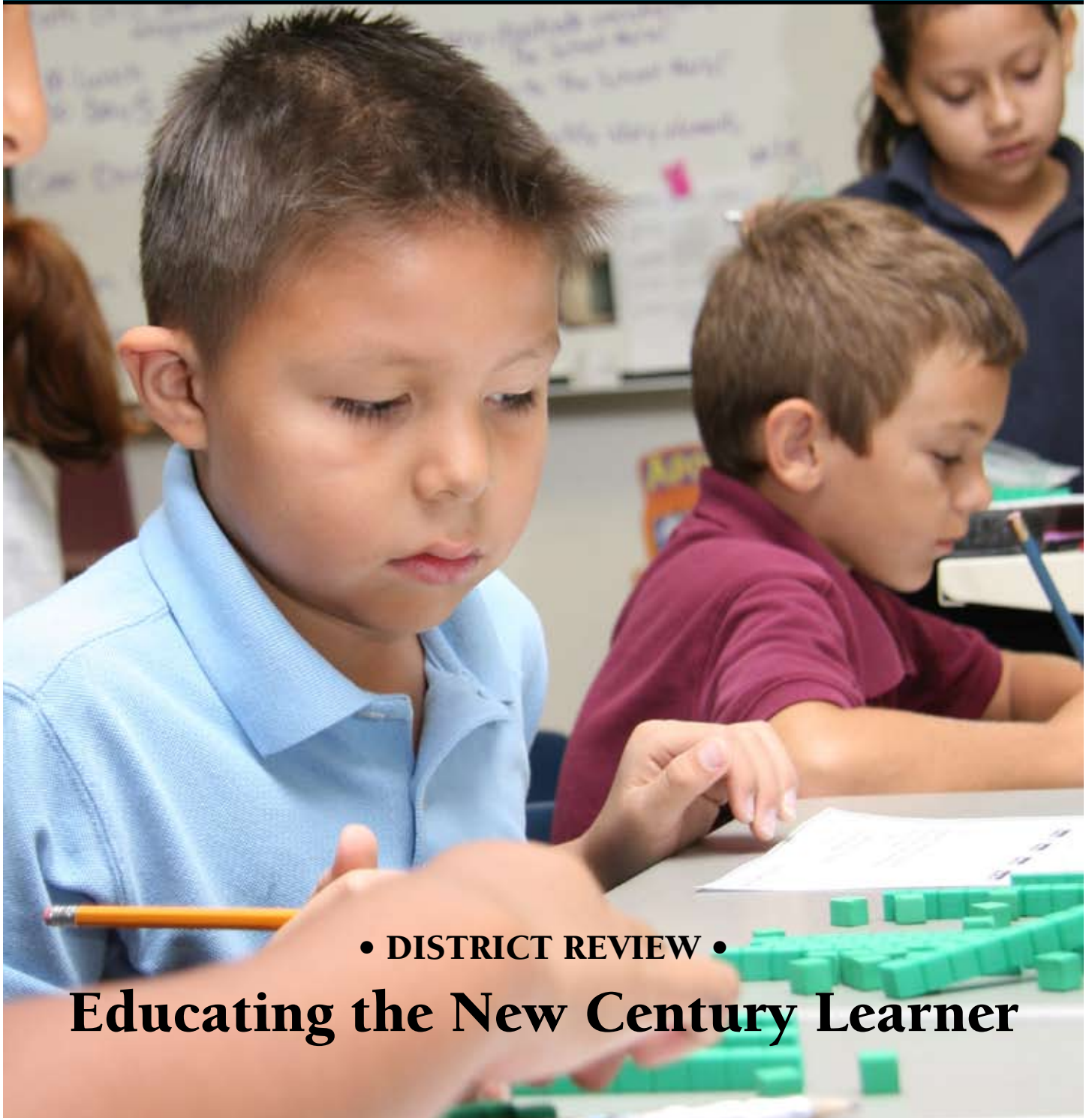


Achiever

DYSART UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 89



• DISTRICT REVIEW •

Educating the New Century Learner

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



A few years ago the Dysart Unified School District established a vision of being premier. Work began to identify the elements that needed to be in place to accomplish that. Retaining and recruiting the best teachers, staff and administrators; establishing a rigorous curriculum with effective assessments; and developing effective planning processes to drive decisions were a few of the components identified. In 2007, the new Governing Board adopted a clear mission and goals that focused on rigor, relevance, relationship and reflection.

