

Yavapai County Education Service Agency



The First Choice for Educational Services



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November 2015

IT'S A DEAL! ...but now it's up to the voters

After calling Arizona legislators to the Capitol at 7:15 pm on October 28th for a special session, Governor Doug Ducey signed on Friday, October 30th, three bills that would settle the on-going K-12 funding dispute--if voters agree. He acted almost immediately after the Senate finished voting on the plan to provide Arizona public schools with a portion of court-ordered funding. The funding, which will provide \$3.5 billion over the next decade, would require approval by Arizona voters in a special election, to be held on May 17, 2016. A vote is required to enact the constitutional changes needed to complete the settlement using the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund.

The deal was struck after weeks of closed-door negotiations mediated by Ducey and his staff after court-supervised talks between legislative leaders and school officials failed. The plan calls for \$3.5 billion to be sent to schools over the next 10 years by raising the base amount

of K-12 dollars, requiring that base to be adjusted annually for inflation, and adding an extra \$625 million from the state's general fund.

All parties agree that the settlement is not perfect, but is workable. Ducey promised a well-funded campaign and diverse backers to get the message to the voters. HB 1001 boosts the base level of K-12 funding by \$173 per student and passed unanimously. HB 1002 and SCR 2001 outline the funding to support it for the next decade. It relies on increasing the annual distribution from the state's Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund to education to 6.9% from the current 2.5%. That is expected to generate nearly \$2 billion over the 10-year span. Additionally, lawmakers have committed \$624 million over the next decade from the general fund, which is fed by tax collections, and to inflating the base level every year by up to 2%.

Source: AZCentral, AZEdNews

Education Leaders Weigh In

Dr. Tim Ogle, Executive Director of the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA), a plaintiff in the K-12 inflation funding lawsuit file in 2010, expressed gratification after months of failed mediation talks. Hinting that there is still work to be done on education funding, he urged support for the various bond and override elections being now held in school districts across the state, noting the settlement does not address those concerns and calling their passage "critical."

Executive Director of the Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) David Lewis, also a plaintiff, said that this legislation is not the answer for all education funding issues in the state, but gets money in the schools now and avoids more drawn out litigation.

Dr. Chuck Essigs, AASBO's Director of Governmental Relations, cautioned that the final implementation of the lawsuit settlement is contingent on the voters' approval in the May election.

The key elements of the funding proposal are:

- An increase in per student base level funding to \$3,600, up \$173 per student (72% of the appellate court ruling); base level will reach full amount within 2 years.
- Inflation language to continue (2% or rate of inflation whichever is less) with

compounding in perpetuity.

- Additional funds, in consideration of back pay, to be distributed annually: \$50 million per year for the first 5 years; \$75 million per year for the second 5 years.
- Accounts for 50% of court-identified

back pay.

- No policy strings or specific requirements will be placed on how the money should be spent.
- Contingencies to account for a severe downturn in the state economy.

Source: AZEdNews, 10/30/15

2015

Nov 3 Election Day

Nov 13 Southern Yavapai County Administrators' Meeting, Congress ESD, time TBA

2016

Jan 27 County Administrators' Meeting, Cottonwood Oak Creek ESD District Office, 8:00 am

Feb 20 70th Annual Yavapai County Spelling Bee, Prescott High School Auditorium

Mar 1 Charter Schools Education Fair, Yavapai College, TBA

Apr 27 County Administrators' Meeting, Washington Traditional School, Prescott, 8:00 am

YCESA-FFMA Substitute Teacher Training Feb 2-4, Feb 9-11
Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/SubTeacherTraining>





Updates from Chuck

Director of Governmental Relations for the Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) keeps us informed...

Addressing the available funding increases from SB 1001 that was signed into law on October 30, 2015

Two funding increases will become available. One comes from the proposed increase in the base level and the second raise comes from an extra \$50 million statewide appropriation. Both of these increases in funding would happen this school year, FY 2016, if the May, 2016, special election passes.

The first increase for districts would be to the base level with teacher comp going from the current \$3,524.56 to \$3,645.00. Multiply that \$120.44 per student by your district's Total Weighted Student Count from page 4 of your district's APOR55-1 and then multiply this amount by your TEI (use 1.000 if your TEI is less than 1.000).

