



PEORIA

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REVIEW 2016

EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY, PREPARED TO SHAPE TOMORROW



#PEORIAUNIFIEDPRIDE SINCE 1889

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WE ARE PEORIA

2015-16 | #PEORIAUNIFIEDPRIDE

127 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Serving families in the cities of Peoria, Glendale, Youngtown and Sun City

93% GRADUATION RATE

and a record \$65 million in scholarships awarded to graduates

42 SCHOOLS

18 K-8 & 16 PreK-8 elementary schools; seven 9-12th high schools; 1 non-traditional high school

36,000+ STUDENTS

24,000 in PreK-8 grades;
12,000 in 9-12th grades

3,780 EMPLOYEES

2,150 teachers & administrators;
1,630 support staff



Peoria Unified has a long and established record of instructional quality. Among our offerings are a wide variety of curriculum and programs to fit the varied needs and interests of the students we serve.

We are proud of the strong working relationships established with parents and business partners in our community. Together, we strive to provide students with the tools needed to become well-educated, successful citizens.

Peoria Unified maintains a graduation rate that is approximately 10-15 percent higher than state and national averages. The class of 2016 received more than \$65 million in scholarships. Our dedicated staff emulate the #PeoriaUnifiedPride that is felt on all of our campuses.

Thank you for choosing Peoria Unified!

Matt Bullock
Governing Board President

GOVERNING BOARD & ADMINISTRATION



MATT BULLOCK



JUDY DOANE



DAVID JONAGAN



KATHY KNECHT



BEVERLY PINGERELLI



DARWIN J. STIFFLER
Superintendent



KEN HICKS
Chief Financial Officer

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR



The Vistancia Elementary School community celebrates recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School for Exemplary High Performing Schools by the U.S. Secretary of Education



**NATIONAL SHOWCASE SCHOOL
CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS**
Country Meadows Elementary



INNOVATIVE DISTRICT
Career & Technical Education
Program Model Implementation
EXCELLENCE IN ACTION
Early Childhood Education
Program from Advance CTE



**ARIZONA A+ SCHOOL
OF EXCELLENCE**
Copperwood Elementary
Santa Fe Elementary
Vistancia Elementary

ACCOUNTING EXCELLENCE

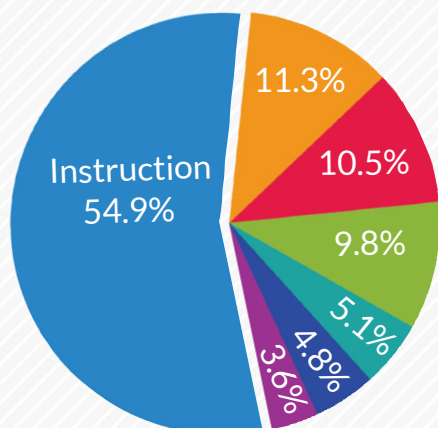
Peoria Unified is committed to transparency in financial reporting and serves as a responsible steward of taxpayer funds. The Finance Office has been recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the last 23 consecutive years by the Government Finance Officers Association.

To view any Annual Financial Report from 2010 to 2017, visit www.peoriaunified.org/Budget.



BUDGET & OPERATIONS

Peoria Unified had a \$189 million operating budget and received \$7,896 per student from many sources including federal, state, county, grants & donations for the 2015-16 school year.



Source: Arizona Office of the Auditor General FY2015

PATRONS PROVIDE FOR, AND PROTECT INVESTMENTS

District patrons historically have protected their neighborhood schools by authorizing bonds for renovations and maintenance of existing schools and for new school construction. Peoria Unified is grateful for voter support of overrides as well, which fund day-to-day operations across the district.

YES Bond Elections in 1996, 2002, 2005, 2012

YES Overrides in 1996, 2001, 2006, 2010, 2015

Due to reduced state capital funding, school districts have been forced to turn to bond monies for building maintenance and repair over the past seven years.

