

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)

“Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is most important.”

Bill Gates



# The County School Connection

MARCH 2016

Happy Spring Break! March has become a very interesting time in Cochise County because of the recent shift of our 22 school districts and the times they have scheduled for Spring Break. I remember in the early 2000's, we attempted to get all of the districts on the same week to coincide with Cochise College because the college has campuses throughout the county. Well, this was short-lived since we now have evolved into districts choosing from four different weeks in March. The area around Sierra Vista seems to still be in line with Cochise College and they had break last week. The northern part of the county has now chosen to align their recess with UofA, except for Willcox and also Naco who chose March 21 – 25; and Pomerene and Benson, who are on year-round schedules actually take two weeks off starting this week. Then we have Valley Union and Elfrida who are taking the week after Easter. You can see students and teachers out enjoying spring break anytime in Cochise County.

As a result, we are no longer able to do all of our Cochise County Teacher of the Year (TOY) preparations in March. We used to travel around the county taking photographs of all the teacher nominees so that we could submit information to the newspapers, and prepare posters and a PowerPoint presentation for the event. Because TOY is on April 8, we've had to move everything up to February and early March. However, I am so excited about our 23 teachers and 6 Special Project nominees. We have more teachers and more districts represented than ever before. It should be a wonderful night of recognition for our county teachers.

There are probably very few people who care about school finance as much as I do, but that's probably why I'm in this position. By statute the County School Superintendent oversees school budgets and the setting of tax rates. This responsibility includes making sure that a district does not overspend their budget by any amount. However, they can spend more cash than they have in the bank which is why we have credit lines at Chase Bank.

The problem on the horizon seems to be what will happen with our budgets next year. In most cases (and for clarification), our districts are funded half by the state and half by local property taxes. Throughout the state of Arizona, most property values are going up. Because of this, the state legislature will decrease funding to education and expect the property owners to fund more. But last year in Cochise County, our assessed valuation for properties located in our school districts decreased **\$39,167,593**. (That's 39 million!) If we receive less money from the state and our properties have less value, then our tax rates will have to increase to cover the school's budget; or the obvious result, school budgets will have to be cut. We also have an election on Prop123 on May 17, which is about education funding and I will cover it in depth next month. Please read any Prop 123 articles and VOTE!

As always, feel free to contact me at 432-8950. We are here to serve you!  
Trudy

We are accepting RSVP's for the  
**2016 Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet**  
Friday, April 8, 2016—5:00 pm  
Thunder Mountain Activity Center, Ft. Huachuca

To RSVP, <https://www.cochise.az.gov/schools/2016-teacher-year-award-banquet>

## Congratulations 2016 Cochise County Teacher of the Year Nominees!

Trudy Berry and the Cochise Education Foundation are pleased to announce the nominees for the 2016 Cochise County Teacher of the Year. We are truly fortunate to have teachers who are so dedicated, creative, highly-qualified and passionate about teaching. Thank you to all of the nominees for their devotion to teaching.

Twenty-three Teacher of the Year nominees will each receive a monetary award and a medallion, and are eligible to win 2016 Cochise County Teacher of the Year. The Special Project nominees receive a monetary award, a medallion and an overall Special Project winner is chosen from those nominations. Ten exemplary New Teachers will be recognized and are invited to the banquet as guests of the Foundation.

The nominees will be honored at the Cochise Education Foundation Awards Banquet, on Friday, April 8, 2016 at the Thunder Mountain Activity Center on Ft. Huachuca.

### Elementary School Teacher of the Year Nominees

Debbie Barney – Pomerene Elementary, Pomerene  
 Erin Bowlby – Willcox Elementary, Willcox  
 Jeffrey Lindgren – Town and Country Elementary, Sierra Vista  
 Brian Long – McNeal Elementary, McNeal  
 Luz Moreno – Berean Academy, Sierra Vista  
 Maria Noriega – Joe Carlson Elementary, Douglas  
 Tiffani Peralta – St. David Elementary, St. David  
 Laura Randolph – Double Adobe Elementary, Double Adobe  
 Erin Rhodes – Naco Elementary, Naco  
 Patty Starr – Benson Primary School, Benson  
 Corie Vasquez – Bowie Elementary, Bowie

### Middle School Teacher of the Year Nominees

Rebecca Bowser – Elfrida Elementary, Elfrida  
 Rick Faulkner – Pearce Elementary, Pearce  
 Tara Floss – Joyce Clark Middle School, Sierra Vista  
 Chaelyn Fredrickson – Ray Borane Middle School, Douglas  
 Phyllis Gerben – Colonel Smith Middle School, Ft. Huachuca  
 Jamie Ramage – Coronado Elementary School, Palominas

### High School Teacher of the Year Nominees

Armando Ballesteros – Bisbee High School, Bisbee  
 Sergio Mendez – Valley Union High School, Elfrida  
 Richard Paun – Douglas High School, Douglas  
 Shelby Ray – San Simon High School, San Simon  
 Jake Winslow – Tombstone High School, Tombstone  
 Nicole Young – Buena High School, Sierra Vista

### Special Projects

“Bisbee High School Summer Bridge Program” Dan Herzer and Laura Miller – Bisbee Unified School District  
 “Bobcat Rally + Principal’s Challenge = High Student Achievement” Jomel Jansson, Linda Rawls, Hannah Kading, Doris Gustafson and staff – Benson Unified School District  
 “Building a K-12 STEM Academy From the Ground UP!” Jeff Ofstedahl – Center for Academic Success, Sierra Vista  
 “Celebration of CommUNITY Cultures” Cindy Morales, Constance Gaun, and Shanique Bowen – Sierra Vista Unified School District  
 “Huachuca City School Values Matter” Heather Kalinowski and Kevin Beaman – Tombstone Unified School District  
 “The Mark Kelly Project” Andrea Weigle, Lee Ann Howell and Jennifer Truitt-Lewis – Ft. Huachuca Accommodation School District





