

AZEDNEWS

A Service of the Arizona School Boards Association

PART ONE: For teachers leaving the profession, respect is spelled -s-a-l-a-r-y

Originally published March 2, 2016



Many Arizona teachers say they don't feel respected, valued or trusted, and their low salaries are the main factor in the shortage of teachers statewide. Low pay is also why many teachers are leaving the profession altogether, according to a recent statewide survey of teachers released in late 2015 by Tucson Values Teachers. The survey was sponsored by the University of Arizona College of Education and the Southern Arizona Leadership Council.

Last year, over 1,000 teaching positions in Arizona were vacant at the start of school, and in the next three years, nearly 23 percent of all Arizona teachers are eligible for retirement, said Dan Streeter, superintendent of Humboldt Unified School District in Prescott Valley.

Yet, "the number of candidates graduating from our teacher preparation programs is down seven percent," Streeter said.

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This year, we continue to be committed to delivering news and information that contributes to informed public discussion and great understanding of Arizona K-12 education. Our most popular articles continue to focus on education policy and practice in Arizona. Summer is around the corner, but don't worry. We are not going anywhere. AZEDNews continues to provide the most accurate journalism to educate yourself on education initiatives. We inform. You decide.

Thank you for your continued support!

Best regards,
Tracey Benson

DIRECTOR, ARIZONA EDUCATION NEWS SERVICE
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARIZONA SCHOOL
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PART TWO: State, non-profits and schools zero in on ways to retain teachers

Originally published April 19, 2016

With a ballot measure focused on education funding set to go to Arizona voters on May 17, Arizona teachers in many public schools may see raises in the year ahead, which educators and teacher advocates say would begin to address one of four key areas that their research points to as contributing to Arizona's teacher shortage.

The Arizona Department of Education, a Tucson non-profit and school districts around the state are zeroing in on the other three – mentoring, on-going training and positive working environments – to hold on to effective teachers and entice new ones into

the profession.

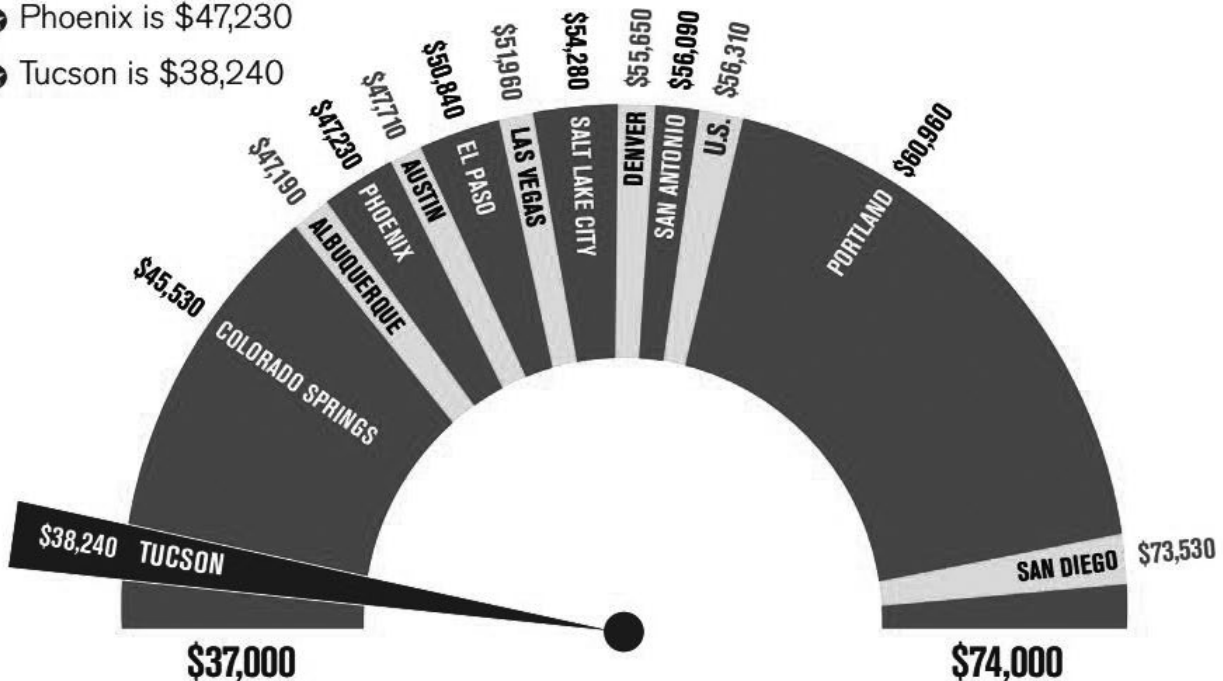
“We know that teachers who are supported and are a part of a team are more likely to stay,” said Jaime Festa-Daigle, assistant principal at Lake Havasu High School in Mohave County and a National Board Certified AZ Master Teacher and a member of the Educator Retention and Recruitment Task Force.