In April 2016, Peoria Unified Governing Board members authorized a \$198 million bond election, which if approved, will fund repairs to all school buildings, renovate high school performing arts centers, purchase land and construction for new schools, and update technology and infrastructure throughout the district. The 2012 bond can not be used for land purchase or new building construction, it has funded renovations to schools such as new roofs and floors. For a detailed report of 2012 bond expenditures by school, visit www.peoriaunified.org/bondsandoverrides.

UNIQUE, UNIFIED, NOT UNIFORM

ACCELERATED ACADEMY

For highly performing 1st-8th graders with a focus on reading, language arts and math instruction.

ARTS LEADING LEARNING

Integrating Fine Arts with movement into classroom instruction for PreK-8th graders.

CENTER FOR DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

A rigorous instruction for K-8th graders who have highly advanced intellectual, academic or creative capabilities.

FINE ARTS ACADEMY

A creative arts program for PreK-6th graders; an arts integration program for 5th-8th graders in art, dance, music or drama.

GIFTED ACADEMY

Self contained, all day gifted classrooms for 3rd-8th graders who have tested gifted in any area.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

A world-renowned rigorous college preparatory program for well-qualified students.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

PreK-8th graders have reading, writing & social studies in English half day and math, science & language arts in Spanish the other half.

MET PROFESSIONAL ACADEMY

For 11th & 12th graders interested in Medical, Engineering or Technology who are immersed in professional settings to work on authentic projects.

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL

K-8th graders develop a solid foundation of fundamentals and higher-level thinking skills. Uniform attire is required.

STEM ACADEMY

Using digital tools and applications to engage students with challenging project-based learning activities to promote personalized learning.

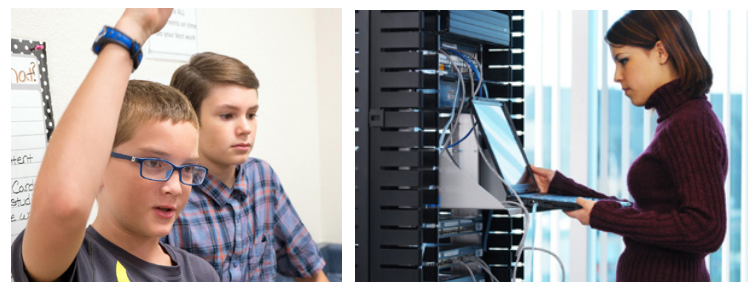
UNIVERSITY HIGH

An accelerated program with rigorous courses and simultaneous earning of high school and college/university credits.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS FOR UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS

In 2000, Peoria Unified launched it's first Signature Program, the Copperwood Center for Differentiated Instruction. Since then, several Signature Programs — from academics to the arts — have led the way providing specialized learning opportunities to unique individuals. Most programs are tuition-free and enrollment variance applications are accepted year-round.

- Accelerated Academy | Vistancia
- Arts Leading Learning | Desert Harbor
- Center for Differentiated Instruction | Copperwood
- Fine Arts Academy | Foothills
- Gifted Academy | Apache
- International Baccalaureate | Ironwood High
- Language Immersion | Santa Fe
- MET Professional Academy | Peoria High
- Traditional School | Coyote Hills
- STEM Academy | Heritage
- University High | Sunrise Mountain High



A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Schools across the state administered the new AzMERIT assessment tests to 3rd-8th grade students in 2015, seeing the results in 2016. The AzMERIT goes beyond the previous bubble test by measuring a wide range of real-world skills, like critical thinking, problem-solving and analysis. AzMERIT sets a higher bar for student progress and achievement. Peoria Unified students are on the right track as evidenced by:

★ STUDENTS UP TO THE CHALLENGE
Students scored above state averages in just about every category & grade

★ LEADING MATH SCORES
Eighth-grade math scores led all other peer districts

★ HIGHEST SCALE SCORES POSSIBLE
for six students on both the AzMERIT English Language Arts (ELA) & Mathematics assessments:

