

AGENDA MATERIAL
DATE 5/20/25 ITEM NO. RA 15

May 19, 2025

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As a classroom teacher in Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School in the Sunnyside District, I am writing to ask for your support in the proposed Pima County budget of Pima CommunityShare within the Pima County School Superintendent's Office.

I have been involved with Pima CommunityShare for 7 years as a classroom teacher. Pima CommunityShare's digital platform is used by teachers like me at over 300 schools and has impacted over 30,000 students in Pima County. Pima CommunityShare plays a critical role in connecting me and my students to caring adults and professional mentors in our community who prepare my students for their future careers, college, and life.

I have also participated in Pima CommunityShare's teacher fellowship program. Fellows participate in a unique, year-long professional learning program that gives me the skills and resources to design hands-on, real-world learning projects and engage community partners in my classroom.

I've seen firsthand the deep impact this work has on students. Pima CommunityShare has impacted my students by introducing them to engineers and scientists who represent their identities, and is helping Sunnyside to introduce more students to STEM professions. A student speaking to her experiences in my CommunityShare classroom shared with me that she thought smart people were engineers, scientists, and researchers, and now she feels she is "smart people too". Pima CommunityShare has impacted me as an educator by providing access to a human library of partners and teacher fellowship programs that support quality community-engaged learning opportunities.

Pima CommunityShare also plays a critical role in supporting Pima County's Prosperity Initiative, as the program connects my students in high-need neighborhoods with critical educational opportunities and resources so they will reach adulthood with the skills, tools, and resources for economic stability.

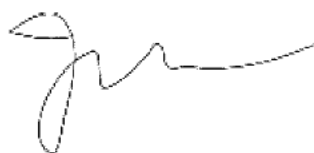
It is my understanding that there are two vital Pima CommunityShare budget line items being considered in the County budget: one that will support a full-time Pima CommunityShare Coordinator and another for the digital platform access and professional learning costs. One of my biggest challenges is finding community partners who can mentor and support my students. This Coordinator position is essential to the success of the Pima CommunityShare program and to my students. Without this role, there is no one recruiting community partners – scientists,

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artists, business and nonprofit leaders, parents, county and city employees, and higher education staff - to sign up on the digital platform and engage with my students. The digital platform is similarly essential as it allows me to quickly find community partners who bring needed experience, skills, and expertise into our classrooms to bring real-world learning to life for our students. At a time when teachers are leaving the profession, students are feeling increasingly disengaged and isolated, and federal resources for education are in dire jeopardy, now more than ever, we need to invest locally in our students and teachers.

I hope I can count on you to support Pima CommunityShare and our future – our kids.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Nichols', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jackie Nichols
STEM and Social Science Teacher
Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School/Sunnyside District



May 19, 2025

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As a classroom teacher in two schools: Santa Clara Elementary and Summit View Elementary. I am writing to ask for your support in the proposed Pima County budget of Pima CommunityShare within the Pima County School Superintendent's Office.

I have been involved with Pima CommunityShare for 1 year as a classroom teacher. Pima CommunityShare's digital platform is used by teachers like me at over 300 schools and has impacted over 30,000 students in Pima County. Pima CommunityShare plays a critical role in connecting me and my students to caring adults and professional mentors in our community who prepare my students for their future careers, college and life.

I have also participated in the Pima CommunityShare's teacher fellowship program. Fellows participate in a unique, year-long professional learning program that gives me the skills and resources to design hands-on, real-world learning projects and engage community partners in my classroom.

I've seen firsthand the deep impact this work has on students. Pima CommunityShare has impacted my students by giving the opportunity for my students to use proper painting supplies to create a medium sized painting of what it would be like if a famous artist collaborated with a modern food product to create a modern advertisement. Pima CommunityShare has impacted me as an educator by falling in love with teaching again. I taught for many school districts in the state of Arizona and before coming to Sunnyside, I taught online. Coming back to the brick and mortar school at Sunnyside and partnering with the Pima CommunityShare, has created a great impact on my career. The funding and support from Pima CommunityShare has allowed me to purchase supplies for my students that without this support I would not have been able to. My students learned so much about artists and advertising through a 7 month unit of research and painting.

