

Cochise County School
Superintendent's Office



Trudy Berry
Superintendent

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

“Education is not
preparation for
life; education is
life itself.”

- John Dewey



The County School Connection

OCTOBER 2014

Hi All,

Now that the tax rate bills have been mailed out by the Cochise County Treasurer, we have heard from many concerned citizens who have experienced an increase in their taxes. This certainly brings up the question of who is responsible to fund education. We have homeowners who feel that because they do not have children attending school, they should not have to pay school taxes, and places like Sun City have actually received legislation to exempt them from this.

In Arizona, there is a dual system which puts the onus on the State as well as the local tax payers. According to Yousef Awwad, Director of School Finance for the Arizona Department of Education, “the State Equalization Formula has been the main frame for determining state funding to school districts and Charters. The formula serves two purposes: the state aid payment calculation and the budget expenditure limit for districts.” Based on this formula, every district calculates the amount that will be funded by the state and then must set a tax rate to raise the remainder of the funds to cover their budget. Unfortunately, more and more of the burden seems to be falling on local taxpayers.

In the 3rd edition of *Is School Funding Fair? A National Report Card*, the Education Law Center details how “the Great Recession triggered dramatic reductions in state and local revenue from property, sales and income taxes. To prevent layoffs and cuts to education programs, the federal government provided substantial stimulus funds on a temporary basis. When the stimulus ended, however, states faced a crucial test: either restore revenue or allow cuts to education funding and programs.”

The report also highlighted that “the disparities in funding among states are vast, with average per pupil funding ranging from \$6,753 in Idaho, to \$17,397 in Wyoming. In six states (Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Arizona, Utah, Idaho), average funding levels are below \$8,000 per pupil.” Because full funding has not been restored, Arizonans need to step up and realize that we have a responsibility to offer our children the best education possible. There is a silver lining, however, because we do have laws to prevent overtaxation.

Dr. Robert Carreira, the Director of the Center for Economic Research at Cochise College points out, “Article 9, Section 18, of the Arizona Constitution reads, ‘The maximum amount of ad valorem taxes that may be collected from residential property in any tax year shall not exceed one per cent’ of its limited value. ... Section 18 goes on to specify the one percent cap doesn’t apply to voter-approved secondary taxes, including budget overrides, bonded obligations, special districts (fire, water, light, flood), and so on.”

He goes on to say that the maximum amount applies to all combined primary property taxes, which include Cochise College, Cochise County, state school equalization, and the local school district. The capped rate only applies to Class 3 property, which is owner-occupied. This means you cannot be charged more than \$1,000 for a \$100,000 home. The difference between the capped amount and the primary tax amount is adjusted on your tax bill by the State Aid to Education deduction.

The State then pays that difference to the districts through Additional State Aid as specified in the Constitution. Dr. Carreira points out, “If you live in McNeal, with its school tax rate of 8.0630, you pay only 4.8306. If your home is in Double Adobe, where the school district tax is 9.8521, you pay no more than 4.8306.” (See p. 4 for tax rate comparisons.)

In the end, both the State and tax payers share the responsibility of educating our children.

As always, if you have questions, or would like to discuss this article, please feel free to call or email me.

We are here to serve you!
Trudy



**Cochise County Teacher of the Year Named
Arizona Rural Schools Association (ARSA)
Teacher of the Year**

Margie Looney, an orchestra teacher at Willcox Middle and High Schools and the 2104 Cochise County Teacher of the Year, was awarded the ARSA Teacher of the Year title at this year's conference in Flagstaff.

Ms. Looney will also represent Cochise County at the Arizona Education Foundational Teacher of the Year Awards as a finalist.

Congratulations, Margie!

**Congratulations to the 2014 Cochise County Fair's
Grand Prize Exhibit Winners**

Joe Carlson Elementary School- DUSD- Ms. Maria Noriega's class
"Memories Begin..."

Greenway Elementary School- Bisbee Unified- Ms. Ana Pico's class
"A Fair to Remember"

Clawson Elementary School- DUSD- Mrs. Briana Nunez's class
"Memory Camera"

Joe Carlson Elementary School- DUSD- Ms. Ana Ballesteros's class
"Memory Lane Park"

Sarah Marley Elementary School- DUSD- Ms. Diane Campas's class
"Our Quilt of Fair Memories"

Liberty Traditional Charter School-Mr. Oscar Romero's class
"Indian Shadow Boxes"

Ash Creek Elementary School- Ms. Jen Score + Jane Corley's class
"3D-Memories"

Center for Academic Success- Ms. Maria E. Castillo's class
"Brain and Sensory info, Graphic Organizer"

Ray Borane Middle School- DUSD- Ms. Eve Brown's class
"Pop Art"

Ray Borane Middle School- DUSD- Ms. Pat Kehl's class
"Pop Art-Pink"

Colonel Smith Middle School-FHASD- Ms. Kristine Blocker's class
Individual submission by Sophia Hannum
"Self-Portrait"

Douglas High School- Ms. Abigail Griffin's class
Individual submission by Genesis Galaz
"Small Monkey"



Volunteers from Douglas HS: Lauren Angulo, Yulissa Angulo, Rosa Batista, Brianda Moreno and Carolina De La Torre.