RILEY LAWRENCE | Copperwood
ASHLYN PACE | Frontier
MALLORY FORSBERG | Oakwood
PEYTON DENNIS | Sunset Heights
EPHRAIM JOEL ESMAS | Oasis
AMANDA PACE | Vistancia



VINCENT ALEJANDRO, Cactus High

Attended Honeywell Leadership Challenge Academy at U.S. Space and Rocket Center

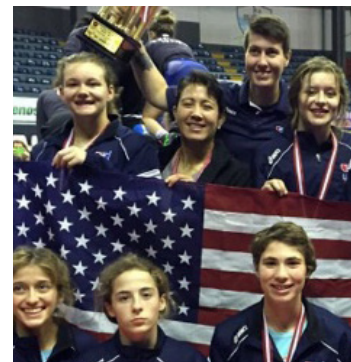


THOMAS ARCHER-BLACK, STEPHANIE LELSZ & AVA SERRANO
Copperwood Elementary

Best Use of Recycled Materials Award in 17th annual Honeywell Fiesta Bowl Aerospace Challenge

BROOKE LOGAN
Liberty High

Team USA Wrestling Champions in Pan American Cadet Championships in Lima, Peru



JACOB ARMENTA
Sunrise Mountain High

Outstanding National Hispanic student by the College Board with a 3.5 GPA or higher and took the PSAT

ALICEN ADOLF
Peoria High School

Gold Medal at Sonia Kovalsky Mathematics Day at ASU's New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

SOFIA GARCIA
Cactus High

Gold Key Award in art and top five in state in Scholastic Art & Writing Contest

RACHEL CRANE
Cactus High

Gold Key Award in ceramics/sculpture in Scholastic Art & Writing Contest

A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Centennial Coyotes

Division 1 Football Champions



Cobra Commanders, Cactus High

Regional FIRST Robotics Competition Champions

ATHLETICS

TEAM STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CENTENNIAL HIGH | Division 1 Football
& Division II Football Champs in
2006, 2007, 2008, 2014

LIBERTY HIGH | Wrestling

IRONWOOD HIGH | Track & Field 4 x 400
Team: SARA KEARNS, VICTORIA MARBOIS
Alexandra Marbois, Kiara Jones

INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONS

Track & Field

MARCUS PARKER | Centennial | 100m, 200m Dash

LASHIRA TREMBLE | Liberty | 100m Dash

CHRISTINE WILLIFORD | Liberty | 400m, 800m Dash

BRANDON MCGUIRE | Kellis | 100m, 300m Hurdles

Swim

NICOLE MATHESON | Sunrise Mtn | 500m Freestyle

Wrestling

CADEN PEREZ | Sunrise Mtn | 103 lb weight class

TREY ESCOBAR | Liberty | 113 lb weight class

MILES NEUSSLE | Liberty | 182 lb weight class

BLAKE SMITH | Liberty | 195 lb weight class



MESA, Peoria High

State MESA Day Champions in Mathematics, Engineering
& Science Achievement



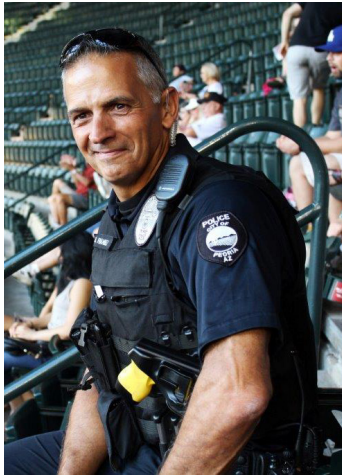
AFJROTC, Cactus High

International Distinguished Unit Award

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

EXEMPLARY PROFESSIONALS

Peoria Unified is proud of the top-notch educators who are outstanding in their field and passionate for the success of each student. Although exemplary professionals are in the classroom each and every day, here are a few that made the news last year:



DAVID FERNANDEZ
Centennial High

Floyd Ledbetter National Association of School Resource Officer (NASRO) of the Year Award. Peoria Unified's School Resource Officer Program also received the 2016 Model Agency Award from NASRO.