To estimate your district's share of the statewide \$50 million appropriation, determine what percentage your total district weighted student count is of the total statewide weighted student count (1,331,006.3117). This percentage is the same calculation that is used for Classroom Site Fund payments.

Add these two estimated amounts together to give your estimate of additional funding to come to your district from SB 1001 if the May special election is successful. Also, an exemption to allow districts to carryforward these additional funds is part of the final legislation.

Source: Chuck Essigs, AASBO

SNIFFING OUT GRANTS

Check out these bones!

For grant support, contact Becky O'Banion at YCESA becky.obanion@yavapai.us

Sponsor: Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation

Name: Education Grants

Who: Public, Private, Charter, Other (including homeschool, 501(c)(3) organizations)

Cost Share: Unknown

Amount: Varies

Deadline: Letter on Inquiry due Nov. 15 and May 15 annually

Description: To support programs in Investigative Reporting, Professional Development, and Special Opportunities. Special preference given to ethics and new media programs.

Link: <http://inasmuchfoundation.org/journalism-foundation/>

Sponsor: Air Force Association

Name: Education Grants

Who: Public, Private, Charter, Other (including homeschool, 501 (c)(3))

Cost Share: Unknown

Amount: Up to \$250 each

Deadline: Nov. 18, 2015

Description: To promote aerospace education activities in K-12 classrooms; encourages development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum; can be used for classroom science supplies and demonstration kits (including robotics)

Link: <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/EducatorGrants>

Sponsor: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Name: Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program

Who: Public food program service providers, tribal organizations, and private nonprofit entities

Cost Share: 50% cash or in-kind

Amount: Maximum of \$400,000 over 4 years

Deadline: Nov. 30, 2015

Description: To encourage healthy eating and physical activity for individuals and communities, focusing on high-risk groups, and promote healthy diet and physical activity



Link: <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/EducatorGrants>

Sponsor: The Hoenny Center

Name: Action Research Project Grants for Teachers

Who: Pre-K – 12th grade teachers

Cost Share: None

Amount: \$500 each

Deadline: Open until July 1, 2016

Description: To promote and recognize preK-12 classroom (action) research projects in the area of peer teaching.

Link: <https://www.hoennycenter.org/content/research-project-grants>

Sponsor: McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation

Name: Teacher Development Grants

Who: Classroom teachers in small teams

Cost Share: Unknown

Amount: Up to \$10,000 per year for up to 3 years

Deadline: Accepting applications Jan. 15 – Apr. 15, 2016

Description: To support small teams of teachers in the formation and implementation of K-12 classroom instruction; to encourage critical inquiry and to observe effects on students

Link: <http://mccartheydressman.org/teacher-development-grants/>

Sponsor: McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation

Name: Academic Enrichment Grants

Who: K-12 Schools, non-profits, all groups serving children from low-income households

Cost Share: Unknown

Amount: Up to \$10,000 per year for up to 3 years

Deadline: Accepting applications Jan. 15 – Apr. 15, 2016

Description: To develop in-class and extra-curricular programs that improve students learning; projects that foster understanding, deepen students' knowledge, and provide opportunities to expand awareness of the world around them.

Link: <http://mccartheydressman.org/academic-enrichment-grants/>



AZ Students NAEP Scores Reported Stable

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has released fourth and eighth grade math and reading results from the 2015 administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP assessment, or Nation's Report Card, is a common yardstick that tests what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Scores for Arizona students did not change significantly in any of the subject/grade level combinations tested, while national scores dipped in both fourth and eighth grade math and in eighth grade reading.

"It is a testament to the hard work of Arizona teachers and students that NAEP scores have remained stable given the many significant changes to our state's education system in recent years," said Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas. "Our schools should absolutely be commended for the steadiness seen in these results."

Source: AzCentral, 10/28/15



Food Literacy for County Schools

A group of partners including the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Prescott Farmer's Market, Yavapai County Community Health Services, Food Corps and AmeriCorps Vista together have formed a partnership in Yavapai County--the Yavapai Seasonal Harvest (YSH). The collaborative partnership is designed to increase fruit and vegetable consumption, promote food literacy and support local agriculture in Yavapai County. That's just what they did this month with the Farm to School taste tests at local schools.

One of the favorite Farm 2 School (F2S) Month activities happens in the school cafeteria where students taste produce from a local farm. It's fun to hear all of the different opinions coming from students, teachers and cafeteria staff about what they are tasting.