As I moved from my role of Dysart's Assistant Superintendent to my new position as Superintendent, I was able to reflect on the strong foundation that had been built in this district. To continue moving forward with that vision of excellence in education, Dysart needed a road map. To accomplish that task we put in place a New Century Learner Initiative. This initiative established an advisory committee of business and community leaders, government leaders, representatives from higher education, parents, students, teachers, administrators and staff tasked with researching and analyzing information about what skills are needed to prepare students for success in the 21st century. Armed with this community generated 21st skills framework, Dysart will begin a strategic planning process that will result in a clear plan of action that will move Dysart forward as a 21st Century learning organization.

Dysart is a district with much to celebrate, but we recognize we still have much that needs to be accomplished. In this issue of the Achiever, we provide an overview of the state of the district for the 2006-07 school year and provide some of the limited information available for the current school year. It is clear from the compiled information that the hard work and dedication of our teachers, staff and administrators are making a difference for children. Additionally, it is clear that the support of our parents and community members contribute to that success. Providing excellence in education for all children today and into the future is what defines our school community. I want to sincerely thank all of the members of the Dysart School Community who are working collaboratively and providing support to our schools and to our initiatives. You make a difference in the lives of our students today and you are impacting the future.

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Gail Pletnick, Ed.D.
Superintendent

District Administration:
Gail Pletnick, Ed.D., Superintendent
Cyndi Miller, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent
Quinn Kellis, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Lynn Munier, Executive Director of Human Resources/Legal
Scott Thompson, Executive Director of Business Services

GOALS

The Dysart motto of “Increase in Excellence” expresses our intention to establish learning environments that move toward fulfilling every student’s potential with the belief that excellence results when everyone actively participates in sustaining the educational process, the community and family relations. To that end, the Governing Board has defined the new Rs of education for the Dysart Unified School District:




Rigor: To create a culture of high academic achievement and expectations for students, staff and community members.

Relevance: To create strong accountability systems and professional development for all District school employees that support a commitment to strengthening learning environments and facilitating the learning process.

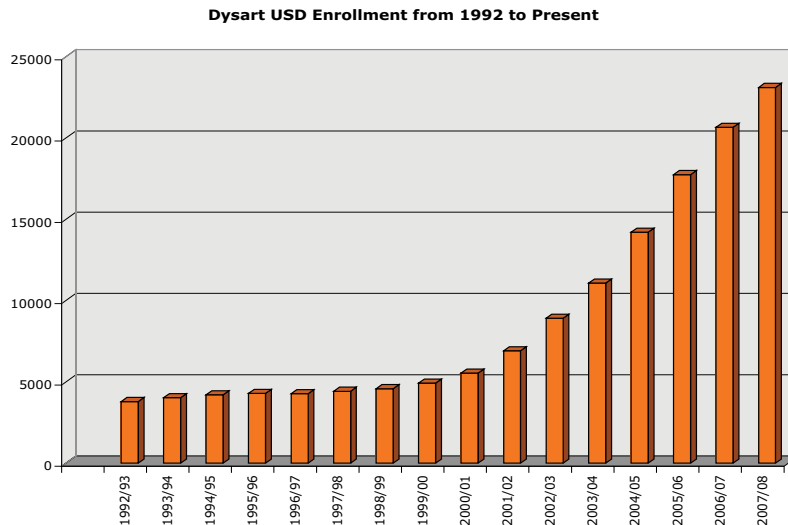
Relationships: To attract, retain and develop leadership across all constituencies committed to valuing the child and committed to a sustained and shared vision to drive student achievement. To create an open, collaborative environment that inspires trust, communication and teamwork that empowers each to contribute to the success of district goals.

