

Cochise County School
Superintendent's Office



Trudy Berry
Superintendent

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www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home

“I am not a
teacher, but an
awakener.”

Robert Frost



The County School Connection

JANUARY 2015

Hi All,

We're busy preparing for our upcoming Cochise County SMILE (Stimulating, Motivating, Innovative, Learning for Educators) Conference. This event is co-sponsored by the Sierra Vista Unified School District, Arizona Department of Education, and Southern Arizona Regional Education Center (SAREC), with financial support from Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative and Freeport Minerals Corporation. Our conference provides a motivating keynote address by a nationally-renown speaker, Dave Weber, and four hours of break-out sessions guaranteed to inspire our teachers, paraprofessionals, and school administrators, all for \$35.

At the SMILE Conference, the Arizona Department of Education will be offering training and information on the new state assessment, AzMERIT (Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching). Four hours of training will be provided for the district test coordinators and two other information sessions for administrators and teachers will be held in the morning and repeated in the afternoon. You can present all of your AzMerit concerns to state leaders.

The basic facts concerning AzMERIT include:

- Arizona public school students in Grades 3 through high school will take AzMERIT.
- Students in Grades 3 through 8 will take an assessment in English language arts and Mathematics at their grade level.
- Students taking high school level English and Mathematics will take End-of-Course (EOC) assessments that will test their proficiency in these subjects.
- AzMERIT can be administered by computer or paper and pen. However, if schools did not contact ADE Connect by January 5, 2015 to choose the computer-based version of AzMERIT, then their students will be taking the paper version.
- A committee of 90 Arizona educators reviewed potential AzMERIT passages and items. Every passage and item that will appear on the Spring 2015 AzMERIT tests was approved by this committee.
- No changes need to be made to school district curriculum. The test will measure the current standards that prepare students to be college and career ready.

According to Expect More Arizona, “The State Board of Education is seeking a two-year transition period to give enough time to ensure that state accountability measures are meaningful and accurate indicators of how students are performing.” The moratorium ensures that districts have time to completely implement the new system. Testing data will still be made available to make informed decisions regarding student learning.

The SMILE Conference promises to provide information for all educators, no matter the grade level or the subject, so please join us on Friday, January 30, 2015, for an exciting day of continuing education opportunities.

See you there! We're here to serve.
Trudy

I Have a Book! Creating a County of Capable Readers

The Cochise County School Superintendent's Office is very proud to announce that we are the recipients of a \$50,000.00 grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation. This grant was awarded to support our children, grades K-5, in their reading accomplishments. Studies have shown that book ownership promotes reading; therefore, we are using these funds to purchase popular, gender neutral books for each of the public and charter school students, grades K-5, in Cochise County. When the books arrive, we will contact each school to set up a delivery date and time.



Important Spelling Bee Deadlines

The 2015 Cochise County Bee is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2015 and will be held in the Cochise College, Student Union Community Room in Sierra Vista. Registration will begin at 9:30 am and the Bee will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Schools and districts should plan to host their local bees prior to January 23, 2015. Schools must be registered with the Scripps National Spelling Bee in order to participate in the County Bee.



The School and District Champion form must be returned to the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office no later than January 23, 2015 to be eligible to compete in the Cochise County Bee. Only one winner per registration may advance to the County Bee. It is nice to have a second place winner available, in the event the first place winner is unable to participate.

The winner of the Cochise County Spelling Bee will not only win a \$100 grand prize, they will also be eligible to compete in the Arizona State Spelling Bee, which will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at Eight/Arizona PBS, 555 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004.

As your students complete their school Bees, additional resources and study materials may be found on the National Spelling Bee website at <http://www.spellingbee.com/resources-students>. A study guide for additional words can be found at <http://myspellit.com/>.

For more information or questions, contact Karen Enriquez at kenriquez@cochise.az.gov or 520-432-8952.

The Cochise Education Foundation and the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office are proud to sponsor the 13th Annual Teacher of the Year Awards

The Awards Banquet will be held on Friday, April 17, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the Ft. Huachuca Thunder Mountain Activity Center. Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet tickets will be \$35.00 and all nominees, their families, and friends are encouraged to attend this exciting and inspiring event to honor our outstanding teachers.

Nominees for Teacher of the Year must have completed at least one full year of teaching and be a full time teacher. The nominator must write a nomination letter to include the traits of exemplary performance in the classroom, pursuit of professional enrichment and intellectual growth, involvement in extracurricular activities within the school or school district, and demonstration of outstanding contributions and/or leadership in the school. The nominated teacher also answers three questions to complete their nomination application. The Cochise County Teacher of the Year is chosen from these three categories. A Special Project winner is also selected in a separate classification.

We are also honoring new teachers by asking each district to choose one outstanding new teacher to be our guest at the TOY event. A new teacher is one who has been teaching two years or less and is exceeding performance norms.

All Nomination packets and new teacher information must be submitted prior to February 13, 2015. Completed nomination packets may be mailed to Cochise County School Superintendent, P.O. Drawer 208, Bisbee, AZ 85603, faxed to (520)432-7136, or emailed to kenriquez@cochise.az.gov.

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If you would like to receive *The County School Connection* by email, contact Nikki Madden at kmadden@cochise.az.gov or 432-8950.



