

Cochise County School  
Superintendent's Office



**Trudy Berry**  
Superintendent

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[https://  
www.cochise.az.gov  
/schools/home](https://www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home)

“Our progress as a  
nation can be no  
swifter than our pro-  
gress in education.”

-- John F. Kennedy



# The County School Connection

FEBRUARY 2016

Hi All,

The new year has begun and with it, there's more than snow coming down, especially in Phoenix. Our 2016 legislative session has begun with some interesting bills being proposed. Of course, one of the most important issues is restoring the cuts to high school career and technical education programs made in the last legislative session. HB2642 is being heard this week and Sen. Don Shooter is quoted as saying, "The deal restores \$28 million of the \$30 million in cuts set to go into effect on July 1. The deal contains new audits, a new school grading system and will cut off students who have already graduated from high school to save \$2 million." The ultimate goal is to restore the funding to Joint Technical Education Districts, or JTEDs, which serve over 100,000 students per year in programs such as welding, construction, nursing, and automotive. [The matching Senate bill is SB1525 if you wish to track the progress.](#)

Other legislation includes **HB 2151 (tax credit; teachers' school supplies)** "This bill allows any K-12 teacher to claim a tax credit for purchased school supplies and materials, up to \$400, beginning in Tax Year 2016." [You can contact your legislator or log in to \[azleg.gov\]\(http://azleg.gov\) to show support for any of these bills.](#)

**And for all the Business Managers and Superintendents, HB 2234 (schools; audits; county school superintendent)** "This bill requires school district audit reports to be sent to the county school superintendent." And **HB 2481 (schools; primary property tax rates)** "This bill requires each county board of supervisors to annually levy school district taxes on the properties in each school district at a rate equal to the lesser of the Qualifying Tax Rate and the District Support Level/per \$100 of assessed value. The bill further eliminates the 4% cap on school district budget balance carryforwards." [This should be interesting since all 20 of our school districts with tax rates exceed the Qualifying Tax Rate.](#)

Also, you will be able to vote in four elections this year. The Presidential Preference Election will be held on March 22, 2016, for which you must register by February 22, 2016. May 17 is Prop 123; August 30, the Primary; and November 8, the General. Dave Grieshop sent a reminder that we all need to register to vote, as well as "all newly minted 18 year olds who are high school students in Cochise County. Registering to vote extends well beyond the obligations of any school in Cochise County! Primarily, it is parents who need to inform their children it is their obligation to register to vote and why it is important to vote."

Feel free to contact me anytime. We are here to serve you.  
Trudy

**2016 Teacher of the Year**

**Awards Banquet**

**Friday, April 8, 2016- 5:00 pm**

**Thunder Mountain Activity Center, Ft. Huachuca**

RSVP by completing our form, available at [www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home](http://www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home).

Ticket price: \$35.00 per person.

RSVP submission deadline: March 30, 2016

### Expiring School Board Seats

**Apache Elementary**

Frank Krentz, 4 year

**Ash Creek Elementary**

Jessica Dilworth, 4 year  
Greg Lee, 4 year  
Caroline Tolby, 2 year

**Benson Unified**

Robert Bernal, 4 year  
Anita Choate, 4 year  
Jack Comaduran, 2 year

**Bisbee Unified**

Vacant, 4 year  
Carol Loy, 4 year  
Prido Polanco, 4 year

**Bowie Unified**

Kimberly Klump, 4 year  
Barth Morin, 4 year  
Nancy-Jean Welker, 4 year

**Cochise Elementary**

Gary Regnier, 4 year

**Cochise Technology (JTED)**

Mark Goodman (St. David), 4 year  
Christopher Lentz (San Simon), 4 year  
Laura Miller (Bisbee), 4 year  
Angi Obergh (Benson), 4 year  
Jeff St. Clair (Bowie), 4 year  
Robert Devere (Tombstone), 2 year  
Joe Farmer (Sierra Vista), 2 year  
Albert Young (Douglas), 2 year