Reflection: To create a culture that values data driven decision-making in order to adjust and modify our practices to enhance the learning for all students.

 **When you see this icon, log on to Dysart’s website to learn more.**

GROWTH

Dysart Unified School District has experienced unprecedented growth over the past decade. This graph illustrates the district’s rising enrollment since 1992.



THE BUSINESS SIDE

Food & Nutrition

- 2,426,846 lunches were served during the 2006-07 school year
- 654,820 breakfasts were served during the 2006-07 school year

Facilities & Maintenance

Dysart added 304,920 square feet of K-8 facilities this year

- This brings the total district facilities to 2,558,959 square feet, which includes 18 K-8 schools, 3 high schools, 1 early childhood education center, 1 alternative program and 1 district office, giving Dysart a combined total of 1,204 K-12 classrooms
- It requires 11,050 tons of cooling to air condition these spaces; an average home requires a five-ton unit
- Dysart maintains approximately 251 acres of landscaping, granite and ball field areas

Planning

- 1,341 new homes were built within the Dysart Unified School District boundaries in 2007
- Enrollment increased by 2,626 students from the 2006-07 school year based on 40th day enrollment

Transportation

The 2007-08 school year saw Dysart bring transportation operations back under Dysart management. Improvements to Dysart's transportation system have all occurred while transitioning from a contracted operation to in-house management. Some of the achieved extraordinary results the district has achieved include:

- Increase in driver pay
- Decrease in driver turnover
- Increased number of drivers
- Increased number of routes
- Improved on-time delivery
- Installed GPS on all buses
- Improved fleet maintenance

Information Technology

In preparation for the 2007-08 school year, the IT department readied:

- 375 telephones
- 180 wireless access points
- 700 classroom projectors and audio systems
- 1,800 teacher web pages
- 1,700 laptops

Finance

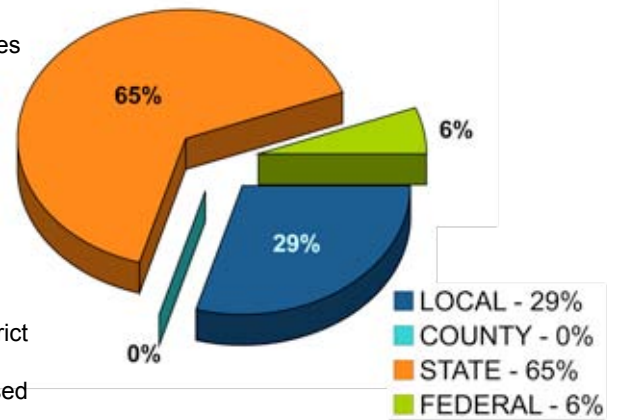
During the 2006-07 school year:

- Dysart spent more than \$300,000 on professional development for teachers and more than \$150,000 for non-teachers
- Dysart spent nearly \$68 million on construction-related projects

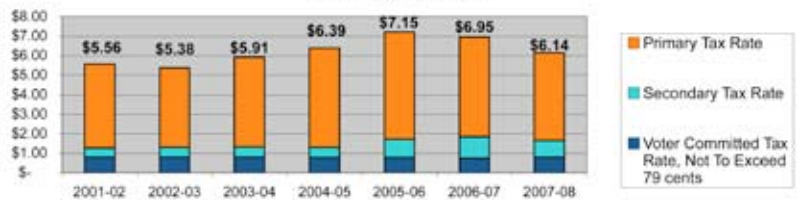
Dysart bonds rated A+

Fitch Ratings of Austin, Texas, assigned an "A+" rating to the Dysart's \$58.7 million school improvement bonds, project of 2006, series B (2007). Fitch also affirms the A+ rating to the district's \$95.4 million in outstanding general obligation bonds. Proceeds will be used to construct various district facilities and to pay issuance costs. The A+ rating reflects the district's strengthening financial condition and manageable debt burden. The district's financial results have been aided by an explosive tax base growth that was the result of the rapid pace of residential and commercial development in recent years.