Read both full articles at www.azednews to find out how Arizona is keeping its best teachers in the classroom.

MONEY FACTS

Median compensation for secondary school teachers in AZ is not competitive regionally or nationally:

- ★ U.S. median is \$56,310
- ★ Phoenix is \$47,230
- ★ Tucson is \$38,240



Source: MAP AZ Dashboard





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Etienne Melcher, Food Research and Action Center, emelcher@frac.org.

Arizona School Boards Association is a proud member of Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom.

www.breakfastintheclassroom.org

Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom: Food Research and Action Center | National Association of Elementary School Principals Foundation | NEA Healthy Futures | School Nutrition Foundation

Who they are and what's spent on them

In the past eight years, the number of students enrolled in Arizona public schools has grown by 3.98 percent.

This enrollment includes the full-time and part-time students attending classes during the first 100 days of school, which is called average daily membership. In Arizona, district and charter schools are funded according to their average daily membership.

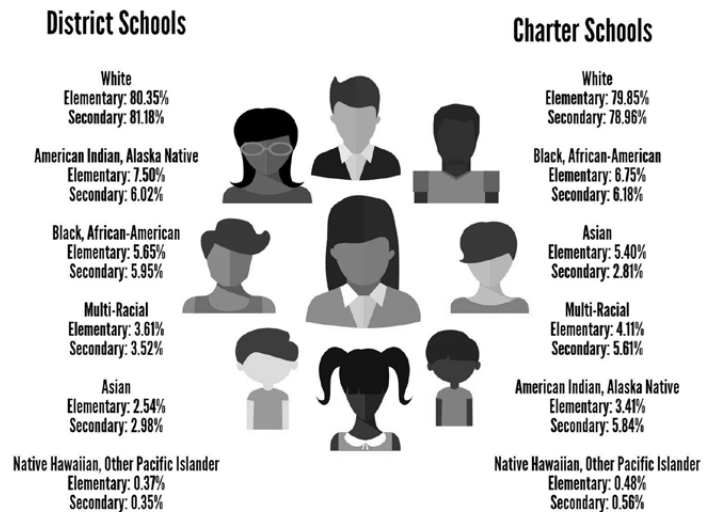
Latino students now make up close to half of Arizona's public elementary school students, and the majority of Arizona's over a million K-12 students continue to attend district schools, according to the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction's recently released Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

The report provides general statistical information about the type and number of public schools in the state, how they are funded and the students who attend them.

Of the 1,082,675 Arizona K-12 students who attended public school in 2014-15, 921,540, or 85.1 percent, went to public district schools, while 161,136, or 14.9 percent, went to charter schools.

Read the full article at www.azednews.com to find out which percentage of students continue to grow.