BRIAN FULLER
Peoria High

Air Force Association STEM Teacher of the Year 9th-12th Category and the CASE National Teaching Honor Award. In addition to these awards he also received the STEM Teacher of the Year award.



JODEE PENNOCK
Liberty High

Carl Perkins Community Service Award from the Association for Career & Technical Education of Arizona



RICHARD TAYLOR, Centennial High

Wells Fargo & Arizona Cardinals High School Coach of the Year



PAUL BOWER
Peoria High

Raymond G. Van Diest Arts Advocacy Award in recognition of music advocacy

JEFF WOOTEN
Raymond S. Kellis High

Arizona School Administrators Distinguished Administrator of the Year for Secondary Division

DANIEL JENSON
Liberty High

Best Communities for Music Education Program award from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation

TIM BECK
Ironwood High

Inducted into Arizona Coaches Hall of Fame, 22 years coaching soccer, four state championships & 11 regional championships

TIM MAYFIELD
Cactus High

Freshman Fellow Award from the Association for Career & Technical Education of Arizona

WELL ON THEIR WAY WITH FULL-DAY K!

For the first time in six years, Peoria Unified was able to provide free full-day kindergarten to families. To help ease the child (and their parents) into this special milestone and set them up for success, schools held a Connect to Kindergarten event where kinders met their teacher and toured their school.

Peoria Unified welcomed more than 2,300 five-year olds on their first full-day kindergarten experience with us.

BUILD A PLAN FOR LIFE



Planning for a career or college starts as early as kindergarten in Peoria Unified. Our award-winning career development planning program — MyLife — provides age-appropriate opportunities for students within each grade level to make natural connections to college and careers. Research shows that when students have a career goal in mind, they are more focused in school.

PREPARE FOR TOMORROW






High school students are afforded the opportunity to earn college credits while taking qualifying courses at reduced tuition from Grand Canyon University or the 12 colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District. Dual enrollment credits are transferrable within state public universities. Courses include biology, business, chemistry, child and family studies, education, English humanities, history, mathematics, physics, political science, sign language and world languages.

TRY IT WITH TLC



Technology, Life, Careers (TLC) is the first level of Career and Technical Education in Peoria Unified. Seventh and eighth-grade students have the opportunity to learn about career fields and national career clusters available to them in high school. Students explore interests with hands-on lab experiences related to specific careers, attain technical and life skills and make a plan for high school, college and career.

CTE WORKS

| | |
|--|---|
|  | 10 CTE TEACHERS have achieved national recognition since 2001 |
|  | 98% GRADUATION RATE for students enrolled in Career & Technical Education programs |
|  | 12 COLLEGE CREDITS or industry certification on average for continuing post-secondary education and/or training |



EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

The district held its fourth annual Career Exploration Day on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Peoria High School for students in 6th-12th grades — and their parents. The event is designed to help students develop goals as they map their way through high school, college and career plans and is ideal for students who are undecided about what they want to be when they grow up.



As students explore the possibilities, they are introduced to nationally recognized CTE courses of study; can chat and ask questions of Peoria Unified CTE and SkillsUSA teachers as well as college, military and tech school representatives; discover how student organizations such as DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, SkillsUSA, HOSA and Educators Rising will help them develop leadership skills; learn about earning college credits while in high school, and college prep testing, scholarships & financial aid.

Peoria Unified is a member of West-MEC, a joint technical education district that partners with school districts to improve and expand Career & Technical Education program opportunities for students.