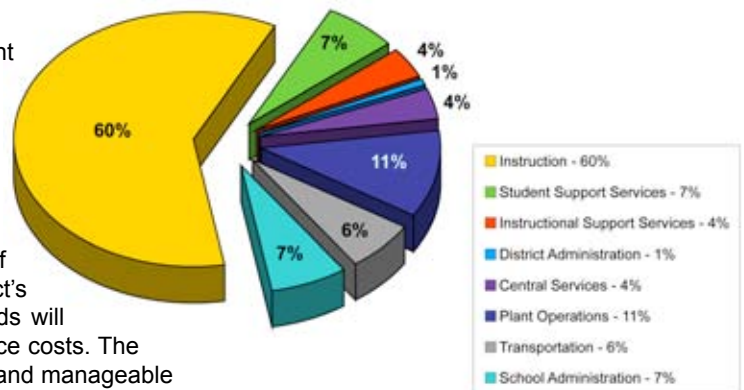
Dysart USD Funding Sources



Historical Tax Rates



Breakdown of M&O Fund by Amount



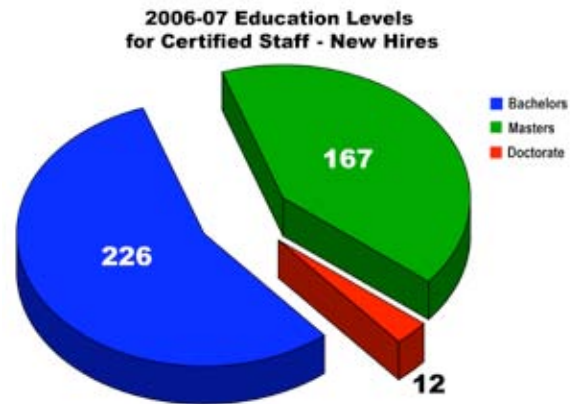
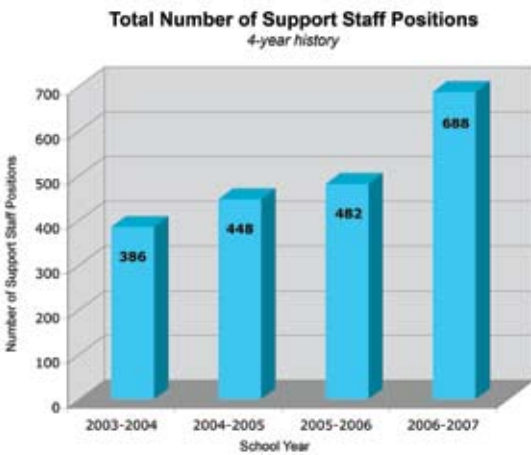
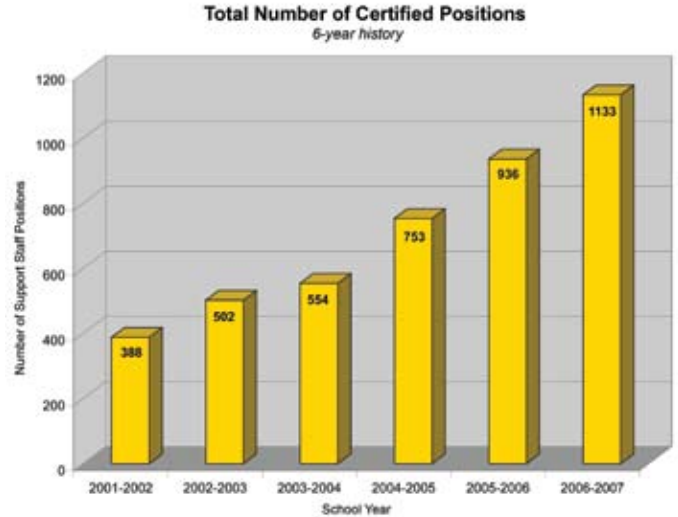
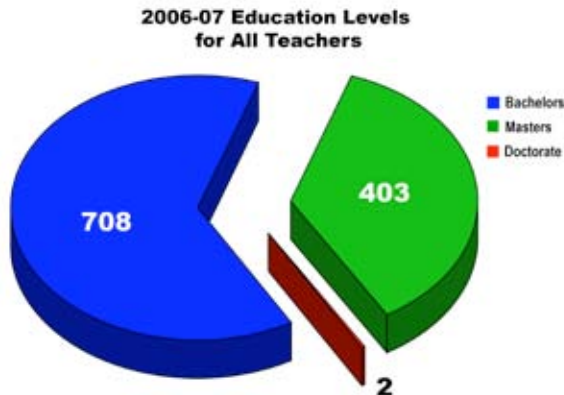
HIRING AND RETAINING THE BEST OF THE BEST