AZ Students By Race, Grade Level 2014-15



All in:

Equity conversations build compelling visions for real inclusion

Originally published March 16, 2016

Arizona students shared stories of their pathways to learning and over 200 public education, business, non-profit, civic and government leaders discussed ways to provide all students the support they need to achieve at high levels during The Equity Event held in Phoenix on March 10 and 11.

"This is what public education should be about," said Maria Harper-Marinick, interim chancellor of Maricopa Community Colleges. "If we believe we need democracy, then every single kid needs to have access to quality education."

The focus of the event was on providing leadership strategies and promising practices for closing the opportunity and achievement gaps.

Equity is addressing the academic and social needs of all students, recognizing that students learn in different ways at their own pace and staying focused on developmental and academic outcomes, said Dr. Pedro Noguera, professor of education at University of California-Los Angeles, author, former school board member and keynote speaker at The Equity Event.

The only way most people understand equity is the monetary value in their house, but "another meaning of that word equity is value," said Sunny Dooley, a Diné storyteller and a keynote speaker at The Equity Event.

Read the full article at www.azednews.com to see what other topics and issues were discussed at the Equity Event.



Ruben Gutierrez, associate superintendent at Riverside Elementary School District and board member at Pendergast Elementary District, talks with a participant at The Equity Event on March 11 in Phoenix.

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Alternate realities: School budgets, teacher salaries hinge on Prop. 123

Originally published March 30, 2016

As the May 17 special election for Prop. 123 approaches, many Arizona public school districts are preparing two budgets: One if Prop. 123 passes and another if it doesn't. The top budget priority for most districts for Prop. 123 funds is supporting teachers and classrooms with salary increases and instructional resources

Prop. 123 is the result of a compromise Arizona state legislators and public school advocates agreed upon and Gov. Doug Ducey signed that would settle the inflation funding lawsuit filed on behalf of all Arizona public schools for money they did not receive during the Great Recession.

About 85 percent of school districts' operating expenses are employee salaries and benefits, said Chuck Essigs, executive director of Arizona Association of School Business Officials. "Some school districts are sending out contracts to staff in April like they usually do with contingency wording that says here is what your salary is if it passes, and here is what it is if it doesn't," Essigs said.

Read the full article at www.azednews to find out which school districts are creating alternate budgets



Caption: Photo courtesy Arizona State University



Humboldt Unified School District Superintendent Dan Streeter high fives a student. Photo courtesy Humboldt Unified School District



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SPECIAL REPORT **On foster**

Part One: Education data grim for Arizona children in foster care

Originally published on April 13, 2016

A recent WestEd report showed that Arizona youth in foster care had educational outcomes far worse than low income children and other at-risk subgroups.

“Prior to this year, we never had data that looked at the actual outcomes for foster children around the state,” but this WestEd report “shows how philanthropy, the nonprofit community, our education partners and state government can come together to not only identify what needs to be done, but to put real viable solutions in place,” said Vince Yanez, executive director for education and public policy at Arizona Community Foundation.

Children in foster care make up about 1 percent of Arizona’s 1.1 million students enrolled in K-12 public schools and are less likely to score proficient in math and reading on statewide assessments, according to WestEd’s “Arizona’s Invisible Achievement Gap: Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care in the State’s Public Schools.”



Read all three full articles at www.azednews to find out how the state is working together to identify the needs and programs to help foster youth find success in schools.

Part Two: Foster children get K-12 champions through Pima County pilot program

Originally published April 13, 2016

A Pima County pilot project that improves foster children’s educational outcomes seeks to expand statewide after a recent study found that Arizona’s foster children face many educational challenges.

But House Bill 2665, which would do so, remains in committee as the Arizona Legislature works on a budget.

The FosterEd: Arizona pilot project in Pima County “has been collaborating with leaders within both state and local agencies to ensure that every child has an education champion who can support the student’s long-term success,” said Michelle Traiman, director of FosterEd at the National Center for Youth Law.

