

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)

“Reading is to the
mind what
exercise is to the
body.”

Sir Richard Steele



The County School Connection

NOVEMBER 2015

Hi All,

It's been a busy month for education in Arizona and change is in the air. The State Board of Education (SBE) symbolically rescinded Common Core Standards, the legislature passed a law to fund the past education inflation money that was never received, and the voters will have to vote on whether to take funds out of the State Trust Land Account in a special election to be held on May 27, 2016. The SBE is also conducting hearings all over the state to gather input on the development of our new Arizona Standards.

The results of the **new** AzMERIT test have been released and sent to the schools and the parents, and they will probably be in your local newspapers when released to the media on November 30. As we know, the SBE decided against using the AIMS test and the PARCC test last year, and then only months before administering the test, SBE adopted the AzMERIT, which was actually a test developed and used in another state. The problem is that the test items demanded higher level thinking skills; the technology skills required were never practiced; and because the test was not being used for grading the schools (A,B,C,D,F), students were told that they didn't matter. As a result, the overall ratings (proficient, highly proficient) were achieved by less students than the previous year's (meets, exceeds) on the AIMS test, but they shouldn't be compared. They were totally different tests with totally different cut-off ranges.

The necessary change is coordination of the standards being developed by SBE with the skills tested by the AzMERIT. By developing and implementing a more rigorous curriculum, we can raise the levels of student achievement, which prepares our students for the technology and critical thinking demands of the future.

Change could also be coming to all of our high schools because they have Joint Technical Education District (JTED) programs. These classes have received increases in funding from voter-approved property taxes and additional funding from the state. Last year, the legislature approved a bill to reduce future JTED funding. If you value these programs, please contact your legislators and let them know that funding should be restored.

Cochise County Sheriff Mark Dannels announced that Governor Doug Ducey would be presenting a check for a million dollars to help finish the Regional Communications Center in Cochise County. This money will also be used to provide radios for all of our Cochise County School Districts, which will aid them in emergencies.

The wonderful changes to our office include hiring a new Chief Deputy, Travis Bishop, and a new accountant, Debra Craig. (See page 2.) Our goal is to provide the best service possible to all of the schools in Cochise County. Please feel free to contact us anytime.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Trudy

Welcome Two New Members of Our Team!



Travis Bishop, Chief Deputy

My name is Travis Bishop. I was born and raised in Bisbee, Arizona, and remember the 3 o'clock whistle sounding off when the Copper Queen Mine was still operating. My grandparents, parents, aunts, and uncles have all lived and worked in Bisbee for several decades. After graduating from Bisbee High School in 1984, I left for college and a career and settled in metropolitan Phoenix. After earning an M.B.A., I served as a district manager, regional manager, and director of operations for various companies. I have three beautiful children: Brock who is an English teacher at Desert Edge High School, Emma who has blessed me with my lovely Granddaughter Aubriella, and Peyton who is a freshman golfer at Grand Canyon University. I believe Cochise to be most beautiful county in Arizona and am happy to return home to serve as Chief Deputy Superintendent and to be with my better half, Ana.

Bee Ready!

The 2016 Cochise County Spelling Bee is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2016 and will be held at the Cochise College Student Union, Community Room in Sierra Vista at 10:00 AM.



School bees must be completed on or before January 15, 2016. (If applicable, District Bees must be held prior to January 29, 2016). School coordinators must submit a completed Champion form to kenriquez@cochise.az.gov no later than February 1st, 2016. The Champion form and complete instructions are available at <https://www.cochise.az.gov/schools/2016-cochise-county-spelling-bee>

Enrolled schools receive many spelling bee resources directly from Scripps; a complete list is available on www.spellingbee.com. Links to both the 2016 Rules and the 2016 Instructions may also be found on the AZ Education Foundation website <http://azedfoundation.org/programs/arizona-spelling->

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

Debra Craig, Accountant



My name is Debbie Craig. I was born and raised in New Hampshire, in what is referred to as the White Mountains. You can imagine my surprise when I moved to Arizona and found there are White Mountains here as well. I am married to a wonderful man and have two amazing daughters; I am so blessed to have them in my life. In addition to raising my children, I have worked in retail, finance, and office management. My oldest daughter is the one who actually inspired me to return to school and complete my degree. So almost thirty years after graduating from high school, I earned my bachelor's degree in Accounting. I am pleased to be working with everyone at the School Superintendent's Office and I look forward to this new opportunity, here in the (sometimes-white) Mule Mountains.

ICI LangPro, LLC Language Consulting

Teachers: Do you want to teach language that is remembered by the student? The ICI way is retained in the student's long-term memory.