Peoria Unified Career & Technical Education (CTE) provides students with college and career readiness and direction, industry experience, real world application and leadership experience and development. CTE students graduate with a high school diploma and college credits or industry credentials from a variety of high-demand career fields:

BUSINESS, MARKETING & ENTREPRENEURSHIP MANAGEMENT

Accounting | Business Administration
Financial Services | Marketing

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

Computer Maintenance | Software Development
Media Productions | Networking | Cybersecurity

ENVIRONMENTAL & AGRICULTURAL

Agriscience | Landscaping | Biotechnology
Sports Turf | Nursery Management

HEALTH SERVICES

Medical Assisting | Nursing | Sports Medicine
& Rehabilitation

HUMAN SERVICES & RESOURCES

AFJROTC | Culinary Arts | Design & Merchandising
Early Childhood Education | Education
Professions Fire Science | Law Enforcement

ENGINEERING, INDUSTRIAL & MANUFACTURING

Automotive | Construction | Engineering | Welding



CELEBRATE ARTS IN EDUCATION AT SPRING FESTIVAL

Arts & Cultural Festival | Sat., April 1, 2017

Arts in Education is celebrated annually at a free, full-day, family-friendly event in the spring that spotlights music, dance and the fine arts of more than 3,000 elementary and high school students. The Peoria Arts & Cultural Festival unfolds throughout various venues in Old Peoria. Proceeds from make-and-take crafts, a kids zone and charity auction funds grants for Art teachers. The Peoria Arts & Cultural Festival is a partnership with Sky Zone Peoria, an indoor trampoline park for kids of all ages, the City of Peoria and the Peoria Education Foundation.

VOLUNTEERS GIVE THEIR TIME & TALENTS

More than 3,700 school volunteers logged more than 57,000 hours which is equivalent to \$458,850 at current state minimum wage. School volunteers are office, classroom, field trip chaperones, sports and band boosters, parent /teacher club boosters.



FOUNDATION SUPPORTS TEACHERS & STUDENTS CONTINUING EDUCATION

Thanks to the generous donations and support from community partners, private donors, parents, staff and participants of various fundraisers, the Peoria Education Foundation has distributed more than \$1 million over the past 25 years in grants to district teachers and scholarships to students.

The Peoria Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization with local business and community leaders serving as the Foundation's Board of Directors.

The Foundation's largest fundraiser is the Visionary Education Awards Gala to be held on April 10, 2017, at the Arizona Broadway Theatre. Education visionary honorees, ticket information and sponsorship opportunities will be available soon at www.peoriaedfoundation.org.

PATRONS TOUR OUR SCHOOLS

Peoria Unified holds bi-annual Patron Tours of schools for community members to experience first-hand our excellence in classroom instruction and award-winning programs. An invitation to join us on a Patron Tour is extended to any parent, resident, retiree, business owner or government official within the district. For more information, contact us at pusdpr@pusd11.org or call 623-486-6100.

Spring Patron Tour | 8 a.m. -12 p.m. | March 8, 2017
Sunrise Mountain High & Frontier Elementary

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

K-8th SCHOOLS

ALTA LOMA ELEMENTARY ‡
9750 N. 87th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85345-7016
(623) 412-4575

APACHE ELEMENTARY *
8633 W. John Cabot Road
Peoria, AZ 85382-0879
(623) 412-4875

CANYON ELEMENTARY
5490 W. Paradise Lane
Glendale, AZ 85306-2535
(623) 412-5050

CHEYENNE ELEMENTARY
11806 N. 87th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85345-8125
(623) 487-5100

COPPERWOOD ELEMENTARY *
11232 N. 65th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85304-3640
(623) 412-4650

COTTON BOLL ELEMENTARY
8540 W. Butler Drive
Peoria, AZ 85345-8000
(623) 412-4700

COUNTRY MEADOWS ELEMENTARY ‡
8409 N. 111th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85345-8000
(623) 412-5200

COYOTE HILLS ELEMENTARY *
21180 N. 87th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85382
(623) 412-5225

DESERT HARBOR ELEMENTARY * ‡
15585 N. 91st Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85382-3543
(623) 486-6200

DESERT PALMS ELEMENTARY ‡
11441 N. 55th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85304-3402
(623) 412-4600