Pima CommunityShare also plays a critical role in supporting Pima County's Prosperity Initiative, as the program connects my students in high-need neighborhoods with critical educational opportunities and resources so they will reach adulthood with the skills, tools, and resources for economic stability.

It is my understanding that there are two vital Pima CommunityShare budget line items being considered in the County budget: one that will support a full-time Pima CommunityShare Coordinator and another for the digital platform access and professional learning costs. One of my biggest challenges is finding community partners who can mentor and support my students.

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This Coordinator position is essential to the success of the Pima CommunityShare program and to my students. Without this role there is no one recruiting community partners – scientists, artists, business and nonprofit leaders, parents, county and city employees, and higher education staff - to sign up on the digital platform and engage with my students. The digital platform is similarly essential as it allows me to quickly find community partners who bring needed experience, skills, and expertise into our classrooms to bring real-world learning to life for our students. At a time when teachers are leaving the profession, students are feeling increasingly disengaged and isolated, and federal resources for education are in dire jeopardy, now more than ever we need to invest locally in our students and teachers.

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Respectfully,

Autumn David

1st - 6th Grade Gifted and Talented Educator

SUSD S.U.N (Serving Unique Needs) Educator

Santa Clara Elementary & Summit View Elementary

May 19, 2025

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As a classroom teacher at Gallego Primary Fine Arts Magnet School, I am writing to ask for your support in the proposed Pima County budget of Pima CommunityShare within the Pima County School Superintendent's Office.

I have been involved with Pima CommunityShare for one year as a classroom teacher. Pima CommunityShare's digital platform is used by teachers like me at over 300 schools and has impacted over 30,000 students in Pima County. Pima CommunityShare plays a critical role in connecting me and my students to caring adults and professional mentors in our community who prepare my students for their future careers, college and life.

I have also participated in Pima CommunityShare's teacher fellowship program. Fellows participate in a unique, year-long professional learning program that gives me the skills and resources to design hands-on, real-world learning projects and engage community partners in my classroom.

I've seen firsthand the deep impact this work has on students. Pima CommunityShare has impacted my students by not only improving their critical thinking and collaboration skills, but also improving their writing and fostering their creativity. Students were so excited to come to school every day to work on their project. Pima CommunityShare has impacted me as an educator by motivating me to continue to incorporate project-based learning into my teaching. By seeing how motivated and engaged my students were, I would love the opportunity to continue to work with Pima CommunityShare to reach future students as well.

Pima CommunityShare also plays a critical role in supporting Pima County's Prosperity Initiative, as the program connects my students in high-need neighborhoods with critical educational opportunities and resources so they will reach adulthood with the skills, tools, and resources for economic stability.

It is my understanding that there are two vital Pima CommunityShare budget line items being considered in the County budget: one that will support a full-time Pima CommunityShare Coordinator and another for the digital platform access and professional learning costs. One of my biggest challenges is finding community partners who can mentor and support my students. This Coordinator position is essential to the success of the Pima CommunityShare program and to my students. Without this role there is no one recruiting community partners – scientists, artists, business and nonprofit leaders, parents, county and city employees, and higher education staff - to sign up on the digital platform and engage with my students. The digital

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platform is similarly essential as it allows me to quickly find community partners who bring needed experience, skills, and expertise into our classrooms to bring real-world learning to life for our students. At a time when teachers are leaving the profession, students are feeling increasingly disengaged and isolated, and federal resources for education are in dire jeopardy, now more than ever we need to invest locally in our students and teachers.

I hope I can count on you to support Pima CommunityShare and our future – our kids.

Respectfully,

Renee E. Bonilla

Katrina Martinez

From: Daniel Dong [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 8:48 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Requesting Your Support of Pima CommunityShare in County Budget

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

May 19, 2025

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As a classroom teacher at Sierra K-8 I am writing to ask for your support in the proposed Pima County budget of Pima CommunityShare within the Pima County School Superintendent's Office.

I have been involved with Pima CommunityShare for 5 years as a classroom teacher. Pima CommunityShare's digital platform is used by teachers like me at over 300 schools and has impacted over 30,000 students in Pima County. Pima CommunityShare plays a critical role in connecting me and my students to caring adults and professional mentors in our community who prepare my students for their future careers, college and life.