The Dysart human resources department is committed to hiring and retaining highly qualified as well as experienced staff. The two pie charts below show the education level of our staff providing services to students. The bar graphs illustrate trend data for two employee categories showing the growth in the number of positions over the past few years.

DEFINITIONS:

Certified or certificated: All staff members who provide instructional services to students and who may have Arizona Department of Education certification. It does not include positions that fall within the administration category. It includes teachers, psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and registered nurses.

Support staff: All staff members who do not fall under the certified or administration category. Some examples include: bus drivers, secretarial staff, receptionists and instructional assistants.



Highly Performing	Performing Plus	Performing	Underperforming
Cimarron Springs Elementary School Marley Park Elementary School Sonoran Heights Elementary School Sunset Hills Elementary School	Ashton Ranch Elementary School Countryside Elementary School Dysart Elementary School Dysart High School Rancho Gabriela Elementary School Valley Vista High School West Point Elementary School Western Peaks Elementary School Willow Canyon High School	El Mirage Elementary School Kingswood Elementary School Luke Elementary School Surprise Elementary School	Parkview Elementary School Thompson Ranch Elementary School

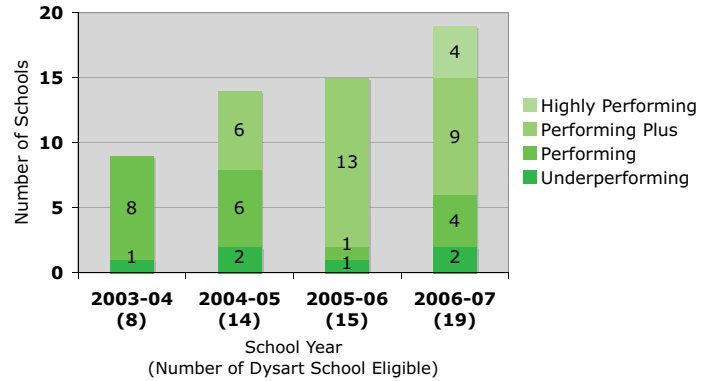
ACCOUNTABILITY

AZ LEARNS

Four Dysart Schools are celebrating earning an AZ LEARNS achievement profile of Highly Performing, the first time any Dysart schools have earned this high level of distinction. The profiles are part of a state accountability system to measure school performance based on student achievement, including student performance on AIMS. Dysart also had nine schools achieve the status of Performing Plus, four schools named Performing and two schools Underperforming. Canyon Ridge and Mountain View are newly opened schools, and thus will receive their first achievement profile next year. The graph illustrates the district's AZ LEARNS performance for the past four years.