Mile High Middle School of Prescott USD was the first site to kick off F2S Month where featuring locally grown spinach with a simple lemon dressing.

Yavapai Seasonal Harvest members picked up 21 pounds of local spinach from Aguilar farms in Paulden. The spinach was then taken to school food service directors who graciously washed and prepared the spinach in trays to stay fresh and chilled until the taste tests began.

Without the schools' support, the F2S program would not be able to conduct these cafeteria taste tests. The project will continue with taste tests at Humboldt USD's Coyote Springs Elementary, as well as PUSD's Granite Mountain Middle and Taylor Hicks Elementary Schools.

Contributed by Sharmel Jordan, YCCHS, Health Education



Current Standards Stand, Still Time for Input

The State Board of Education (SBE) recently voted to reverse their action taken in June, 2010, to adopt Common Core. The vote was to continue Arizona's current standards, with the ability by the SBE to add, delete or modify the standards. The vote was passed by a 6-2 vote.

Headlines and announcements in the media indicated Common Core was being repealed. However, the SBE's vote was symbolic in nature and allows the current review process to continue. The action affirms the current standards and keeps them in place.

The SBE is hosting 16 regional events to gather input from the public regarding the standards. The first event was in Yavapai County on October 26th in Prescott. If you were unable to attend, online comments will be possible until November 20th. Go to <https://k12standards.az.gov/comment-standards>.

Comments on the standards may also be mailed to: State Board of Education, Attn: K12 Standards Public Input, 1700 W. Washington, Executive Tower Suite 30, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Source: Tim Carter, Yavapai County Superintendent and Member of State Board of Education

RESOURCE GUIDE REPUDIATED

Arizona's Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas does not want there to be any confusion in regards to her feelings about the U.S. Department of Education's recently released *Resource Guide: Supporting Undocumented Youth*. She stated that her department "is not involved with, and does not support" the new federal publication.

Douglas has said in "Kids Can't Afford to

Wait! 2015" that she wants to help unaccompanied minors from Central America, but that Washington should pay Arizona back for the burden of "decisions made by the federal government not to enforce immigration policy."

The federal publication is available at <http://1.usa.gov/1jyWwDd>. Douglas's speech can be found at <http://bit.ly/1hYJfIA>.



Governor's Education Office Realigned

Governor Ducey has announced the realignment of the Arizona Governor's Office of Education (formerly known as the Office of Education and Innovation under Governor Brewer) and new website <http://education.azgovernor.gov/>. The Office is now charged with:

- Providing staff support to the Classrooms First Initiative Council
- Administering the Arizona Public Schools Achievement District
- Establishing a statewide public engagement plan to promote Arizona's high quality schools and best practices
- Assisting in efforts to gather statewide public input on new academic standards
- Soliciting grants to support key education initiatives
- Coordinating the Council on the Education for Military Children

This Office and website will house public input for the Classrooms First Initiative Council. You are able to submit comments, as well as upload any documents to the site at <http://education.azgovernor.gov/edu/form/submit-feedback-council>.

Source: Janice Palmer, ASBA

FFMA Funding Confusion Cleared Up

To clear up some confusion regarding budget allocations by the Forest Fees Management Association (FFMA), YCESA's Laurin Custis offers the following explanation for the Yavapai College Matinee Series and the Field Trip dollars.

The FFMA Board of Directors designated \$15,000 to the Yavapai College Matinee Series program for district schools to attend these productions during the FY 2015-16. To reserve tickets, please contact the Yavapai College Performing Arts Center directly at 928-776-2000. The tickets and bussing costs will be funded through the \$15,000 FFMA allocation.

The FFMA Board of Directors also designated each member district \$600 to be used for other fine arts field trips. Please submit an invoice and proof of expenditure to Laurin and she will reimburse those costs from this Field Trip allocation.

If you have additional questions, please contact Laurin at 928-442-5138.

Source: Laurin Custis, YCESA

A New Math Classroom

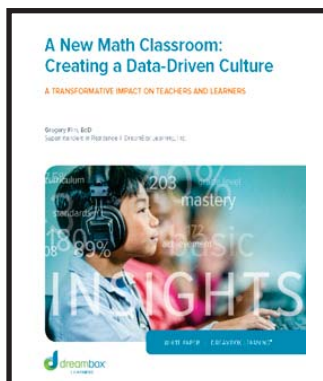
Data in education is nothing new. But the amount of data we have access to creates a complex landscape, and might not be driving the change you are looking for. With so much data, how does a teacher—let alone a school system—choose which data to pay attention to?

