



Dustin J. Williams
Superintendent of Schools

Debbie D'Amore
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FY2019 BUDGET HEARING INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- The FY19 budget for the Superintendent of Schools does not anticipate any dramatic changes in either proposed revenues or expenditures.
- Overall, the increase in the net General Fund impact from FY18 to FY19 comes to \$30,000, which is due to the supplemental budget request submitted to continue providing our successful career shadow program which currently serves approximately 1800 kids and partners with over 360 countywide businesses.
- Over the past year and half we have identified a tremendous need in the career, technical, education sector. We have developed a new program in partnership with our Career Shadow project which works specifically with the economic growth. We would like our office to be a facilitator of K-12 education and business participation. With the rising cost of college it is important to introduce the CTE field to the students, parent and communities. We are currently piloting this program working specifically with JobCorp, JTED and many other stake holders in the community.
- Many of the programs provided to our community through the Superintendent's Office are not primarily supported by County funds. Much of the support comes through enterprise activities (i.e. fees for services or registrations fees), limited grant funding, State funds for our Accommodation District, and wherever possible private partnerships/sponsorships.
- The current budget is developed to continue many of the successful programs provided to our teachers, students and their school communities throughout Pima County and in partnership with our other Southern Arizona counties, with community partners, our public, private and homeschoools and with our local and state elected leaders.
- Now coming into its 6th year, the STEMAZing Project continues to provide valuable partnerships with our education partners locally, across Arizona and even in other parts of the country! Our STEMAZing Director, DaNel Hogan along with two Tucson educators were invited to provide her trainings to teachers in Honduras at the end of the summer sponsored by the US Embassy and in Liberia sponsored by I help Liberia. Our STEMAZing Director has developed a partnership, with the Thomas R. Brown Foundation for creating a STEM Teacher Leader Program in Pima County, we just completed the 2nd year with approximately \$60,000 in support from them. Thomas R Brown foundation confirmed up to \$75,000 in funding for the continuation to expand the program into its 3rd year. The STEMAZing project allowed 700 educators to expand their knowledge of how to better integrate STEM curriculum into their classrooms and grow their own STEMAZing projects in their schools and communities. Our STEMAZing Institute was presented with a \$40,000 sponsorship from Tucson Electric Power of which more than \$30,000 will be returned to teachers in the form of equipment and supplies.



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Three-day strands for more than 120 educators will include two different robotics platforms, geometry using construction and origami, school gardens, and water and energy in Arizona. The STEMAzing project has developed a reputation for providing world class Stem professional development and partnering with many business organizations in our community.

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- Continuing into its 2nd year our Healthy and Safe Schools Project, led by Jane Ballesteros, provides opportunities for educators and community organizations to work closely with our schools and supporting our students beyond the classroom. Our Healthy & Safe Schools Summer Institute titled “What happened” Understanding Trauma & building resilience” will provide a 2-day institute for individuals who want to learn about topics like, “Supporting Students in transition, strategies for preventing suicide, mental health first aid, behavior intervention for students who have experienced trauma and Skill development for adults experience vicarious trauma. The program was designed by our School Health Innovation Partnership, which is a collaboration between the Superintendent’s Office and the Pima County Health Department. The program seeks to improve school climate and culture by building relationships between schools and behavioral health providers in our community. This past fall the Governor’s Office partnered with us to provide an additional \$60,000 to expand a middle school program. Again, we extend the invitation to you to listen in on some of the great work our educators and community partners are doing to help our students, their families and their school communities our next Healthy & Safe Schools Summer Institute on May 30th and May 31st.
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- Our LEADNow project has become our newest success story! This project led by Director Deborah Bryson was created to support new and aspiring educational leaders in Southern AZ in partnership with AZ Educational Foundation, Northern AZ University and Pima County Sch. Supt. office. Through the LEADNow Leadership Institute, individuals will acquire skills and applications essential to becoming an effective educational leader. The Participants and mentors come from 13 area districts not just within Pima County. The mentors are all principals from A+ Schools of Excellence. The participants can receive 3 units of credit for the class if they are concurrently enrolled in NAU and the LEADNow program. The program just completed the 1st year successfully with 25 new principals and 28 new assistant principals graduating the program.

- Our office has not requested a supplemental budget request in the 9 years I have been with the Superintendent office. A less than 3% increase in the budget that would be



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dedicated to the continuation of providing a direct educational program to our schools and not for any administrative or operational expenditure would have a greater chance of success.

- We do anticipate some budgeted revenues to increase for the upcoming fiscal year as services provided by the County to the Superintendent's Education Service Agency continue to grow. The education service agency is the function of the Superintendent's office that allows collection of local, state and federal revenues to support programs for schools in our communities. However, some services, like Facilities Management can only be paid through the General Fund and these reimbursements are for those expenses.
- The larger portion is reimbursement from our local school districts for anticipated special elections this fall. Currently, we are advised that 3 local school districts are considering either a bond election or budget override election for November 2018.
- Our current activities related to the fiscal services provided to our school districts continue to maintain stable and we continue to provide financial management services to 15 of our 17 school districts. The Superintendent has discussed the possibility of having TUSD and Sunnyside join as two of the school districts where we can support their fiscal services. We could anticipate that there might be a need for additional support from the County to the Superintendent's Office if this were the case, but the status of the conversations is currently very preliminary. Our focus continues to be to provide knowledgeable and transparent services to our school districts to support both financial and programmatic accountability of our limited K-12 dollars in our school districts.
- Finally, our education programs at the Juvenile and Adult Detention Centers continue to grow stronger.
 - Over the last 5 years, 75% of the students who take a GED test through our program successfully earn their GED.
 - For funding purposes, we are funded on an average attendance of 62 students, but on any given day we are working with upwards of 80 individual students – and approximately 1 to 2 out of every 4 students is identified with a learning disability that we must address. Our Grant funding was cut this year by 98.3% leaving us pooling money from other sources. We would like to take a moment to thank you for giving us additional support.
 - Because we cannot rely on many of the traditional sources of funding as we have for our school districts, it presents a challenge as the Legislature change funding formulas



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- that take every school district into account, where exceptions for JTED's or rural schools are made, but not for our accommodation schools that have far fewer resources in a very challenging environment.
- However, we strive for high academic standards. Our Detention Center received accreditation from Advanced, allowing credits earned at our school to be transferrable to any public schools in Arizona.
 - We have students who are taking college courses and earning college credits while in our program, as well as students who are earning credits to get back on track in their home school.
 - In the future, the Superintendent will want to explore other ways the County can support the education programs at the County facilities (Detention & Jail). Because changes in school funding do not anticipate the unique circumstances of accommodation schools, it can hinder the District from being able to expand its reach through other innovative programs/methods. The responsibility to educate the most at-risk students and to service students who have a disability is the responsibility of the entire County, when they are entrusted to our care.