Part Three: Arizona legislators rally to help foster youth find school success

Originally published April 13, 2016

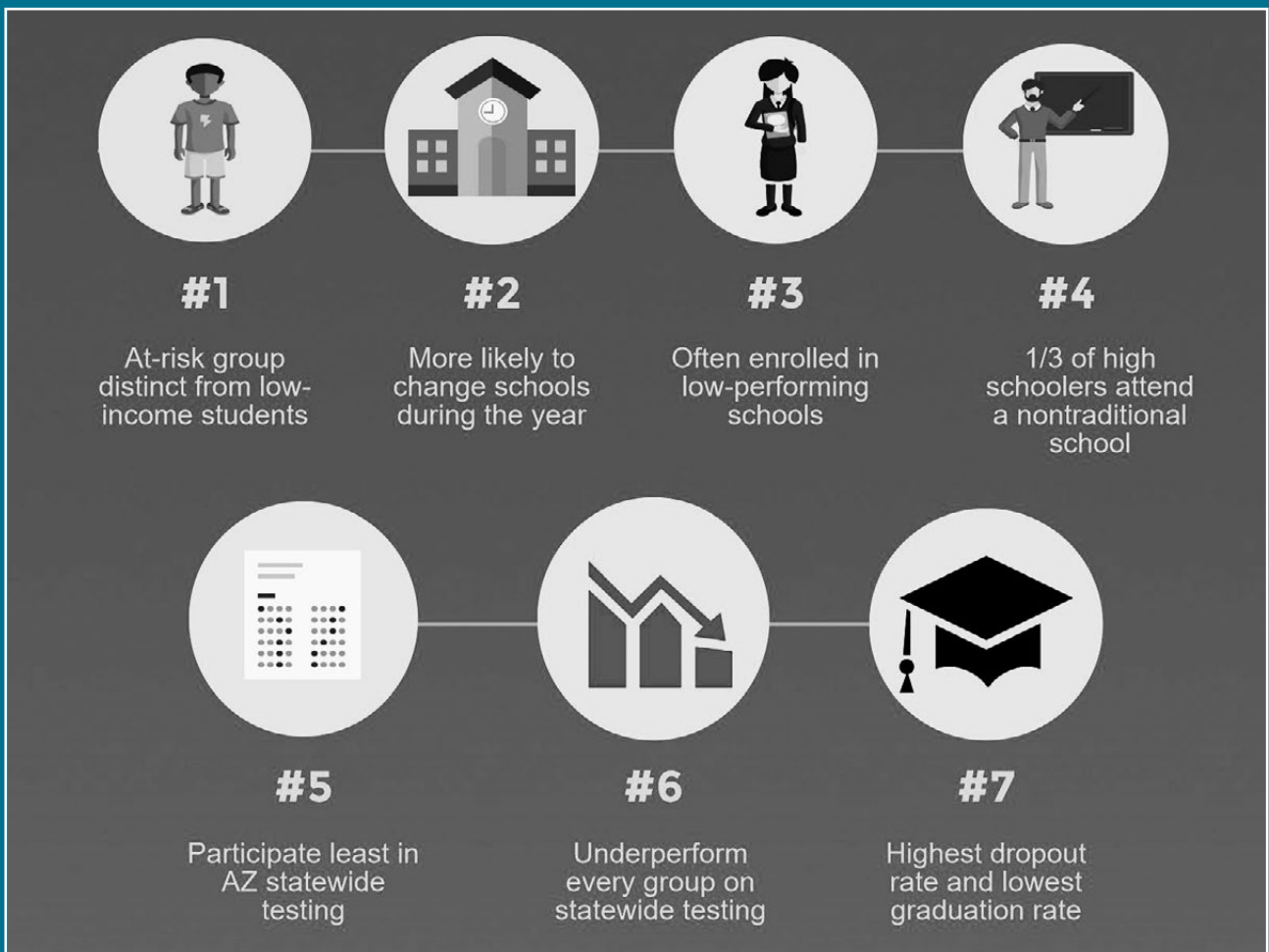
A rizona Rep. John Allen has sponsored House Bill 2665, which would fund and authorize FosterEd: Arizona to expand statewide its services for children in foster care.