By asking the right questions and changing how they used student learning data, one district made significant learning outcomes. They saw:

- an 86 percentile point gain in algebra proficiency across the district
- a 56 percentile point improvement in math proficiency at the school level

Read the whitepaper *A New Math Classroom: Creating a Data-Driven Culture* to uncover the secrets to these results seen by Dr. Gregory Finn during his six-year term as Superintendent at Anson County Schools in North Carolina. Hint: He used the framework of a data-driven culture as the backbone for student success.

Download at: <http://www2.dreambox.com/l/14872/2015-10-26/5m1f6>



8th Annual Yavapai County Education Service Agency Holiday Greeting Card Design Contest

Dear Yavapai County Educators,

Each year, the YCESA sends out holiday greeting cards to schools, state and local elected officials, Governing Board members and other members of the community. The cards feature designs submitted by students from Yavapai County schools. Three designs (one each from elementary, middle, and high school students) will be chosen as the artwork for our holiday greeting cards. A \$125.00 check will be presented to the winning students' teachers for use in their classrooms.

We realize this activity may not fit within art standards and curriculum. However, a classroom teacher may wish to use this as a quick art project. This contest is voluntary and any student may submit a design created in or out of the classroom.

Design requirements:

- Designs must be **original, created by the student, one design per student.**
- Designs must be **5x8 inches in size**, either **portrait or landscape** format.
- Designs must be **2-dimensional (or flat)**, no pop-ups.
- Designs can be created with crayons, cut and pasted paper, pencils, markers, but **no glitter** as it will not copy well.
- Designs should **relate to the winter holiday season** and its many celebrations.
- **Do not use any words on the design**, only graphics.
- **Do not use images that are copyrighted or trademarked.**
- Include **student name, grade, teacher's name and school on the back** of the artwork.

Send designs to:

Yavapai County Education Service Agency, 2970 Centerpointe East Dr., Prescott, AZ 86301, C/O Laurin Custis

If you have questions, please contact

Laurin Custis at 928-442-5138 or laurin.custis@yavapai.us.

Deadline to submit entries is Monday, November 30, 2015 by 5:00 pm



POLL FINDS PRE-K IS TOP PRIORITY

For three years running, the First Five Years Fund's (FFYF) annual bipartisan poll shows that early childhood education is a national priority for Americans, regardless of party. Now more than ever, voters see quality early childhood education as a necessity for today's families and want the federal government to support states as they invest in new or expanded early childhood education programs. In fact, voters say we have our education priorities reversed, and call for more investment in early education over higher education.

Voters ranked improving public education and ensuring children "get a strong start in life" as extremely important priorities in a new poll--more so than controlling health care costs and increasing jobs that pay well. The poll was commissioned by the early childhood education advocacy group First Five Years Fund and consisted of a nationally representative sample of 800 registered voters. The poll also found support among Republicans: 59% of Republican voters said they support an increase in early childhood funding that adds to the deficit in the short term if it pays for itself in the long run.

To see more, go to <http://bit.ly/1PCPkSu>.

Source: Supt. Tim Carter, Yavapai County



Are Your Finances Fit or Flabby?

We all know that staying physically active and eating healthy can do a body good. But have you ever thought about the fitness of your finances? Your approach to money management needs regular checkups, too. You might discover that you need to trim some fat from the budget, bulk up on savings or work with a financial coach to reach your goals.

To help determine the fitness of your finances, take this test. Give yourself one point for each yes answer.

1. Do you have a budget and stick to it?
2. Do you have enough money to comfortably pay your bills each month?
3. Do you have a savings account?
4. Do you have a retirement account?
5. Do you have an emergency fund (enough money set aside to cover at least three months of expenses) – and contribute to it regularly?
6. Have you identified your short- and long-term financial goals?
7. Do you know your current net worth?
8. Can you locate your important financial documents, including bills, tax returns and statements?
9. Do you increase the amount you save when your income increases?
10. Do you avoid buying on impulse and purchasing items you don't need with your credit card?

