

Cochise County School  
Superintendent's Office



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Superintendent

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

**A master can tell  
you what he  
expects of you.  
A teacher,  
though, awakens  
your own  
expectations.**

**Patricia Neal**



# The County School Connection

OCTOBER 2016

Hi All,

So how many people grew up wanting to be a teacher? And how many actually got their teaching degrees? And how many of them are in the classroom right now? Statistics show that 40% of the education majors that graduate do not work in the field of education. And the ones that do enter the teaching field don't stay.

The Arizona Education News Service reported that the force of veteran teachers is shrinking. In 1987-1988, the "most common" teacher had 15 years of experience, but by 2011-2012, the "most common teacher" had five years of experience. In 2013-14, 29 percent of Arizona's teachers had three or less years of experience, and 24 percent of first-year teachers and 20 percent of second-year teachers left their positions and the state. Arizona Star research shows that 4,500 teachers left Tucson-area districts in the last five years.

"Many times young teachers cannot find affordable housing in the communities in which they teach, struggle to pay off student loans, and take on additional jobs," it says. The report says that the average starting salary for a teacher in 2013 in Arizona was \$31,874. That's only 20 percent higher than in 2003. During that same decade, the minimum wage jumped 53 percent.

Andrew Morrill, the president of the Arizona Education Association, stated that along with low education spending and low salaries, teachers feel under siege by so many testing and instruction guidelines. He said: "We think this is the largest documented teacher shortage that Arizona has faced in decades."

As a result, thousands of kids may find themselves in classrooms without a certified teacher. "When you put all of these things together, it's sort of a perfect storm," said Cecilia Johnson, the ADE Associate Superintendent of highly effective teachers and leaders. "We do believe we are in a crisis."

There are Adopt-a-School programs throughout Cochise County, but how about adopting a teacher? You could ensure the teacher has enough supplies including Kleenex and hand sanitizer. You could help out in the classroom when the teacher has a student who needs one-on-one instruction. I'm not sure how you can prevent the teacher from having to work at Home Depot on the weekends, but think about it. What could each of us do to help a teacher?

DonorsChoose.org has lists of projects that need funding. Also, the Cochise Education Foundation invited teachers to submit requests for \$200 mini-grants. We received 84 and can only fund 19. Their requests are very basic ranging from books, to math manipulatives, to science equipment. Could you provide \$200 to help fund a teacher?

We are facing hard times in education and it behooves each one of us to think of ways to support our teachers. For more information and ideas, please contact me.

We are here to serve you!  
Trudy



### Congratulations to the 2016 Cochise County Fair's Grand Prize Exhibit Winners

Pre-K- Joe Carlson School, Douglas- Joanna Reyes's class  
 "Highlights of Cochise County"

Kindergarten- Joe Carlson School, Douglas- Maria Noriega's class  
 "Water Color Paintings"

1st grade- Cochise Elementary School- Tina Rone's class  
 "Aluminum Picture of the Fair"

2nd grade- Naco Elementary School- Jennifer Meneses's class  
 "One Great County-One Great Fair Book"

3rd grade- Sarah Marley School, Douglas- Diane Campas's class  
 "Our Fair is GREAT because..."

4th grade- Center for Academic Success, Douglas- Ismel Peraza's class  
 "Beans Fair"

5th grade- Center for Academic Success, Douglas- Toni Carrillo class  
 "Foil Fair Food"

6th grade- Lowell School, Bisbee- Monica Lumiere's Class  
 "Scratch Art"

7th grade- Paul Huber Jr. High School, Douglas- Individual Exhibit by Karina de la Vega  
 "Male Profile"

8th grade- Paul Huber Jr. High School, Douglas- Celena Galaz's class  
 "Poetry"

HS class- Douglas High School- Daniel Campas's class  
 "Foil Leaf Print"

Combined Grades- Ash Creek Elementary School- Vicki Marvick's 4th-6th grade class  
 "Spiral Book-Life Cycles of Cochise County"



### Student Loan Forgiveness Program

Did you know there is a Federal program offering student loan forgiveness for those serving in “public service” including state, county, city, school district, charter school, special district, and nonprofit employees? While some educators may benefit from Teacher Loan Forgiveness, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF) is for any full-time staff member. The loan forgiveness amount is individually determined and tax-free. We encourage all full-time employees with federal student loan obligations to learn more about this voluntary benefit, and find out if PSLF makes sense for you.

It’s quick and easy to find out if you are eligible. Click [Here](#) and enter Registration Code: Cochise. Answer a few simple questions, find out your potential savings instantly, and schedule your no-obligation telephone consultation with an Advisor today.

- You should consider the program if you have federal student loans, including Parent Plus Loans, and would like to:
- Immediately lower your monthly student loan payment
- Reduce your student loan obligation.
- Significantly reduce your cost of earning additional degrees
- Receive a personalized 10-year loan forgiveness plan outlining your savings

Join your colleagues who are reducing their standard repayments by an average of 73% and looking forward to \$63,228 in tax-free student loan forgiveness.