The bill, which has more than 20 bipartisan sponsors, requires charter schools to give enrollment preference to children who are in foster care, and establishes a statewide Foster Youth Education Success Program for the purpose of improving the educational outcomes of children in Arizona’s foster care system, said Michelle Traiman, director of FosterEd at the National Center for Youth Law.

care educational outcomes

Arizona's invisible achievement gap for students in foster care

For many years, closing achievement gaps for students with disabilities, English Language Learners, racial/ethnic minorities and those raised in poverty has been a priority, but efforts rarely focused on students in foster care. Now, a WestEd report provides a snapshot of education outcomes for Arizona's 10,770 K-12 public school students in foster care.



Go to www.azednews.com to read more stories like this.



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‘Supersonic kick start’ entices top high school seniors to stay in Arizona

Originally published April 28, 2016

What can Arizona do to keep the best and brightest high-school students in state after they graduate so the economy can benefit from their leadership and talent?

One method that’s kept 20 of Arizona’s highest-achieving students in state each year is the The Flinn Scholars Program, which is supported by The Flinn Foundation and Arizona’s three public state universities. In the past 30 years, the program has provided a jump start to 570 Arizona’s young leaders’ college education.

Flinn Scholars receive a college scholarship package valued at over \$115,000 that covers tuition at Arizona State University, University of Arizona or Northern Arizona University, funding for room and board, support for at least two study-abroad experiences and an off-campus internship, university faculty mentorship and other benefits.

“The students we select to be Flinn Scholars have big dreams about how they can make a difference in their community: they are problem solvers,” said Anne Lassen, Flinn Scholars program director.

Read the full article at www.azednews to find out which high schools the 2016 Flinn Scholars graduated from and future careers they will pursue.



The 2016 Flinn Scholars from left to right. Top row: Aidan McGirr, Anagha Deshpande, Andrew Roberts, Bailey Lockwood, Cameron Carver, Colton Flowers, Emmi Torres, Enrique Favaro, Ivette Montes and Kara Dunn. Bottom row: Maeve Kennedy, Maggie Zheng, Matha Kiela, Martin Blair, Nicole Bratsch, Rohini Nott, Tina Peng, Toni Marcheva, Vaibhavi Mohan and Yisha Ng.

AZEDNEWS Digest

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Westwood senior to mentor young women interested in STEM

One of this year's Flinn Scholars is Ivette Montes, a Westwood High School senior in her school's International Baccalaureate program. The Mesa resident plans on attending Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University to study mechanical engineering. (Published April 28, 2016)

Accomplished musician, scholar plans to change lives through medicine

Nicole Bratsch, a Flinn Scholar from Blue Ridge High School in Pinetop-Lakeside said she plans to study biology at Northern Arizona University and later go into medicine. (Published April 28, 2016)

Sabino student seeks to solve energy challenges as mechanical engineer

Cameron Carver of Sabino High School in Tucson was also named a Flinn Scholar and plans to major in mechanical engineering at Arizona State University in the fall. (Published April 28, 2016)

Love of anthropology, cultures put Sunnyslope senior on path to medical degree

Bailey Lockwood, a Flinn Scholar from Sunnyslope High School in Phoenix, plans to major in anthropology at the University of Arizona and later become a medical doctor. (Published April 28, 2016)

Chandler student looks to pursue intellectual and artistic endeavors

Tina Peng, a Flinn Scholar from Chandler Prep, a Great Hearts Academies School plans to attend Arizona State University and double major in computer science and mathematics and potentially studio art – another passion. (Published April 28, 2016)

Astrophysics or anesthesiology a tough choice for Anthem teen

Aidan McGirr, a Flinn Scholar from Anthem Prep, a Great Hearts Academies school, said he plans to study astrophysics while on the pre-med track at Barrett, the Honors College of Arizona State University. (Published April 28, 2016)