Students: Why learn a language? You learn a language to interact with peoples and cultures.

If you want to know what ICI is all about, check out the Language Tip of the Week, programs, services and blog at <http://icilangpro.com/>



Collaborations Around the Planet

CAPspace, a portal for videoconference projects

Title: 2nd grade e-pals/pen pals

Status: Open

URL: <http://projects.twice.cc/?l=collaboration&id=2106>

Connections:

Grades: 2

Subjects: Elementary All Subjects

Dates: Between November 10-June 5, 2016

Description: We are searching for another 2nd grade classroom to become e-pals with. We could exchange 3-4 letters for the rest of the school year and maybe even do a video conference through Skype or polycom around the end of the year so we can exchange stories, skits or simple questions about our schools.



Teaching Reading Effectively

This upcoming course includes current research and evidence based practices that are necessary for the development of the technical skills of reading along with academic vocabulary and deep comprehension. Important components of an effective comprehensive reading program designed to develop proficient readers, competent writers and critical thinkers are included in this material.

Units to include:

- Foundations of Reading
- Learning to Read and Spell: A National Problem and Recommended Solutions
- Basic Principals of Reading Assessment
- The Structure of Language
- Graphophonemic Awareness
- Teaching Word Identification and Spelling Fluency
- Vocabulary Comprehension to summarizing

Audience: K-3rd grade teachers, K-5 ELL teachers, K-8 special education teachers

Location: St David School, 70 Patton Hwy (Hwy 80), St. David, AZ

Course Dates: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
January 15, January 29, February 26, March 18 and March 25, 2016

Cost: \$50 for all 5-days (Assessment book plus choice of one of two additional books)

Registration can be found at www.sazrec.org

STEMAZing Saturday, November 21st: Research and Explore This!

From science fair projects to engineering design and citizen science opportunities, learn about options for engaging students in hands-on, real-world science and engineering. With a particular focus on the Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Fair, this workshop will prepare educators to engage their students in a variety of STEM competitions and projects. Educators will be supplied with approximately \$50 worth of equipment and supplies which will open up the doors of data collection and research to their students.

To register: <http://www.pimaregionalsupport.org/event-2071002>

Cost: \$25

Saturday, November 21st

Audience: PreK-12th Grade Educators

Office of the Pima County School Superintendent

Arizona's New Legislation

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

Dates to Remember

November 11	Veterans Day
November 19	AEF Teacher of the Year Luncheon (Phoenix)
November 26	Thanksgiving
November 27	County Offices Closed
December 10-11	ASBA Conference (Phoenix)



Youth-led Statewide Challenge!

Now – January 23, 2016

Governor's Youth Commission calls Arizona's youth to service with a friendly competition between all fifteen counties.

Teens - implement service projects in your communities and log them on the new GYC website at:
www.BeSeenBeHeard.az.gov.

The county with the most projects will receive special recognition from the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family.

Join us in mobilizing Arizona's youth and see which county shines the brightest!



Be a WeatherBug School

KOLD News 13 is encouraging local schools to join their WeatherBug Schools Program as a way to increase weather awareness, weather safety and STEM initiatives.

Member schools can participate in running their own weather stations, using lightening sensors, and employing mobile devices to obtain weather alerts. Schools use the data collected to plan activities and in classroom lessons.

For more information and/or to register your school, go online to: <http://weather.weatherbug.com/weather-education/>.

Air Force Association Educator Grants

The Air Force Association believes that one of the most significant means to affect student learning is to fund grants to meet the unmet and unfunded educational needs of students. Each school year, the Association awards grants of up to \$250 to worthy projects that significantly influence student learning. The Educator Grant program promotes aerospace education activities in classrooms from kindergarten through twelfth grades. The program encourages development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum.

This year's grant cycle closes on November 18. For more information, go to <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/k12grants/educatorgrants>



I've been amazed with how quickly Pinterest has 'caught on' in all markets - especially teaching. In my small corner of the blogosphere, I have connected with several teachers using Pinterest. These teachers are using the tool in various ways. Most use it for their own teaching practice. There are so many creative and great ideas shared by teachers for teachers. Here are five of my favorite sites to explore. Enjoy!

<https://www.pinterest.com/educatorstech/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/laurenwarner12/classroom/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/jennishaver/teaching-one-day-again/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/laurasmaher/printable/>

https://www.pinterest.com/mel_dillard/

USDA

Community Food Projects Grants Program

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

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

Cost Share: 50% cash or in-kind

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

Deadline: Nov. 30, 2015

For more information: <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program>

Contact Us

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