National Blue Ribbon Awarded to Benson Primary

Benson Primary School is one of 337 schools being honored as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. This prestigious award is bestowed on schools that demonstrate consistent excellence.

Benson Primary School has been recognized as an A school for the past three years by the Arizona Department of Education. It is part of the Benson Unified School District, the number one ranked district in Arizona for 2013.

Principal Jomel Jansson has also been nominated for the 2014 Terrel H. Bell Award, which honors "outstanding school leadership." According to BUSD Superintendent Micah Mortensen, Ms. Jansson "pours her heart and soul into Benson Primary. Her example inspires staff and students to do the same."

Congratulations to Benson Primary School, Principal Jomel Jansson, and the entire staff on these remarkable achievements!

Dave Weber, Keynote Speaker 2015 SMILE Conference January 30, 2015 Buena High School



Dave Weber will be the keynote speaker at this year's SMILE Conference. His high energy and entertaining style have made Dave Weber a crowd favorite. He's been nicknamed a "Chihuahua on Caffeine" and, while his style might initially get him invited to present, it is his great content and timeless techniques that get him invited back time and time again.

Starting SMILE with Dave Weber is perfect for administrators and teachers who want to "laugh and learn" and take away principles they can apply to the classroom as well as the kitchen table!

For more information about the SMILE Conference, contact Karen Enriquez at 520-432-8950 or kenriquez@cochise.az.gov.

Logo Design Contest

2015 SMILE Conference

\$100 to the winner

Cochise County students Grades 7-12 are eligible to enter.

Submit electronically in JPEG format to
kenriquez@cochise.az.gov by November 7, 2014.

Entries will be the property of the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office.

Bullying Prevention Resources

Bullying is no one's favorite topic. It's uncomfortable even to think about much less directly address on a daily basis, which is why prevention is so important. Stopping it before it even starts improves everyone's experience. So, we wanted to give you a few bullying prevention resources to help you continue your positive efforts and capitalize on the forward momentum you've initiated.

- The Pacer Center's [National Bullying Prevention Center](#)
- [StopBullying.gov](#) managed by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Bullying Prevention resources at [Eduptopia.org](#)
- [Center for Safe Schools](#)

Reprinted from the Behavior Matters Newsletter,
Pearson's Review 360

Dates to Remember

Oct. 24	AASBO Training
Oct. 31	Halloween
	AASBO Training
Nov. 6	Tucson Symphony Orchestra
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov. 12	CASA Meeting

Tax Rate Comparison

School District	2013-2014 Tax Rate	2014-2015 Tax Rate	Difference
Apache	\$5.0845	\$4.4544	(\$0.6301)
Ash Creek	\$5.4041	\$5.4041	\$0.0000
Benson (Secondary)	\$6.0591	\$6.9802	\$0.9212
Bisbee (Secondary)	\$5.5517	\$4.7622	(\$0.7895)
Bowie	\$11.1018	\$11.1018	\$0.0000
Cochise Elementary	\$3.5115	\$4.8322	\$1.3207
Cochise Technology	\$0.0500	\$0.0500	\$0.0000
Double Adobe	\$4.9957	\$9.8521	\$4.8564
Douglas (Secondary)	\$1.9950	\$6.1891	\$4.1941
Elfrida	\$4.5790	\$4.5790	\$0.0000
McNeal	\$8.0630	\$8.0630	\$0.0000
Naco	\$5.7370	\$5.7370	\$0.0000
Palominas	\$5.2765	\$6.8185	\$1.5420
Pearce	\$4.1597	\$4.1597	\$0.0000
Pomerene	\$5.1409	\$7.3171	\$2.1762
San Simon	\$8.9393	\$8.9393	\$0.0000
St. David (Secondary)	\$3.6417	\$5.7761	\$2.1344
Sierra Vista Elementary	\$2.8100	\$2.8673	\$0.0573
Sierra Vista H.S.	\$1.7426	\$1.7774	\$0.0348
Tombstone	\$3.1216	\$5.8239	\$2.7023
Valley Union (Secondary)	\$3.2094	\$3.4307	\$0.2213
Willcox (Secondary)	\$4.7496	\$8.4753	\$3.7257

COCHISE BUDDIES YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINIC



On the Douglas Campus of Cochise College
Saturday, November 15th, 2014 12:00-2:00 PM
Hosted by the Cochise College Runnin' Apaches

For boys & girls in grades K-9
Cost is \$10 for the session

For more information or to register:
Jerry Carrillo: 520-417-4072
Guy Meyer: 520-417-4797

The Cochise County School Superintendent's Office is seeking donations of used text books for our Home School Library. For more information, contact Karen Enriquez at 432-8950 or kenriquez@cochise.az.gov.

Contact Us

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Deadline Approaches for Service Academy Nominations

Each year Congressman Ron Barber encourages all high school students who are interested in military service academies to contact his office and submit an application for nomination. Complete applications are due by November 7 and interviews will be held on December 6. Applications and information are online at www.barber.house.gov.