We earned an A!

The Dysart Unified School District was labeled an “A” district by the Arizona Department of Education.
Dysart Unified School District is a district focused on preparing all students to be college and career ready and equipped with the skills needed to be successful in the 21st century workforce. Most school districts, including the Dysart Unified School District, have faced funding challenges, as well as challenging changes to academic mandates. During years of budget cutting, the district did not want to negatively impact the quality of the education we offered students, nor did we want to limit students’ learning opportunities. As a district, we have found every way possible to increase efficiencies and effectiveness in delivering services to students and in supporting staff.

The district could not maintain the level of educational excellence that all Dysart students deserve without the support of our community. Dysart has been fortunate to have a supportive community that, since 2000, has voted for an override that funds fundamental programs such as: all-day kindergarten; K-12 arts programs and physical education classes; athletics in our high schools and middle schools; intervention support for math and reading; and support to maintain class sizes. Our community members and our parents have dedicated many hours volunteering in our schools and supporting students. Our parents get involved in their child(ren)’s schools by attending events, parent trainings and conferences, and by serving on committees. Our staff dedicates themselves to helping each and every child learn and grow in our classrooms. The expertise of our staff is recognized on a state and national level. Our students challenge themselves to do their best, and their successes are evident in the awards, scholarships, and the district’s recognition for academic achievement. In 2014, Dysart Unified School District earned the highest accountability label in the state’s system - Dysart is an “A” district.

Dysart was recognized by the Center for American Progress as one of only eight districts in Arizona that is a top performer in achievement with one of the lowest-cost operations budget. There are other examples in this publication of the successes of our students, staff, and district.

Education is an investment for our community. The next generation of caregivers, first responders, military personnel, government leaders, scientists, educators, and mothers and fathers are in our schools right now preparing for their roles and responsibilities in our communities. The success of these students will determine the success and sustainability of our communities and our country. Dysart Unified School District is proud to ensure an “A” rating return on your investment!

Gail Pletnick, Ed.D.
Superintendent
The Dysart Unified School District Governing Board called to renew the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Override through a special budget override election on November 4, 2014. Arizona law allows school districts to expand their budgets by up to 15% if voters of the district approve by election. Dysart Unified School District voters approved such overrides in 2000, 2004, and 2010.

While overrides are funded through a local tax for all district residents and businesses, passage of this override will not create a new tax, but rather, will continue what is already in place from previous override approvals. The district's overall tax rate for fiscal year 2015 decreased from 2014 by $0.45 as a result of increased assessed valuations. The M&O override currently in place accounts for $1.62 of the secondary tax rate for fiscal year 2015.

The override allows the district to expand its M&O general operations budget by $18.7 million in FY 16 and is used to fund special programs at all Dysart schools. If this override is not renewed, the district's budget would be reduced by the $18.7 million and the programs funded by the override would be eliminated or reduced.

This is a polling place election, unless you reside in the City of El Mirage, which requires an all-mail election as selected by the City. The official Voter Information Pamphlet will be mailed to every registered voter in the Dysart Unified School District by September 30, 2014. Polling locations can be found by visiting recorder.maricopa.gov/pollingplace/ and early ballots will be in mailboxes on or around October 6, 2014.
DYSART GOVERNING BOARD

Power in the preparation... Excellence in the journey... Success for a lifetime...

Mission
The mission of Dysart Unified School District is to create a safe, diversified and engaging learning environment where every student attains academic excellence and is empowered to achieve life-long success. Through relevant and challenging curriculum, expanded learning opportunities and collaborative partnerships, our students will be:

- effective communicators
- critical and creative thinkers
- informed problem solvers and decision makers
- responsible leaders
- productive citizens

Governing Board Meeting Schedule
The Governing Board meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month with exceptions in July 2014, October 2014 and March 2015 at the Dysart Education Center, 15802 N. Parkview Place, Surprise, AZ 85374, 623-876-7002.

October 1, 2014
November 5, 2014
November 19, 2014
December 3, 2014

December 17, 2014
January 7, 2015
January 21, 2015
February 4, 2015

February 18, 2015
March 4, 2015
April 1, 2015
April 15, 2015

May 6, 2015
May 20, 2015
June 3, 2015
June 17, 2015

Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil
President

Bonnie Schroader
Clerk

Blossom Tande
Member

Jennifer Tanner
Member
Dysart Growth Continues
Dysart Unified School District has experienced unprecedented growth over the past decade. This graph (right) illustrates the district’s rising enrollment since 2000.

The Dysart Community
The Dysart Unified School District is comprised of 140 square miles in the northwest valley. The district encompasses the cities of Surprise, El Mirage and unincorporated sections of Maricopa County. Prior to 2000, the Dysart Unified School District was made up of four elementary schools and one high school. Today, Dysart has grown to 19 K-8 schools, 4 high schools, one alternative program, and one online learning program, iSchool.