Scoring:

8-10: Financially fit! Congratulations – you pass the fiscal fitness test. Keep contributing to savings and working on paying down debt.

5-7: Soft around the edges. You're on the right track to financial fitness – but your training plan could use a boost. Perhaps it's time to build your savings or review your financial goals.

0-4: Time for a serious workout. Focus on building the fundamentals of good financial fitness – a sound budget, appropriate savings accounts and/or a debt-repayment strategy. You might benefit from the assistance of a financial coach to get on the right track to better financial fitness.

Remember – as with physical health, the road to strong and sound finances is more like a marathon than a sprint. Review your finances regularly and seek training in areas that need improvement. You'll enjoy good fitness for years to come.

Ready to Flex Those Muscles?

Whether you're looking for minor suggestions or a major overhaul of your approach to money management, meeting with a financial expert can help. The friendly representatives at Credit Union West can help you consolidate debt or create a savings plan for your financial goals. Call 602.631.3200 or 800.621.0287 (outside Maricopa County) for more information.

Contributed by Evan Norris, Credit Union West



Group 2 Re-Elects Miller

Congratulations to Dr. Stephanie Miller, Superintendent of Congress Elementary School District, on her re-election as the Group 2 Representative to the Forest Fee Management Board of Directors.

Group 2 includes Kirkland Elementary, Seligman Unified, Ash Fork Unified, and Congress Elementary Districts.

Source: Supt. Tim Carter, Yavapai County



Lykins, Slaga Re-Elected to WCRSC

Representing Yavapai County on the West Central Regional Center Council (WCRSC) will be Dean Slaga, Superintendent of Mayer Unified School District, and David Lykins, Superintendent of Sedona-Oak Creek Joint Unified School District. They were both re-elected to serve two-year terms.

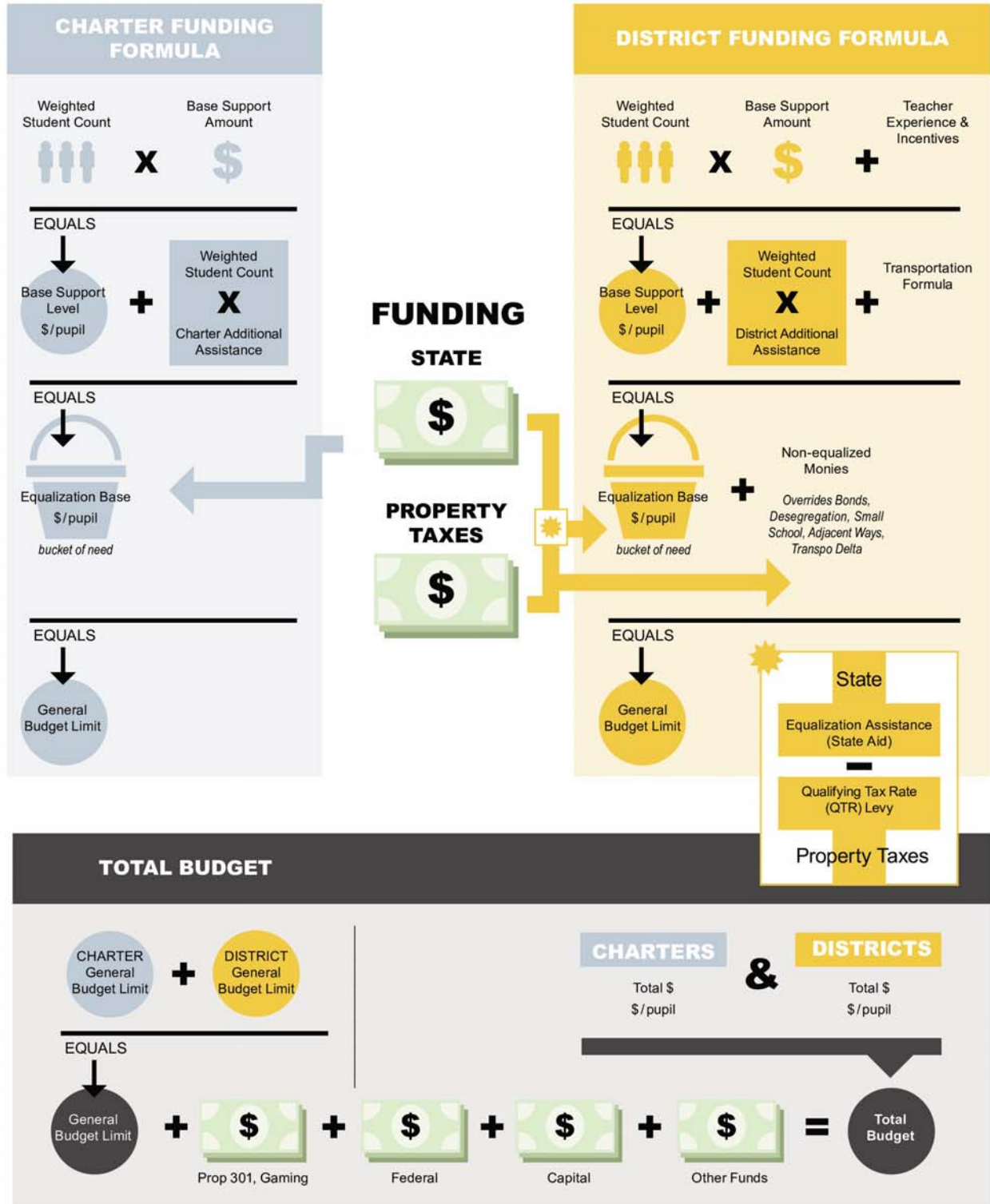
Congratulations, Dean and Dave!

