

**Cochise County School
Superintendent's Office**



**Trudy Berry
Superintendent**

**100 Clawson Ave.
P.O. Drawer 208
Bisbee, AZ 85603**

520.432.8950

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

“Education is more than a luxury; it is a responsibility that society owes to itself.”

- Robin Cook



The County School Connection

MARCH 2015

Hi All,

Happy Spring! My greatest joy is that the state legislature is planning to adjourn early this year. We have been watching many education bills, which could significantly change the way we do business. Most importantly, House Bills 2180 and 2190 seem to be making progress through the legislature. HB2190 “prohibits the State Board of Education from adopting, and ADE from implementing, the common core standards, Arizona’s College and Career Readiness Standards, or any other standards or assessments aligned with PARCC. The State Board of Education would then be responsible for adopting new state standards, beginning with the 2015-16 school year, and requires legislative review and approval prior to implementation.” HB2180 is more permissive and offers alternatives, but allows common core and AzMERIT, the newly adopted state exam, to be used. After four years of providing training and implementing the state standards, it is incredulous to think about the cost of changing materials and instruction.

Also amazing is that the state budget was passed in record time. The requirement to move 5% of each school budget to increase classroom spending has been modified. Districts are still encouraged to work toward this goal, but it is not an immediate requirement. The huge decrease was to the District Additional Assistance (formerly known as capital and soft capital.) The cut is \$113.5 million in FY16, which if added to this year’s decrease, totals \$352.4 million.

A 1.59% increase was made to fund FY16 inflation, which means districts will receive \$3,426.74 per student for the Base Support Level. It is important to note that the down payment of \$74.4 million is also being funded as part of the ongoing inflation lawsuit, in which the courts determined that \$300 million was owed for not funding inflation in prior years, so the legislature has accepted some responsibility.

Positive areas in instruction include our 20 nominees for Cochise County Teacher of the Year, 4 of which are for Special Projects. It is gratifying to read the applications and to meet these individuals and know that we have quality teachers in our classrooms. All of our county teachers are to be commended for the work they do on a daily basis. Please remember to thank a teacher! And if you would like to hear about and support our teacher winners from school districts all over Cochise County, please feel free to attend our 2015 Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet on Friday, April 17 at Thunder Mountain Activity Centre on Ft. Huachuca. You can register for this exciting event on our website.

I would like to congratulate Kimberly Hoke, who was recently appointed to the Valley Union High School Governing Board, and Frank Krentz, who was appointed to the Apache Governing Board. Currently, there are vacant seats in Ash Creek, Tombstone, and Cochise Tech. Please contact me for information.

Hope to see you at Teacher of the Year! We are here to serve you!
Trudy

Congratulations to the 2015 TOY Nominees

Elementary

Pam Carns, Huachuca City School/Tombstone
 Kari De Luna, General Myer Elementary/Ft. Huachuca
 Lynn Hammock, Elfrida Elementary
 Michele Judd, St. David Elementary
 Diane Lomeli, Joe Carlson Elementary/Douglas
 Yvonne Torres, Naco Elementary
 Donovan Working, Carmichael Elementary/Sierra Vista

Middle

Blais Cross, Ray Borane Middle School/Douglas
 Rosemary Hale, Coronado Elementary/Palominas
 Katie Tinnell, Joyce Clark Middle School/Sierra Vista
 Gayle Pisani, Lowell Jr. High/Bisbee

High School

Sarah Avalos, Buena High School/Sierra Vista
 Dona Balsiger, San Pedro Valley High School/Benson
 Ron Ellsworth, Douglas High School
 Nidhi Mehta, Willcox High School
 Jeremy Summers, Valley Union High School

Special Projects

- *Coronado School Holiday Sing-a-long*, Coronado Elementary/Palominas, Elizabeth Lopez
- *Food for Thought*, Colonel Smith Middle School/Ft. Huachuca, Andrea Weigle
- *Stars for Students Connections Program*, Benson High School, Ben Rodriguez
- *Summer Cruise Program*, Buena High School/Sierra Vista, Melanie Mitchell & Angela Sedore

Wanted: Your school T-shirt!

We are collecting all Cochise County Schools' mascot t-shirts. We hope to include a shirt from every school in our county. The shirts are an eclectic, colorful display in our County School Superintendent's Office hallway, located on the third floor of the Old Bisbee High School, 100 Clawson Avenue in Bisbee. If you can donate a shirt, no matter the size, we will add it to our growing display. If you have already sent one, thank you!



Budget & AFR Training

The Auditor General's office, in conjunction with ADE, will be presenting a Budget and AFR Workshop in Cochise County on Thursday, April 23rd for all school business office staff members. This full-day workshop will begin at 9:00 am and last until 3:00 pm. The Cochise County School Superintendent's office will have a few announcements following the meeting.

The focus of the workshop will be the basics of preparing budget and AFR forms and using ADE reports to confirm and monitor budget capacity and funding.

The workshop will be hosted by the Benson Unified School District, 360 S. Patagonia, Benson. A \$10 fee for lunch will be collected at the door the morning of the event. Registration is done through the Auditor General's office at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BudgetAFR>.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Arndt at 520-432-8951 or sarndt@cochise.az.gov.



