Shape Tomorrow

MISSION:
Empower Students to
Fulfill Their Potential

VALUES:
Integrity • Collaboration
Excellence • Equity

Established in Arizona's Northwest Valley, the Peoria Unified School District brings over 130 years of educational distinction to students and families. Within Peoria Unified's 43 unique public schools, a variety of programs are designed to meet the needs of all students, including S.T.E.A.M., arts education, special education, gifted education, career and technical education and much more for preK- through 12th-grade students.

Since 1889, Peoria Unified has achieved academic and athletic excellence through and with its students and families. To continue its long history of success, the district maintains its focus on four key components of its strategic plan: Student Success, Safety and Well-Being, Stewardship of Community Resources and Community Connection. The Peoria Unified School District is fully committed to ensuring that "Every student, every day, is prepared to shape tomorrow."

Our strategic plan is continually reviewed and revised in order to maximize our efforts and resources, while providing world-class service to all individuals within the Peoria Unified community.

Peoria Unified also partners with the cities of Glendale and Peoria on school safety to provide School Liaison Officers and School Resource Officers throughout the district.

From academics to special education and the arts to Unified Sports, Peoria Unified offers a variety of specialized instructional opportunities of choice for students of all grade levels, including:

- Preschool
- Virtual School
- Advanced Gifted Academy at Apache Elementary
- Center for Differentiated Instruction at Copperwood Elementary
- International Baccalaureate at Ironwood High School
- Fine Arts Academy at Foothills Elementary
- MET (Medical, Engineering, Technology) Professional Academy at Peoria High School
- Spanish Immersion at Santa Fe Elementary
- STEM Academy at Heritage Elementary
- 25 Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs in six career fields at various high schools, allowing students to earn college credits during high school



BY THE NUMBERS

Faculty & Staff

127 Administrators
2,087 Certified Staff
1,591 Support Staff

Student Enrollment

22,813 Pre-K-8th grades
13,146 High school
35,959 Total students

Schools & Programs

34 Elementary schools
7 High schools
1 Online school
1 Non-traditional high school

FINANCIAL PROFILE

Peoria Unified covers 125+ miles in the northwest valley with 34 schools, 8 high schools and a K-12 virtual school. Peoria Unified's commitment to fiscal responsibility is demonstrated in the Arizona Auditor General's annual report which displays compliance with state statute and reports the district's percentage of every dollar that is spent in the classroom during the school year.

Annual funding supports positions and programs, mostly salaries and benefits for 4,000+ staff serving 37,000+ students. Peoria Unified provides \$225 million annually into our local economy through salaries and benefits.



72.5%
of the district budget goes to instruction, instructional support and student support.



12.3
average years of teacher experience within the district



17.5
students per teacher

*From the Arizona Auditor General 2022 Report. Students per teacher is total students attending divided by total certified teachers. Total certified teachers includes special-area teachers such as art, music and physical education teachers.

Peoria Unified has a 13% M&O Override, last renewed by voters in 2020.
The \$33M annual funding supports people and programs that would normally not be in the budget.



Extracurricular & Athletic Activities



Stable Class Sizes



Physical Education



School Nurses



Assistant Principals



Reading & Gifted Programs



Band, Choir & Art



Staff Compensation



All Day Kindergarten

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A bond authorization is the primary way school districts support critical infrastructure, construction and technology that is not funded by the state of Arizona. As part of the Strategic Plan, the district is prioritizing dollars from its current budget, as shown below, to bridge the gap until the next bond is approved by the community.



\$300K



\$1.3 MIL.



\$1.6 MIL.



\$3.6 MIL.



\$5 MIL.



\$5.3 MIL.



\$12 MIL.

Transportation: New vans & student activity buses to replace aging vehicles.

Auditoriums: Upgrades & repairs to district auditoriums.

Maintenance: Repair & maintenance of buildings and infrastructure for critical & priority projects.

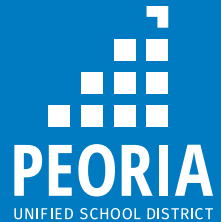
Technology: Network equipment, servers, laptops, classroom projectors.

Lake Pleasant Elementary: Enhancing the campus with a new education building.

Safety Improvements: Door hardware/access, intercom systems, cameras/vape sensors, front office remodel.

Liberty High School: Supporting growth at Liberty High School with a new education building.

APPLICATION PROCESS



The Peoria Unified School District has engaged the services of McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C. to facilitate a search for qualified candidates.

Finalists will visit the district at his or her expense to be interviewed by the Governing Board.

**Application and Selection
Procedures are available at
WWW.MACNJAKE.COM**

MCPHERSON & JACOBSON, LLC

An application for Superintendent should include:

- A letter setting forth personal qualifications, experiences and reasons for interest in the position
- A current résumé
- A completed application form
- Reference letters, certificates and licenses and academic transcripts from colleges/universities indicating degree(s)

Candidates are asked to not contact board members directly. Any effort to do so may eliminate them from consideration. Names of applicants will be held in strict confidence whenever possible; however, McPherson & Jacobson complies with individual states' Freedom of Information laws.

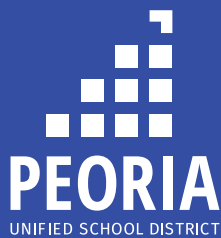
**Closing date for
applications is
October 26, 2023**



PEORIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

All applications will be acknowledged and all materials will be accorded confidential treatment. This is to advise you, however, that the Access to Public Records Law and associated case law in the State of Arizona requires the disclosure of applicant names and information at a point in the selection process as determined by the local Governing Board. We will attempt to notify all applicants as to any release of such information. All final decisions concerning the selection and evaluation of the candidates will be made by the Governing Board.

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