Dysart USD's AZ LEARNS Profiles

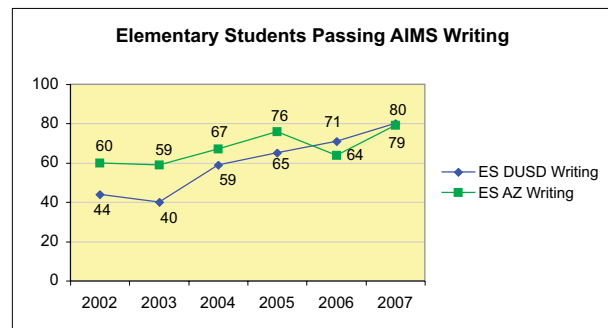
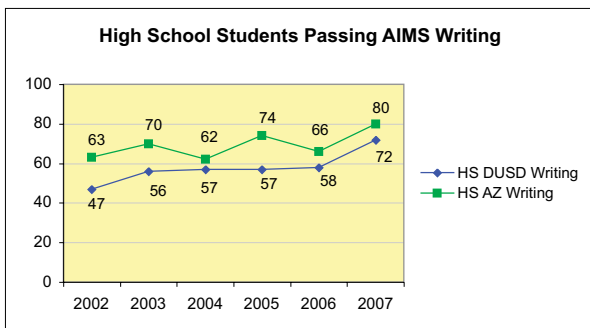
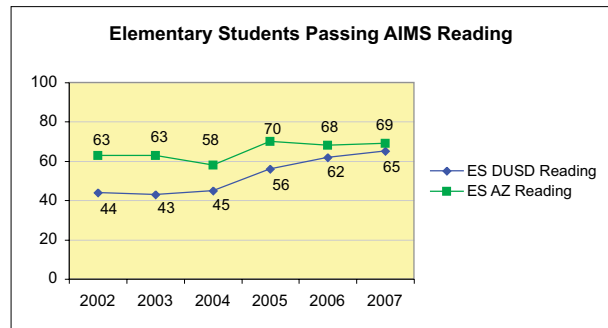
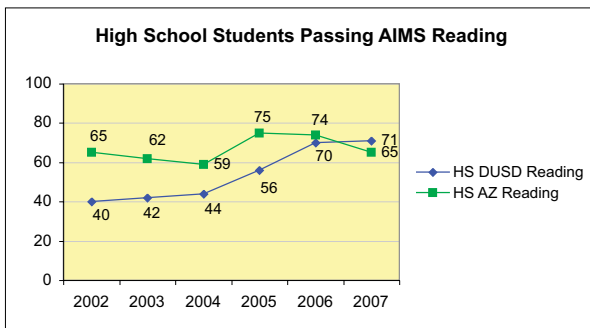
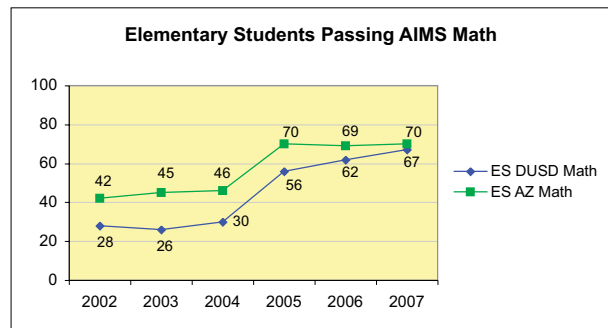
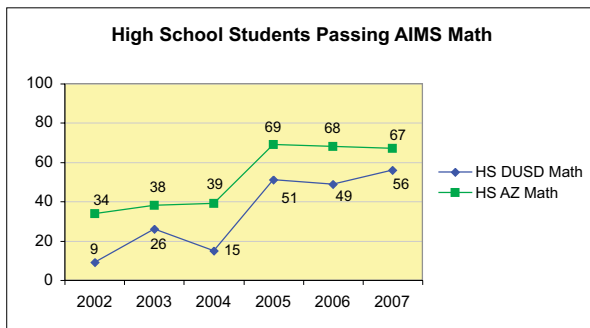
4-year comparison