Billions in balance: Mayors sound alarm, join forces to improve grad rates (Part 1)

A group of Arizona mayors is warning of "disastrous" economic consequences in the billions of dollars if the number of Arizona students graduating from high school does not increase. These 14 city leaders from around the state have committed to do more than sound an alarm. They're getting to work. (Published April 6, 2016)

Sahuarita takes next step, partners with schools, community (Part 2)

Sahuarita's efforts to support public education as a community priority are wide-ranging. Elected officials take part in the monthly Sahuarita WINS meeting, facilitated by Sahuarita Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Manuel Valenzuela. (Published April 6, 2016)

Cities help at-risk students with outreach programs (Part 3)

For more information on some of the many projects that the 10 cities and towns that participate in the Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable are working on, please look at the group's latest report "Arizona Mayor's Education Dashboards: Ensuring That All Students Are College and Career Ready." (Published April 6, 2016)

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Pedro Noguera: Path to excellence is through equity

One of the nation's leading researchers on education equity earlier this month called on Arizona leaders to "speak up for equity" and work together to identify and change policies, practices and gaps in access that are denying learning opportunities to the state's most vulnerable youth, among them homeless, special education, immigrant, Black, Latino and Native American students. (Published March 23, 2016)

Students provide insight into why equity is important

At a glance, Jacob Chevalier, Krysten Muir, Kiki Perry and Dairany Blanco-Flores appear to have little in common but their age, but they share something deeply personal. With the help of their public schools, these teens each overcame adversities that once seemed to be barriers to their personal dreams of success and achievement. (Published March 22, 2016)

More districts adding free breakfast to the school day

Hurrying up for school doesn't mean skipping the most important meal of the day for many Arizona students. Neither does an empty cupboard at home. (Published March 9, 2016)

Schools kick off breakfast week with celebrities, taste test

Many schools in Arizona and around the country celebrated National School Breakfast Week from March 7 through 11 with administrators and local celebrities serving students a good meal to start the day. (Published March 9, 2016)

How will AZ community colleges meet 2025 Workforce demand?

Aidan McGirr, a Flinn Scholar from Anthem Prep, a Great Hearts Academies school, said he plans to study astrophysics while on the pre-med track at Barrett, the Honors College of Arizona State University. (Published April 28, 2016)

Dollars to equalize opportunities a civil rights issue, Holbrook district leader says

Two bills before the Arizona Legislature seek to strip a funding source from 19 Arizona school districts that have been utilizing the locally generated dollars to equalize opportunities and services for minority students for 25 years. (Published February 8, 2016)

Districts showcased at state-wide school choice celebration

Arizona long has been a frontrunner in promoting school choice. Twenty-two years after the Arizona Legislature authorized open enrollment, charter schools, and three tax-credit programs, Arizona parents have many options to choose the school that best fits their children. (Published February 4, 2016)

Teacher retention, tax rates top concerns on new real-time funding model

Arizona school district officials say a new funding law due to take effect next school year will add uncertainty to their budgeting processes and in doing so could harm their ability to hire and retain teachers, an issue with which many public schools already are struggling. (Published January 28, 2016)

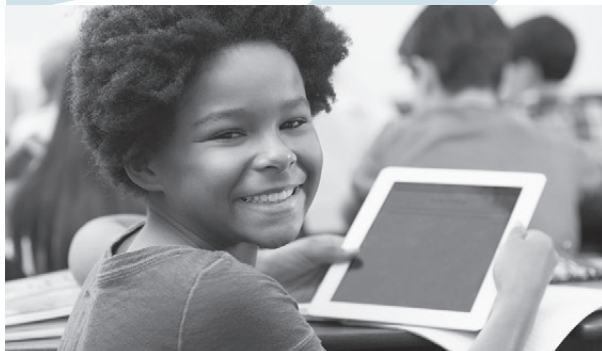
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