I have also participated in Pima CommunityShare's teacher fellowship program. Fellows participate in a unique, year-long professional learning program that gives me the skills and resources to design hands-on, real-world learning projects and engage community partners in my classroom.

I've seen firsthand the deep impact this work has on students. Pima CommunityShare has impacted my students by providing them a platform to discover new things and be successful. This year my students qualified as semifinalists in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Project and were awarded with \$2,500 in technology for the classroom.. Pima CommunityShare has impacted me as an educator by giving me the ability to provide students with resources that they might have never received, being from a Title I school.

Pima CommunityShare also plays a critical role in supporting Pima County's Prosperity Initiative, as the program connects my students in high-need neighborhoods with critical educational opportunities and resources so they will reach adulthood with the skills, tools, and resources for economic stability.

It is my understanding that there are two vital Pima CommunityShare budget line items being considered in the County budget: one that will support a full-time Pima CommunityShare Coordinator and another for the digital platform access and professional learning costs. One of my biggest challenges is finding community partners who can mentor and support my students. This Coordinator position is essential to the success of the Pima CommunityShare program and to my students. Without this role there is no one recruiting community partners – scientists, artists, business and nonprofit leaders, parents, county and city employees, and higher education staff - to sign up on the digital platform and engage with my students. The digital platform is similarly essential as it allows me to quickly find community partners who bring needed experience, skills, and expertise into our classrooms to bring real-world learning to life for our students. At a time when teachers are leaving the profession, students are feeling increasingly disengaged and isolated, and federal resources for education are in dire jeopardy, now more than ever we need to invest locally in our students and teachers.

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I hope I can count on you to support Pima CommunityShare and our future – our kids.

Respectfully,

Daniel Dong, National Board Certified Teacher, 7th Grade Science

Email Subject Line: Requesting Your Support of Pima CommunityShare in County Budget

May 19, 2025

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As a classroom teacher in Craycroft Elementary school, I am writing to ask for your support in the proposed Pima County budget of Pima CommunityShare within the Pima County School Superintendent's Office.

I have been involved with Pima CommunityShare for 4 years as a classroom teacher. Pima CommunityShare's digital platform is used by teachers like me at over 300 schools and has impacted over 30,000 students in Pima County. Pima CommunityShare plays a critical role in connecting me and my students to caring adults and professional mentors in our community who prepare my students for their future careers, college and life.

I have also participated in the Pima CommunityShare's teacher fellowship program. Fellows participate in a unique, year-long professional learning program that gives me the skills and resources to design hands-on, real-world learning projects and engage community partners in my classroom.

I've seen firsthand the deep impact this work has on students. Pima CommunityShare has impacted my students by 550 students at Rivera Elementary school - helping students clean up a space for a garden for 2 years, as well as, at Craycroft Elementary school helping add edible fruits, vegetables, spices and then growing into a Social emotional extension in my 2nd year. The goal is to build a bridge with these foundational skills at our neighboring Lauffer middle school with a former CommunityShare's teacher. This program has inspired many of my students to stay involved in their schooling because they have been able to learn in a hands-on way that incorporated project based learning. These students are my neighbors and they talk to me about how we can expand these ideas for next year. The excitement they exude reminds me "Why" I spend my free time making school memorable because every student deserves to feel excited about learning. Pima CommunityShare has impacted me as an educator by bringing community members into our school and making life-long learners out of everyone. I see parents coming into volunteer and I see my community come to life!

Pima CommunityShare also plays a critical role in supporting Pima County's Prosperity Initiative, as the program connects my students in high-need neighborhoods with critical educational opportunities and resources so they will reach adulthood with the skills, tools, and resources for economic stability.

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It is my understanding that there are two vital Pima CommunityShare budget line items being considered in the County budget: one that will support a full-time Pima CommunityShare Coordinator and another for the digital platform access and professional learning costs. One of my biggest challenges is finding community partners who can mentor and support my students. This Coordinator position is essential to the success of the Pima CommunityShare program and to my students. Without this role there is no one recruiting community partners – scientists, artists, business and nonprofit leaders, parents, county and city employees, and higher education staff - to sign up on the digital platform and engage with my students. The digital platform is similarly essential as it allows me to quickly find community partners who bring needed experience, skills, and expertise into our classrooms to bring real-world learning to life for our students. At a time when teachers are leaving the profession, students are feeling increasingly disengaged and isolated, and federal resources for education are in dire jeopardy, now more than ever we need to invest locally in our students and teachers.