AIMS www.dysart.org/aims

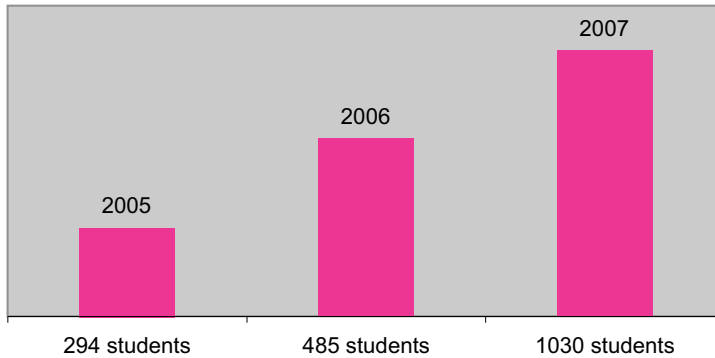
The Arizona Instrument to Measure Students, or AIMS, is a standards-based assessment required in grades 3-8 and in high school. Scores from the AIMS test are important information to help parents track the progress of their student and school.

These graphs illustrate the percent of students in the district and the state who are passing AIMS in each category. In this context, passing means the students are meeting or exceeding expectations.



EXTENDING EDUCATION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Before & After School Program
Student Enrollment



www.dysart.org/communityed

Sports

High School participation numbers by season:

Fall – 750

Winter – 615

Spring – 481

Elementary School participation numbers by season:

Season 1 – 663

Season 2 – 518

Season 3 – 528

Season 4 – 449

Clubs www.dysart.org/getinvolved

All K-8 schools offer student council, pom and cheer, baseball, softball, soccer, flag football, volleyball and basketball. Additional information about school-specific offerings can be found online.



Lifelong Enrichment www.dysart.org/communityed

As Dysart and Surprise grow, Dysart continually improves its ability to provide life-long learning and enrichment programs for both the youth and adults in its community. Class offerings promote fitness, personal growth, fine arts, recreation, safety, cognitive development and community awareness.



REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY



Councils www.dysart.org/superintendent

Dysart's drive to increase in excellence can't be accomplished without the support and participation of employee and community groups. To establish learning environments that help students fulfill their potential, Dysart leadership has undertaken several initiatives that bring the employee, student and community voice into the district's improvement efforts.

Committees and Work Teams www.dysart.org/getinvolved

Positive problem solving is accomplished in the district through shared leadership and collaboration among district staff, parents, students and community members. District committees and work groups were established and are working for a variety of purposes.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

Staff Success

- National School Boards Association's "20 to Watch" in technology – Laurie King, district educational technology coordinator
- National Schools of Character Promising Practices award – Valerie Nichols, Luke Elementary
- Dysart Teacher of the Year – Stephanie Bender, Willow Canyon High; Sharon Eshelman, West Point Elementary; Lisa Garon, Cimarron Springs Elementary; Michelle Love, Valley Vista High; Christopher Raso, Canyon Ridge
- North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement team chair – Dr. Quinn Kellis, assistant superintendent of educational support services; Dr. Cyndi Miller, assistant superintendent for academic services; Dr. Tammy Hall, Valley Vista High principal
- 2008 National SkillsUSA Architectural Drafting Championships judge – Scott Thomas, Dysart High
- 2007 Gary Dickinson Award for Teaching Excellence – Angela Kirschner, Thompson Ranch Elementary
- Association of School Business Officials "School Business Affairs" article – Canyon Ridge School
- A Day Made Better grant from Office Max – Penny Klapproth, Kingswood Elementary; Angela Dickson, Surprise Elementary
- Foundation for Fitness grant from McDonald's and the Arizona PTA – Surprise Elementary
- Readers are Leaders grant from McDonald's – Susan Ballew, Surprise Elementary
- Del Sol Rotary Club Teacher of the Year – Chris Kibsey, El Mirage Elementary
- Artsonia's leadership award – Erin Heidarisafa, El Mirage Elementary
- Arizona State University math and science teaching fellowship – Anthony Thomas and Paul Tennyson, Willow Canyon High
- Westside Impact mini-grants – Laura Smith, Marley Park Elementary; Jenny Olsen, Sunset Hills Elementary; Laura Sobelman, Western Peaks Elementary; Kimberley Thomas, Valley Vista High; Tracy Anderson, Countryside Elementary; Scott Thomas, Dysart High; Angela Smith, Sonoran Heights Elementary; Charlene Saltarelli, Canyon Ridge; Kristina Sorge, Dysart Elementary
- Dysart Education Foundation mini-grants – Lidia Goodman, Cimarron Springs Elementary; Jeana Caywood, West Point Elementary; Damon Barnhurst, Sonoran Heights Elementary; Shawn King, Marley Park Elementary; Holly Hanson, Marley Park Elementary; Sharon Eshelman, West Point Elementary; Emily Coyle, Dysart Early Childhood Education Center; Sarah Walker, Parkview Elementary; Jennifer Morris, Rancho Gabriela Elementary; Monika Krienitz, Dysart High; Julie Trent, Willow Canyon High; Cheryl Martin, West Point Elementary; Melodie Brewer, Canyon Ridge; Florence Speight, Canyon Ridge; Brittney Lee, Willow Canyon High; Julie Spindler, Canyon Ridge; Nicole Truitt, Western Peaks Elementary; Deborah Mehan, El Mirage Elementary; Connie Ferguson, district fine arts coordinator; Sulaiman Tokhi, Cimarron Springs Elementary; Darlene Roach, Thompson Ranch Elementary