School Board News

Congratulations to School Board Members who did not run in the 2014 Election but were recently appointed to vacant seats:

Ash Creek -
Darlene DeArman

Cochise Technology District –The seats represent the high school partners in the JTED.

Robert Devere – Tombstone
Elias Jouen – Bisbee
Albert Young - Douglas

Fort Huachuca -
Timothy Quinn
Amber Kingery

Valley Union High School District and Apache Elementary District have board vacancies, so we are seeking applicants.

Social Security Numbers and Teacher Certificates

Effective January 1, 2015, the Arizona Department of Education, Certification Unit will no longer print an educator’s social security number on their paper certificate to comply with Arizona law. A.R.S. §44-1373 prohibits state agencies from printing an individual’s social security number (SSN) on any materials that are mailed to the individual. In order to comply with this statute, **the Certification Unit will no longer print an educator’s SSN on their paper certificate.**

The educator identification number (EIN) will continue to be printed on the paper certificate. The EIN was created to uniquely identify an educator on all printed materials and may be used to verify an educator’s SSN via ADE’s Common Logon.

Please understand that the EIN is not replacing the SSN as an internal system identifier. Simply put, the SSN will no longer be **PRINTED** on PAPER certificates. The SSN will remain the key identifier during application for initial certification and for LEA and County systems.

The Certification Unit is working with County Superintendent Offices and LEAs to ensure a smooth transition to this new policy.

If you do not have access to the ADE’s Common Logon, contact ADE Support at 602-542-2222 or adesupport@azed.gov.

Please contact Jan Pentek or Kasey Ohrns at 602-542-4000 if you have any questions or concerns.

Free E-Rate Consultant Services

Milan Eaton is the new “State E-Rate Coordinator for Schools” in Arizona. His goal is for every school in the state to receive a fair share of E-Rate funds through the USAC (Universal Services Administration Company). During the month of January, he plans to visit every county in the state to offer assistance with the Schools/Districts in the area. The Federal Communications Commission has recently updated its E-rate program to focus on expanding Wi-Fi networks in schools, especially small, rural schools. Mr. Eaton invites all schools and districts to visit the State E-Rate Website and join the E-Rate mailing list. His website address is: <http://www.azed.gov/erate/2014/09/10/join-our-e-rate-email-list/>

Mr. Eaton can be also be reached at:
Arizona Department of Education
Information Technology
602-542-3595
Milan.Eaton@azed.gov



2015 YES Fair Dates

Tuesday, March 24th-Thursday, March 26th

Fair Location

The Windemere Hotel & Conference Center
2047 South Highway 92
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

For more information: <http://www.yesfair.com/>

AzMERIT Testing Window for 2015

Spring 2015 – Computer-Based Test Window
March 30 – May 8*

***Writing must be completed by April 24**

Spring 2015 – Paper-Based Test Window
April 13 – April 24

Dates to Remember

- January 19 Civil Rights Day
- January 23 AASBO Training
- January 30 SMILE Conference
- February 6 AASBO Training
- February 7 Cochise County Spelling Bee

Grants for Pre-K to 12th Grade Educators

School Grants Today is an e-magazine that is loaded with the latest news on federal, state, foundation, and classroom grants. It features helpful articles and tips on writing grant proposals and avoiding common mistakes. In a time when funding is seemingly so limited, the goal of this publication is to help teachers and schools find the funding they need to educate our children.

To subscribe to School Grants Today, go to the website: www.schoolgrantstoday.com. Once you register, the magazine will be emailed to you on a regular basis.

Your school could receive \$2,500 and Crayola products valued at \$1,000!



The “2015 Champion Creatively Alive Children” is a grant program offered by Crayola LLC in conjunction with the National Association of Elementary School Principals. These grants will be awarded to 20 elementary schools that form a collaborative team and create an art-infused education program. Application requirements, past winners, and a free professional development program can all be found on the Crayola website at <http://www.crayola.com/for-educators/ccac-landing/grant-program.aspx>. The application deadline is June 22, 2015.

Arizona Renaissance Festival Student Days

Immerse your students into the 16th century!

2015 Student Day Dates

Tuesday, March 3rd – Elementary Schools
 Thursday, March 5th – Jr. /Sr. High Schools
 Hours: 9am – 2:30 pm

The annual Arizona Renaissance Festival, with its 30-acre theatrical European market village offers a unique opportunity to bring an important era in history to life. Student Days were created to highlight the educational aspects of the Renaissance; language, science, exploration, mannerisms, customs, commedia theatre, jousting tournaments, artisan demonstrations and music are just some of the learning opportunities that await your students

For more information: <http://www.royalfaires.com/arizona/>



“Just a craft and treat would be fine. There are no standards regarding room parties.”



Art Supply Grants K-12 Teachers in SE Arizona

Friends of Western Art offers up to \$400 of art supply funds for programs that teach western art.

Applying is Simple! Send the following information to FWAgrant@gmail.com by January 31st.:

1. Your name, school, county, grade level(s) you teach, phone number, and email address.
2. A paragraph explaining how you incorporate Western art into your curriculum. This may include a brief lesson description, names of videos or western art guest speakers, etc.
3. Description of supplies needed, time period of project (s) and number of students it involves.
4. Amount requesting (maximum amounts per year: High School \$400, Middle School \$300, and Elementary \$200).

Contact Us

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