Cochise County Spelling Bee, L to R: Logan Davis, Trudy Berry, and Ethan Johnson



**MIRANDA: More than Words  
Law Day Reminder**

The deadline is approaching for Law Day 2016 contest submissions. All submissions must be received no later than Friday, April 1, 2016. Additional information 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). Attorneys and probation officers are available to give presentations to your class on the Miranda theme and related topics. To schedule a presentation please contact :

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

Contest winners will be announced at the Cochise County's Law Day Celebration to be held on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 1:15 pm at Tombstone High School.

**Dates to Remember**

March 22	Presidential Preference Election
March 30	Teacher of the Year RSVP Deadline
April 8	Teacher of the Year
April 27	County Superintendent's Legacy Project Open House

**Congratulations to Ethan Johnson, 2016 Cochise County's Spelling Bee 1st Place Winner!**

Ethan Johnson, representing the Center for Academic Success, and Logan Davis, from St. David Middle School, were the two final spellers out of 30 fellow contestants from across the county, participating in the 2016 Cochise County Spelling Bee. The Bee held at Cochise College, in Sierra Vista, on Feb. 20, 2016, is an annual event sponsored by Cochise County School Superintendent Trudy Berry.

The final three spellers, Ethan, Logan, and third place speller, Adnan Aquib, from Bella Vista Elementary have competed as the last three standing, for two consecutive years.

This is Ethan's third year in a row winning the Cochise County Spelling Bee. His winning word was "lingenberry". Ethan will go on to compete at the state level in the Arizona Educational Foundation Spelling Bee in March. We wish him success in his next level of competition.



**Free Webinar Available**

As you know, elections for school boards will be held this November across Arizona. In support of our commitment to quality leadership for Arizona's public schools, the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) will be sharing information this spring about the rewards, challenges and legal requirements of board service, primarily geared to those individuals who are considering running for these essential community leadership positions.

Two free, informational webinars provided by ASBA are available for individuals throughout the state who are interested in running for a seat on their local school district governing boards. The webinars will be held:

- **March 29, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**
- **April 20, from Noon – 1 p.m.**

Links to register are now on the ASBA website, <http://azsba.org/becoming-a-board-member/>. Under the Services & Resources tab, click on Becoming a Board Member.

This workshop will help individuals interested in running for their local school board understand what is involved in being elected to and serving on the local school board. Hear from three diverse school board members about their own experiences and where to find information about being a candidate. Participants will also have the opportunity to submit questions to be answered live during the webinar.

**ACF Grant Workshops**

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. Letters of interest (LOI) will be accepted beginning **April 11**, and must be submitted before 5:00 p.m. on **April 25, 2016**. To aid prospective applicants in preparing an effective LOI, a series of free workshops throughout Southeast Arizona will be hosted. The content to be delivered at all three sessions is the same. You may register to attend the workshop that is most convenient for your schedule and location.

**DOUGLAS GRANTS WORKSHOP**

Monday, April 4  
 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
 Cochise College, Douglas Campus  
 4190 Highway 80, Room 1119

**WILLCOX GRANTS WORKSHOP**

Tuesday, April 5  
 10:00 a.m. to Noon  
 Valley TeleCom Building, Felix Gauthier Jr. Community Room  
 752 E. Maley St., Willcox

**SIERRA VISTA GRANTS WORKSHOP**

Thursday, April 7  
 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
 Cochise College, Sierra Vista Campus  
 901 Colombo Ave., Room 903

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 information.

**State Training Offering  
 Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools**

Cochise College – Building 700, Room 702  
 901 N. Colombo Avenue, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

April 14th & 15th, 2016  
 8:00AM – 5:00PM both days

\* Register On-Line through ERMA at [www.erma.az.gov](http://www.erma.az.gov)  
 ERMA Event #1005468

**K-12 Nutrition and Physical Activity  
 Programs Funded  
 Action for Healthy Kids: School Grants for  
 Healthy Kids**

Action for Healthy Kids fights childhood obesity, undernourishment, and physical inactivity by helping schools become healthier places so kids can live healthier lives. School Grants for Healthy Kids, administered by Action for Healthy Kids, provides support to K-12 schools throughout the U.S. for school breakfast programs as well as physical activity and nutrition programs. The following grant opportunities are available: School Breakfast Grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 help schools pilot or expand their school breakfast programs. Game On Grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 support physical activity and nutrition programs that help schools in becoming recognized as a health-promoting school. The application deadline for each of the grant programs is April 1, 2016. Visit the Action for Healthy Kids website to learn more about each grant: <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/>



**Phoenix Suns Charities**

The Phoenix Suns Charities supports nonprofit organizations throughout Arizona whose programs address the needs of children and families. Through General Grants, support is provided in the following areas of interest: **health and human services, education, and sports and recreation**. Grants range up to \$15,000. (One Playmaker Award of \$50,000 or \$100,000 to be used for capital or program expenses is also provided each year.) Applying organizations must have had 501(c)(3) nonprofit status for a minimum of three years. The application deadline is April 29, 2016. Visit the Phoenix Suns' website to review the grant guidelines and to submit an online grant application. <http://www.nba.com/suns/charities-grants>

**Contact Us**

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