Read On Cochise County's 2nd Annual Symposium

Building Supports for Early Literacy Opportunities

Join us to Share Ideas and Network
**Keynote Speaker: Terri Clark, Read On
 Arizona, State Literacy Director**

WHEN: Thursday, March 26, 2015

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Ethel H. Berger Center

2950 E. Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista

**Hosted by First Things First and
 Cochise County School Superintendent
 Trudy Berry**

**Please RSVP by Thursday, March 19, 2015
 to kenriquez@cochise.az.gov or
 (520) 432-8952**

It's Time to RSVP for the Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet

Date: Friday, April 17, 2015

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Thunder Mountain Activity Centre, Ft. Huachuca

Tickets: \$35

RSVP by April 10 at www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home

Or contact Karen at 520-432-8952 or

kenriquez@cochise.az.gov

Win a New Car!

How would you like to win a new Ford Mustang? This November the Jim Click Automotive Team is raffling off a new 2015 Ford Mustang, 50th Anniversary Edition, worth \$48,190!

The Cochise Education Foundation (CEF) is one of the non-profit organizations participating in this community fundraiser. CEF is the only non-profit organization in Cochise County dedicated to recruiting, retaining, and recognizing teachers. Each Fall, CEF awards mini-grants to classroom teachers and each Spring, it co-sponsors the annual Cochise County Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet with Trudy Berry, the Cochise County School Superintendent. The proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will go directly to support CEF.

Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100. A maximum of 100,000 tickets will be sold. If you would like to purchase a ticket, contact Ruth Britton at 520-459-7399 or Susan Arndt at 520-432-8951.



Math Education SmartBrief

Need some new ideas for teaching geometry or project-based STEM activities?

Math Education SmartBrief is an online resource that offers math and STEM education news and an abundance of lessons and activities that can be implemented in your classroom.

To receive this Brief, register [here](#).

2015 Math & Science Experience

Each spring, Cochise College invites fourth- through eighth-grade students from all Cochise County school districts to participate in activities related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Businesses, educational institutions and organizations from throughout Southern Arizona set up exhibits, demonstrations and workshops so students can see how math and science are fun and exciting to learn in everyday life. It is supported through a grant from Science Foundation Arizona.

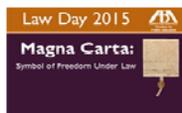
This year's event will be held on Friday, April 24th, on the Sierra Vista Campus from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

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

Law Day Reminder

The deadline is approaching for Law Day contest submissions. All submissions must be received no later than March 25th. For a full list of drop-off locations, visit: <https://www.cochise.az.gov/court-administration/law-day-2015>

Contest winners will be announced at the Law Day Celebration to be held on **May 1st at 9:30 am at Bisbee High School.**



Dates to Remember

March 25	Law Day Submissions Deadline
March 26	Read On Cochise County Symposium
April 17	Teacher of the Year
April 23	Budget & AFR Training

ECONOMICS SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS

Earn 60 Professional Development Hours in ten days!
 UA Office of Economic Education

The UA Office of Economic Education offers a summer institute on the fundamental principles of economics to prepare teachers, 6th-12th grade, to fulfill Arizona Social Studies Strand 5. The subject is taught incrementally to bring beginners along with those with some foreknowledge. The training is offered at *no charge*, and there are funds available to help with lodging for those attending from outside Pima County.

Microeconomics Monday-Friday, June 1-5, 2015

Macroeconomics Monday-Friday, June 8-12, 2015

If you are interested or want more information, contact:

Mark J. Sammons, Coordinator of Outreach
SammonsM@email.arizona.edu
 520-621-3495
 or register online at:
<http://oe.e.eller.arizona.edu/registration/summerinstitute/>



The Arizona Community Foundation of Cochise invites nonprofit organizations 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 pertaining to education:

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

Letters of interest will be accepted beginning May 11, and must be submitted before 5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2015. 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 for more detailed information.

State Farm Insurance Grants

State Farm Insurance is offering grants for Youth-Directed Service-Learning Activities to K-12 teachers or school-based learning coordinators. These grants focus on the issues of arts and culture, community safety and justice, economic empowerment and financial education, societal health and wellness issues, education and closing the achievement gap, and environmental responsibility. The approved budgets will be between \$25,000 and \$100,000 and the application deadline is May 1st.

To find out the details of this program and/or obtain an application, go online to:
<http://www.sfyab.com/apply/national-grants/>.

CALL FOR STUDENT ARTWORK For Display at the Leading Change Conference

The Arizona Department of Education is seeking artwork created by Arizona students in grades Pre-K through 12 for display at this year's Leading Change conference. Student work chosen for display will receive a certificate and be eligible for a trophy or ribbon from the appropriate category. Art work on display will be viewed by hundreds of school administrators from all across the state.



Any student currently enrolled in an Arizona public school between the Pre-K through grade 12 is eligible. No more than 10 pieces of artwork may be submitted from each school district or charter.

For a full list of rules and submission guidelines, click [here](#).

Contact Us

Trudy Berry, Superintendent tberry@cochise.az.gov	432-8950
Susan Arndt, Chief Deputy sarndt@cochise.az.gov	432-8951
Karen Enriquez, Admin Assistant kenriquez@cochise.az.gov	432-8952
Nikki Madden, Secretary kmadden@cochise.az.gov	432-8950
Martha Mauldin, Accountant mmauldin@cochise.az.gov	432-8953
Debbie Prow, Admin. Assist./Finance dprow@cochise.az.gov	432-8954