I hope I can count on you to support Pima CommunityShare and our future – our kids.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Brenda Glass

Katrina Martinez

From: Melinda Bejarano <melindab@susd12.org>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 9:36 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Requesting Your Support of Pima CommunityShare in County Budget

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As a classroom teacher at Lauffer Middle School. I am writing to ask for your support in the proposed Pima County budget of Pima CommunityShare within the Pima County School Superintendent's Office.

I have been involved with Pima CommunityShare for two years as a classroom teacher. Pima CommunityShare's digital platform is used by teachers like me at over 300 schools and has impacted over 30,000 students in Pima County. Pima CommunityShare plays a critical role in connecting me and my students to caring adults and professional mentors in our community who prepare my students for their future careers, college and life.

I have also participated in Pima CommunityShare's teacher fellowship program. Fellows participate in a unique, year-long professional learning program that gives me the skills and resources to design hands-on, real-world learning projects and engage community partners in my classroom.

I've seen firsthand the deep impact this work has on students. Pima CommunityShare has impacted my students by giving them a way to improve their school while learning about subjects they may not have been given the opportunity to learn about. Pima CommunityShare has impacted me as an educator by widening my perspective of project-based learning and the role my community can play in my students' education.

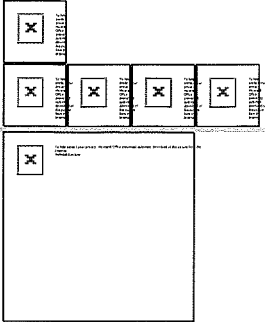
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I hope I can count on you to support Pima CommunityShare and our future – our kids.

Sincerely,

Melinda L Bejarano



Melinda Bejarano

Teacher | Lauffer Middle School

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Volleyball & Yearbook

melindab@susd12.org

ph. (520) 545-4930

www.susd12.org/lauffer

"Every child... College, Career and Community Ready."

May 19, 2025

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As a classroom teacher at Apollo Middle School, I am writing to ask for your support in the proposed Pima County budget of Pima CommunityShare within the Pima County School Superintendent's Office.

I have been involved with Pima CommunityShare for three years as a classroom teacher. Pima CommunityShare's digital platform is used by teachers like me at over 300 schools and has impacted over 30,000 students in Pima County. Pima CommunityShare plays a critical role in connecting me and my students to caring adults and professional mentors in our community who prepare my students for their future careers, college, and life.

I have also participated in Pima CommunityShare's teacher fellowship program. Fellows participate in a unique, year-long professional learning program that gives me the skills and resources to design hands-on, real-world learning projects and engage community partners in my classroom.

I've seen firsthand the deep impact this work has on students. Pima CommunityShare has positively impacted my students by providing essential materials and support for our Agrivoltaics Project, which involves growing vegetation beneath solar panels to study the interaction between agriculture and renewable energy. The students conduct hands-on research to determine which vegetation types thrive best under these unique conditions, such as lavender, sage, lettuce, and radishes. One example is when my student planted and grew radishes in a control and the agrivoltaics system. When ready to harvest, they measured and weighed the harvested radishes to determine which had the best outcomes. We discovered that the radishes grown under the panels had higher moisture retention and showed stronger, more consistent growth than those in full sun. The bottom line is that through the funding of Pima CommunityShare, my students practice real science with real consequences through hands-on project-based learning opportunities.

Pima CommunityShare has also impacted me as an educator by providing access to resources, experts, and community connections that bring depth and authenticity to my science instruction. Their support has allowed me to create a classroom environment where students don't just learn about sustainability—they live it, question it, and contribute to it. This partnership has enriched my teaching and empowered my students to see themselves as young scientists and problem-solvers.

Pima CommunityShare also plays a critical role in supporting Pima County's Prosperity Initiative, as the program connects my students in high-need neighborhoods with critical educational

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opportunities and resources so they will reach adulthood with the skills, tools, and resources for economic stability.

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I hope I can count on you to support Pima CommunityShare and our future – our kids.

Respectfully,

Tammye Paz

Apollo Middle School

8th-Grade Science