Dysart Students
At the end of the 2013-2014 school year, The Dysart Unified School District had 25,556 enrolled students, increased from 7,283 in the 2001-2002 school year. Within this student population, 34 different native languages are spoken.

Employees
At the end of the 2013-2014 school year, the district employed 2,934 people, including: 1,449 certified personnel, 942 classified staff, 81 administrators, 371 substitute teachers and 91 temporary/substitute classified employees.

Volunteers
Additionally, over the course of the 2013-2014 school year, more than 1,750 volunteers donated a total of nearly 64,000 hours of their time to the Dysart Unified School District.

Dysart District AIMS scores continue to climb
Dysart Unified School District students continue to demonstrate high academic achievement as measured by the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) assessment. Dysart AIMS achievement scores met or exceeded the state averages in 17 out of 18 possible grade level and subject area combinations in mathematics, reading, and writing. When compared to prior year district results, Dysart also witnessed an increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standards for all grade levels in the subject area of reading. Student test scores in grades 3 – 10 show that Dysart School District’s more than 26,000 students continue to outpace the state improvement average in math, reading, writing, and science.

Learn more and donate today at www.dysart.org/taxcredit
Karen Winterstein, Principal at Sunset Hills Elementary School, was named Principal of the Year by NAESP.

Beth Maloney, fifth grade teacher at Sunset Hills Elementary School, was named the 2014 Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF) Teacher of the Year.

Canyon Ridge was named an A+ School of Excellence
dysart elementary school second grade teacher, Art Mendivil, was named 2013 El Mirage Citizen of the Year by the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Kathy Russo, sixth grade teacher at El Mirage Elementary School, was named chapter Woman of the Year by the Turquoise Camel Chapter of the American Business Women’s Association (ABWA).

Connie Ferguson, art teacher at Riverview Elementary School, was named Art Educator of the Year by NAEA.

Dysart Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Gail Pletnick, was named by Education Week as a “Leader to Learn From” in 2014.

Dr. Gail Pletnick, Dysart Unified School District Superintendent, was sworn in as a member of the AASA (American Association of School Administrators) Executive Committee.

DUSD was selected as one of the 2014 Healthiest Employers in the Valley by the Phoenix Business Journal.

Dysart’s Chief Information Officer, John Andrews, was named one of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Technology Leadership Network’s (TLN) “20 to Watch” honorees for 13-14.

The new and improved website won a communications ASPRA*tions award for the category of School District for Excellence within a Specific Program.

Dysart Purchasing Administrator, Laura Szymanoski, earned recognition from the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (UPPCC) by receiving the Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) credential.

National Board Certification
Michael Goto, Willow Canyon High School
Jessica Haug, Sonoran Heights
Kara Koziol, Mountain View
Sheri Loyd, Riverview
Mary Morris, Riverview
Deborah Benton, school nurse at Valley Vista High School

National Board Certification Renewals
Connie Ferguson, art teacher at Riverview School
Cheryl Thompson, 6th grade teacher, Rancho Gabriela
Dysart District labeled an “A” district!

Additionally, the state also provided school districts with a grade. The Dysart School District received a grade of “A” from the Arizona Department of Education. All Dysart schools continue to demonstrate positive and continued growth in student achievement.

The A-F Letter Grade System was created by the Arizona Department of Education to provide clear, easy-to-understand information to parents. It was designed so they could base their educational decisions on the best information available about the overall academic performance of schools and districts/charter holders. The AZ LEARNS Legacy accountability system used students’ scores on the AIMS tests to determine which of the achievement profiles a school would receive. The A-F Letter Grade System uses a combination of students’ scores on the AIMS tests (50%) and the academic growth of students from one year to the next (50%). This more complete view of student learning provides a clearer picture of how well schools and districts/charter holders are educating their students.
YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Breakdown of Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Fund by Amount

Areas outlined in black represent the 70% that directly supports students.

- 6% - Pupil Transportation
  To and From School, Field Trips, Athletic Contests, etc.

- 13% - Plant Operations
  Utilities, Custodians, Grounds Care, Maintenance Of Buildings, Security & Safety

- 6% - School Administration
  Principals, Assistant Principals, Office Staff

- 4% - Central Services
  Fiscal Services, Purchasing, Human Resources, Research, Public Information, Evaluation Activities, Planning, Warehouse, IT

- 1% - General Administration
  Superintendent’s Office, Governing Board, Legal Services, Election Costs, Audit Expenses

- 58% - Instruction
  PreK-12 Teachers, Aides, Special Education, Curriculum, Technology, Classroom Supplies

- 10% - Student Support Services
  Counselors, Nurses, Psychological Services, Speech, Hearing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy

- 2% - Instructional Support Services
  Staff Training, Professional Development, Curriculum Development, Library, Related Technology

Total equals 70% that directly supports students

What do your Local Tax Dollars Pay for?