DESERT VALLEY ELEMENTARY ‡
12901 N. 63rd Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85304-1702
(623) 412-4750

FOOTHILLS ELEMENTARY * ‡
15808 N. 63rd Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85306-2328
(623) 412-4625

FRONTIER ELEMENTARY ‡
21258 N. 81st Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85382
(623) 412-4900

HERITAGE ELEMENTARY *
5312 W. Mountain View Road
Glendale, AZ 85302-2200
(623) 412-4525

IRA A. MURPHY ELEMENTARY ‡
7231 W. North Lane
Peoria, AZ 85345-6735
(623) 412-4475

KACHINA ELEMENTARY
5304 W. Crocus Drive
Glendale, AZ 85306-4399
(623) 412-4500

LAKE PLEASANT ELEMENTARY ‡
31501 N. Westland Road
Peoria, AZ 85383
(623) 773-6575

MARSHALL RANCH ELEMENTARY
12995 N. Marshall Ranch Drive
Glendale, AZ 85304-1966
(623) 486-6450

OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY
12900 N. 71st Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85381-5040
(623) 412-4725

OASIS ELEMENTARY ‡
7841 W. Sweetwater
Peoria, AZ 85381-4994
(623) 412-4800

PARKRIDGE ELEMENTARY ‡
9970 W. Beardsley Road
Peoria, AZ 85382
(623) 412-5400

PASEO VERDE ELEMENTARY
7880 W. Greenway Road
Peoria, AZ 85381-3830
(623) 412-5075

PEORIA ELEMENTARY ‡
11501 N. 79th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85345-1358
(623) 412-4450

PEORIA TRADITIONAL SCHOOL *
21180 N. 87th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85382
(623) 412-5350

PIONEER ELEMENTARY ‡
6315 W. Port au Prince Lane
Glendale, AZ 85306-3203
(623) 412-4550

SAHUARO RANCH ELEMENTARY
10401 N. 63rd Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85302-1100
(623) 412-4775

SANTA FE ELEMENTARY * ‡
9880 N. 77th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85345-6667
(623) 486-6475

SKY VIEW ELEMENTARY ‡
8624 W. Sweetwater Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85381-8101
(623) 412-4850

SUNDANCE ELEMENTARY ‡
7051 W. Cholla Street
Peoria, AZ 85345-5866
(623) 412-4675

SUNSET HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY
9687 W. Adam Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85383
(623) 773-6650

SUN VALLEY ELEMENTARY
8361 N. 95th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85345-7717
(623) 412-4825

VISTANCIA ELEMENTARY * ‡
30009 North Sunrise Point
Peoria, AZ 85383
(623) 773-6500

ZUNI HILLS ELEMENTARY
10851 W. Williams Road
Sun City, AZ 85373
(623) 412-5275

9-12th SCHOOLS

CACTUS HIGH
6330 W. Greenway Road
Glendale, AZ 85306-3204
(623) 412-5000

CENTENNIAL HIGH
14388 N. 79th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85381-4682
(623) 412-4400

IRONWOOD HIGH *
6051 W. Sweetwater
Glendale, AZ 85304-1100
(623) 486-6400

LIBERTY HIGH
9621 W. Speckled Gecko Drive
Peoria, AZ 85383
(623) 773-6525

PEORIA HIGH *
11200 N. 83rd Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85345-5945
(623) 486-6300

PEORIA FLEX ACADEMY
11200 N. 83rd Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85345-5945
(623) 412-5475

RAYMOND S. KELLIS HIGH
8990 W. Orangewood Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85305
(623) 412-5425

SUNRISE MOUNTAIN HIGH *
21200 N. 83rd Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85382-2436
(623) 487-5125

* Schools with a Signature Program

‡ Schools with a Preschool Program



PEORIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CENTER

6330 W. THUNDERBIRD RD. | GLENDALE, ARIZ. 85306

623-486-6100 | WWW.PEORIAUNIFIED.ORG



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PusdOfficialChannel



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