**Double Adobe Elementary**

Pat English, 4 year  
John Vaughn, 4 year

**Douglas Unified**

Susan Kramer, 4 year  
Mario A. Ramos Sr., 4 year  
Natalio Sabal, 4 year

**Elfrida Elementary**

Pat Edie, 4 year  
Grace Poe, 2 year  
Timothy Frazier, 4 year

**McNeal Elementary**

Daren Spence, 2 year  
Mike Ramirez, 4 year

**Naco Elementary**

Rosa Ramirez, 4 year

**Palominas Elementary**

Marti Payne, 4 year  
Sheila Ritter, 4 year

**Pearce Elementary**

Jennifer Casady, 4 year  
Mary Sztuk, 4 year

**Pomerene Elementary**

Lianna Contreras, 4 year  
Donald Fenn, 4 year  
Bevin Carl Judd, 4 year

**San Simon Unified**

Larry Parker, 4 year  
Dusty Pierce, 4 year  
Jason Sloan, 4 year

**Sierra Vista Unified**

Melissa Avant, 4 year  
Connie Johnson, 4 year  
Lori Silk, 4 year

**St. David Unified**

Jay Tyler Davis, 4 year  
Bradley Haynie, 2 year  
Damon Trejo, 4 year

**Tombstone Unified**

Joanne Coppola, 4 year  
James Dotson, 4 year  
Mike Hayhurst, 4 year

**Valley Union High School**

Kimberly Hoke, 4 year  
German Paz, 4 year

**Willcox Unified**

Debra Ellis, 4 year  
William Nolan, 4 year  
Dwayne Owen, 4 year

**Cochise College**

Timothy Quinn, 4 year  
Danny Ortega, 6 year

### Law Day 2016

Law Day 2016

On behalf of **Cochise County's Law Day 2016**, the *Cochise County Law Day Committee* is delighted to announce this year's nationally selected Law Day theme: **MIRANDA: More than Words**. Contest requirements, contact information, dates and deadlines can be found at [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org) and [www.cochise.az.gov/law-day](http://www.cochise.az.gov/law-day).

**MIRANDA**  
more than words

As in the past, attorneys and probation officers are available to give presentations to your schools on the Miranda theme and related contest topics. Please contact the following people to set up a specific presentation date:

Sepp Sprietsma-Juvenile Court Services at 520-586-8126, email: [jspriets@courts.az.gov](mailto:jspriets@courts.az.gov) or  
Sanford Edelman-Public Defender's Office at 520-803-3272, email: [sedelman@cochise.az.gov](mailto:sedelman@cochise.az.gov)

Law Day contest winners, their parents, teachers, and school administrators will be invited to our Law Day 2016 Celebration on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 1:15 p.m. at Tombstone High School. In addition to receiving an award, contest winners will have the opportunity to read their entries or comment on their artwork to the audience.

Please contact Cochise County Superior Court Administrator Eric Silverberg at 520-432-8505 or Cochise County Superior Court Human Resources Director Tracey Romero at 520-432-8503 for further information.

## How to Run for a Seat on your Local School Board

A candidate for School District Governing Board must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, a resident of Arizona, a registered voter of this state and have been a resident of the school district for one year prior to the date of election. No employee of the district or his/her spouse may hold membership on the governing board. Immediate family, that has had the same household of residence within the previous four years shall not serve simultaneously on a five member governing board pursuant A.R.S. 15-421. The process includes:

- 1) Pick up an information packet, nomination paperwork, and Candidate ID number from your Cochise County School Superintendent's Office, 3rd floor, 100 Clawson Ave., Bisbee.
- 2) Campaign Finance Statements: Submit as required.
  - a) Statement of Organization – if spending more than \$500 on your campaign.
  - b) \$500 Threshold Exemption – if spending \$500 or less on your campaign.
- 3) Only after appropriate campaign financial documentation is filed, start collecting signatures using Non-partisan Nomination Petition.
- 4) File nomination paperwork between July 11, 2016 and August 10, 2016. Nonpartisan Nomination Paper (includes nomination, affidavit of qualification, and campaign finance laws statement) and Nomination Petitions (with signatures).
- 5) Candidates may submit a 500 word statement and a 2x3 photograph for publication on the Cochise County School Superintendent's website anytime from July 10, 2016 through September 15, 2016.

NOTE: All initial paperwork is filed with the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office.

### Recycle Your Books!

The Homeschool Library at the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office helps supply reading and text books to families who are educating their children at home. If you have some books that you are no longer using in your classrooms and would like to donate, please contact Travis Bishop at 520-432-8951.