### NCTM Regional Conference & Exposition Phoenix Convention Center October 26-28



NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) Regional Conference & Expositions are an opportunity to share knowledge and learn with leaders in the field of mathematics education.

Sharpen your skills, gain new techniques, and achieve your professional goals when you make your plans for this professional development opportunity today.

Five focus strands and numerous featured speakers allow you to learn the most effective teaching practices within the topics most essential to your teaching.

To register: <http://www.nctm.org/phoenix/>

### Celebrity Spelling Bee



The Cochise Education Foundation is hosting a Celebrity Spelling Bee at 6:00 pm on November 18, at the Windemere Hotel in Sierra Vista. We would like to make this a fun event which gives exposure to the activities of the Foundation. With this in mind, please consider this as an opportunity to demonstrate your community spirit and support for our teachers. We hope to have spellers and spectators from all over Cochise County!

The entire Bee format has been designed to provide an enjoyable and entertaining evening; no great spelling is required. As a participant, you are able to spell your word; use a lifeline, a spelligan (close enough), a steal, or a pass, and some of this would include audience participation.

General admission is \$15.00 per person. Special “cheats” will be available for purchase by friends and family supporters in the audience, enabling all spellers an equal opportunity to win! Join us for light hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar, and unbelievable fun!

#### All proceeds will support CEF’s “Mini-grants for Teachers” program.

For more information, to purchase tickets, or participate as a speller, you may contact the Cochise County School Superintendent’s Office at (520) 432-8952.

#### Don’t Miss the October 14th Deadline!

The deadline for regular enrollment with **SCRIPPS** is October 14th. Late enrollment is between October 15th-December 12th. Only students from schools that are enrolled with the Scripps National Spelling Bee will be eligible to participate in our County Bee and in the 2017 AEF Arizona Spelling Bee. To register, go to <http://spellingbee.com/enrollment>

#### Dates to Remember

- October 18 ASBA County Meeting (Coronado Elementary)
- October 31 Halloween
- November 2 CASA (UA South)



### CEF Mini Grant Winners

Every fall the Cochise Education Foundation (CEF) awards one \$200 classroom mini-grant for each school district in Cochise County. This year 84 applications were received. The applications were judged and awarded based upon merit. Foundation Board members will contact the winners and will present their checks.

The following Teachers are the 2016 CEF Mini-Grant Winners:

- Ash Creek Elementary School- Vicki Marvick and Bruce Ettleson
- Benson Middle School - Chrystie Devere / Dave Harbin
- Bisbee USD/Lowell School - Frank Croix
- Bowie High School - Kelly Zamudio
- CAS, Sierra Vista - Mary Silverwind
- Cochise Elementary School - Tina Mascarenas
- Double Adobe Elementary School - Cynthia Fleetham
- Douglas/Ray Borane Middle School - James Martin
- Elfrida Elementary School - Patricia Nyberg
- Ft. Huachuca/Gen. Myer Elementary - Jennifer Kennedy
- Naco Elementary - Yvonne Torres
- Palominas/Valley View Elementary - Cynthia Turcotte
- Pearce Elementary - Jennifer Thoutt
- San Simon High School - Kari Wade
- Sierra Vista/Buena High School - Mary Perez
- St. David High School - Robin Fenn
- Tombstone High School - Laura Ellis
- Valley Union High School - Jen Score
- Willcox Elementary - Erin Bowlby

### 2017 Polly Rosenbaum Writing Contest

The Polly Rosenbaum Writing Contest is named for Polly Rosenbaum, a former Arizona State Representative and teacher who passed away in 2003 at the age of 104. This writing contest is a long-standing tradition honoring Mrs. Rosenbaum, who believed Arizona's young people are the state's greatest resource.

The creative writing contest is open to students in grades 7 through 12. Criteria and entry forms are made available to schools statewide in October and are accessible online. Entries are judged in three age categories: 7th/8th Grade; 9th/10th Grade; and 11th/12th Grade.

Every participant receives a letter of commendation and a commemorative pen. First, second and third place winners in each of the three age categories are invited for lunch and a ceremony in February on Statehood Day at the State Capitol in Phoenix. They receive an award certificate and are invited to read their winning essays aloud. In addition, first place winners receive a \$50 Amazon gift certificate; second place winners receive a \$25 Amazon gift certificate and third place winners receive a \$15 Amazon gift certificate.

Each year the Arizona Educational Foundation establishes a theme for the contest.

For more information: <http://azedfoundation.org/programs/polly-rosenbaum-writing-contest/>

### Donate Your Used Text Books



The County School Superintendent's Office is looking for usable text books to stock the shelves of our Home School library. We will pick them up! Please call Nikki, at 432-8950.



With support from the Helios Education Foundation and Read On Arizona, the Phoenix Final Four Local Organizing Committee would like to extend the invitation for your school to participate in the Read to the Final Four Arizona literacy program. Participation is completely free. The goal is for 100 % of Arizona third grade students to enjoy this opportunity. All participating students/teachers will have access to over 5,500 digital books using myON (myON.com)

For more information, and to register, go to: [www.readtothefinalfour.com](http://www.readtothefinalfour.com)

### Contact Us

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