Source: Supt. Tim Carter, Yavapai County



As the largest consumer of state funds, K-12 education finance is a hotly-debated topic. The Phoenix Center for Community Development (PCCD) of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce compiled an introduction to school funding that reveals the basics and lays the foundation for further discussions. It explains that K-12 funding is fraught with exceptions, but the basic structure is simple enough. Improved understanding of where the system originated, how it has morphed over time and how it is presently changing is critical to an informed public debate. To following is a graphic that shows PCCD's analysis. For the full brief, go to <http://tinyurl.com/schoolfinancePCCD>

SCHOOL FINANCE



Source: Phoenix Center for Community Development



70th Annual Yavapai County Spelling Bee

Registration is now open for the 2016
70th Annual Yavapai County Spelling Bee

Go to www.spellingbee.com to enroll your school with Scripps National Spelling Bee between August 18, 2015 and October 15, 2015. After October 15, 2015 late fees will apply.

The Yavapai County Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Prescott High School Auditorium



With generous support from the Forest Fee Management Association, all Yavapai County district schools are eligible for a full reimbursement of the 2016 Scripps enrollment fees. Please contact Laurin Custis at 928-442-5138 or laurin.custis@yavapai.us for more information.



AG: Parents Can't Opt Child Out of Testing

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich (R) has issued a legal opinion at the request of State Superintendent Diane Douglas (R) addressing parents' rights to opt their children out of assessment testing, like AzMERIT. The opinion, No. 115-008, generally states that "parents do not have the right to opt their students out of state mandated testing". This opinion reiterates a 1997 ruling that notes that the obligation to establish, implement, and maintain the comprehensive system for assessing the achievement of public school students is mandatory. It further states that these duties are imposed on the State Board of Education, the Arizona Department of Education, local school district governing boards, and local schools.

The complete opinion is online at <https://www.azag.gov/sgo-opinions/whether-parents-can-opt-their-children-out-statewide-school-assessment-tests> .

Source: Arizona Office of the Attorney General



A National Initiative to Address and Eliminate Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism—or missing at least 10% of school days in a school year for any reason, excused or unexcused—is a primary cause of low academic achievement and a powerful predictor of those students who may eventually drop out of school, reports the U.S. Department of Education. An estimated 5-7.5 million students miss 18 or more days of school each year, or nearly an entire month or more of school, which puts them at significant risk of falling behind academically and failing to graduate from high school. Because they miss so much school, millions of young people miss out on opportunities in post-secondary education and good careers.

The new "Every Student, Every Day" call to action includes a summit in the spring, a new toolkit and new statistics from the 2013-14 Civil Rights Data Collection. More details on this plan are at <http://1.usa.gov/1QXSDSf>. United Way Worldwide and USDOE will provide the virtual summit on chronic absenteeism on November 12, 2015. Learn more and register at <http://bit.ly/1PhsXSn> .

Source: U.S. Department of Education