Override: The override provides funding for staff to support students through: smaller class size; art, music and P.E.; all-day kindergarten; elective opportunities; athletics; and reading and math intervention

Bonds: Buildings, buses, major maintenance, technology. Bonds are issued then paid back over several years with an annual “Debt Service’ (principal and interest) payments provided through an annual property tax.
Dysart Arts Academy (Middle School)
The Dysart Arts Academy serves students in grades 6-8 at West Point Elementary School. The mission of this “school within a school” is to provide an arts-enriched learning environment merging creative and academic content to enhance student achievement.

Cambridge Academy (Middle School)
The Cambridge Academy is an advanced academic program for middle school students at Marley Park and Countryside Elementary School. The program seeks to enable academically motivated students to prepare for success in future academic pursuits while obtaining a comprehensive view of the world.

Cambridge International (High School)
The Cambridge program encourages student-centered learning and hands-on application of skills. Students who complete the lower division, 9th-10th grade, Cambridge curriculum are set for success in a dual enrollment, advanced placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway for college and career advancements.

Dual Enrollment
Dual Enrollment opportunities are available to students in Dysart High Schools. Students have the ability to take courses in which they may receive credit in the high school as well as earning college credit. Dual enrollment courses are available through Estrella Mountain, Glendale and Rio Salado Community Colleges.

Advanced Placement (AP)
Advanced Placement (AP) is a program of college-level courses and examinations governed by the College Entrance Examination Board. Students who attain acceptable scores on the exams may qualify for college credits, advanced placement or exemption from certain courses.

Honors
Honors courses are designed to provide a more challenging course of study that fosters academic performance leading to successful completion of Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment and/or International Baccalaureate Programs.

Career & Technical Education
Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs prepare students to enter the workforce with the academic and vocational skills needed to compete successfully in the job market. CTE courses typically include competency-based learning.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
Canyon Ridge School is dedicated to the integration of science, mathematics and technology throughout daily instruction and interaction. Students gather and apply knowledge from multiple disciplines with particular emphasis on science, math and health supported by transforming uses of technology.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
AVID, an international program, is a four-year program for students who are capable of completing the most rigorous curriculum but are falling short of achieving their academic potential. AVID students are required to be enrolled in the school’s toughest classes such as Advanced Placement as well as enrolled in the AVID elective throughout their high school career.

International Baccalaureate Program
International Baccalaureate (IB), offered at Willow Canyon High School, challenges academically talented students to reach high levels of achievement in a broad range of subjects and allows two different participation tracks: IB diploma and IB certificate.
National Campus Champion
Dysart Unified School District was named a national Campus Champion for operational excellence by SchoolDude, the market leader in education enterprise asset management.

Best High Schools
Valley Vista High School and Shadow Ridge High School were named a 2014 Best High School by U.S. News and World Report, a nationally recognized publisher of education news and information.

Voices of Dysart
Learn the story of the dancing crossing guard, Steven Markowski, at Rancho Gabriela Elementary School.

A+ School of Excellence
Canyon Ridge School earned the A+ School of Excellence award, presented by the Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF), for the 2013-2014 academic year.

NAESP Principal of the Year
Principal Karen Winterstein at Sunset Hill Elementary School earned the prestigious 2014 Principal of the Year by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

More Bang for Buck
The Washington, D.C. Center for American Progress identified Dysart Unified School District as one of the top districts in Arizona with high achievement and a low-cost operations budget.
National Champion in Architecture
The Shadow Ridge High School Signature Architecture Program (SAP) is, for the second time, SkillsUSA National Champions for Architectural Drafting. The SRHS Signature Architecture Program is now the top-rated high school architectural drafting program in the nation.

Scan the QR Code to read more!

Excellence in Financial Reporting
The Dysart Unified School District Business Office led by Executive Director, Jack Eaton, received the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award.

Scan the QR Code to read more!

Unified Sports Team Wins National Tournament
The Valley Vista High School Special Olympics Flag Football team was undefeated in conference play and won the national championship.

Scan the QR Code to read more!

AEF Teacher of the Year
Mrs. Beth Maloney, fifth grade teacher at Sunset Hills Elementary School, was named the 2014 Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF) Teacher of the Year.
# The Dysart Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs or activities. For information regarding discrimination grievance or complaint procedures contact the Executive Director for Human Resources at (623) 876-7000.

## K-8 Schools

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<th>School</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<td>Ashton Ranch</td>
<td>14898 W. Acoma Drive</td>
<td>623.523.8300</td>
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<td>17359 W. Surprise Farms Loop N</td>
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<td>Countryside</td>
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<td>Luke</td>
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<td>Glendale, AZ 85307</td>
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<td>Marley Park</td>
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<td>Rancho Gabriela</td>
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<td>Sonoran Heights</td>
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## High Schools

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<td>Dysart</td>
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<td>Shadow Ridge</td>
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<td>Willow Canyon</td>
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<td>Sundown Mountain</td>
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