The Arizona Community Foundation of Cochise invites teachers throughout Cochise County to submit letters of interest for up to \$5,000 of funding for projects in the coming year. Awards will be made from 13 field of interest funds, including the following three funds relating to education:

- Bob Holcombe Fund for Educational and Vocational Success
- Cochise Lifelong Learning and Literacy Fund
- Science, Math and Technology Innovation Fund

Letters of interest will be accepted beginning **April 11**, and must be submitted before 5:00 p.m. on **April 25, 2016**. Please contact Rebecca Pickett, Regional Philanthropic Coordinator for the Southeast Region, of the Arizona Community Foundation, at (520) 505-3678 or by e-mail at [rpickett@azfoundation.org](mailto:rpickett@azfoundation.org) for more detailed information.

### Learning Geology through StoryMaps

The Arizona Geological Survey just released an online StoryMap illustrating the natural history – geology, rocks and fossils – exposed along Bright Angel Trail of the Grand Canyon. This is part of the 'Learning Geology through StoryMaps' program.

The majority of the 29 slides and content stems from the work of Dr. Dale Nations, Professor Emeritus of Northern Arizona University. Dale taught geoscience at NAU for over 30 years and much of his research involved the rocks, fossils and structures of northern Arizona.

The storymap is geared towards science teachers and their students.

<http://tinyurl.com/geologic-tour-bright-angel>

#### Dates to Remember

February 14	Valentine's Day
February 15	Presidents Day (County Offices Closed)
February 20	County Spelling Bee
March 2	CASA Meeting (UA South)
March 22	Presidential Preference Election

## # FIRST THINGS FIRST

First Things First (FTF) needs your help to find other passionate, qualified individuals willing to make a difference for young children by serving on an FTF regional council!

There are currently more than 150 seats available on regional councils statewide. They represent diverse groups such as early education, health, business and philanthropy. Because of the crucial decisions made by the regional councils, we must encourage as many qualified, passionate individuals as possible to apply.

Cochise Regional Partnership Council has 6 open seats:

Seat/Category	Term
At Large	7/1/16 - 6/30/20
Business	7/1/16 - 6/30/20
Faith Community Representative	7/1/16 - 6/30/20
Health Services Provider	7/1/16 - 6/30/20
Parent	7/1/16 - 6/30/20
School Administrator	7/1/16 - 6/30/20

For more information, go to [www.azftf.gov/serve](http://www.azftf.gov/serve). Please contact Melissa Avant with questions or assistance, 520-378-3280.

### E-rate

The window for filing E-rate applications for Funding Year (FY) 2016 will open February 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon and close April 29 at 11:59:59 EDT. For more information, go to <http://www.azed.gov/erate/>.

Step	Timeline
1. File Form 470	7/2015 – 4/2016
2. Wait 28 Days	Required to wait at least 28 days after filing 470 before beginning bid reviews
3. Conduct Bid Evaluation and Award	As needed but before the close deadline of 4/29/2016
4. File Form 471	2/3/16 – 4/29/16 at midnight (Eastern)
5. PIA Review and FCDL	4/2016 – 6/2016
6. File Form 486	Within 120 days of receiving FCDL
7. Submit Invoices to USAC (Form 472/474)	7/2016 – 9/2017

## Read Across America Day Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016



Honoring Dr. Seuss, Read across America Day is celebrated on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss' birthday. The National Education Association sponsors events to inspire reading in children throughout our schools and communities.

On this day many schools promote reading, particularly for children and young adults. Schools, libraries, and community centers across the United States participate in the day by bringing people together to take part in reading books.

A list of activities, Dr. Seuss-related suggestions, songs, oaths, poems, proclamations and more can be found on the NEA website at <http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>



**CHILDREN'S LITERATURE  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
WORKSHOP**

For Elementary Teachers in Cochise County

**When:** Saturday, April 2, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Where:** UA South, Sierra Vista  
**Fee:** None!

**Register online at:**  
<https://oe.eller.arizona.edu/econ-elem-cochise-apr-2-2016>



### Contact Us

Trudy Berry, Superintendent <a href="mailto:tberry@cochise.az.gov">tberry@cochise.az.gov</a>	432-8950
Travis Bishop, Chief Deputy <a href="mailto:tbishop@cochise.az.gov">tbishop@cochise.az.gov</a>	432-8951
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