Student Success

- National Merit Scholar – Elizabeth Meadows, Dysart High
- National Young Leaders state conference participant – Valarie Norton, West Point Elementary
- Building Tomorrow, Key Club International philanthropic trip to Uganda – Jason Bond, Dysart High
- Key Club International's Partners in Service award – Dysart High Key Club
- Robert F. Lucas International Distinguished Lt. Governor award, Key Club International – Josh Olive, Dysart High
- Deer Valley Jazz Festival excellent rating – Dysart High jazz band
- Foundations for Life state essay contest winners – Odeasha Robles and Angelica Valadez, Luke Elementary; Searnise Joiner, West Point Elementary
- West Valley Art Museum scholarships – Brandy Kerr, Sunset Hills Elementary; Veronica Nieborak, Countryside Elementary; Taylor Petkovich, Cimarron Springs Elementary; Aliyah Sanchez, Marley Park Elementary; Brooke Soctomah, Sonoran Heights Elementary; Courtney Sparck, Western Peaks Elementary; Ramee Yaghoub, Kingswood Elementary
- American Association of University Women, Northwest Valley branch, college textbook grant – Veronica Moreno, Dysart High; Amanda Henderson, Willow Canyon High

Competitive Grants Earned

- Reading First – \$1,035,058
- Gear-Up – \$859,631
- Counseling – \$391,867
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers – \$559,000
- AIMS Intervention/Dropout Prevention – \$480,072
- IDEA Response to Intervention Training – \$6,000
- School Safety Program – \$111,802
- Early Childhood Block G – \$335,327
- State Tutoring – \$118,190

FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD PRESIDENT

Educators are humble public servants. They measure success in small miracles.

Students and parents know better. Students and their parents know that behind every small miracle there is a caring professional educator making a difference in that child's life. We capture these small miracle moments when asking a child what they learned today in school. The excitement in a child's eyes and the tremor in their voice express the importance of a caring educator in their lives.

Whether a child is describing the successful navigation of a new social boundary, describing the conquering of a personal fear that hinders personal development, or describing reaching new understandings in their academic pursuits, a child thanks his or her hero.

Collectively, these small miracles in education lead to bigger miracles that ask us to reflect with gratitude and pride on a vision of academic standards and excellence that will transform how a person or community thinks about their Dysart School District.

Recently, the 2006-07 Arizona Performance rating for our school district was published for public review. The AZ Learns labels are the result of a state accountability system to measure school performance based on student achievement, including student performance on the AIMS test. The state's performance evaluation rating saw the Dysart School District make historical growth in academic achievement and excellence.

For the first time, four schools received a performance rating of a "highly performing" status. In addition, nine schools rated as "performing plus" schools and four received a "performing label." Our two underperforming schools will receive additional support in terms of personnel and instructional best practices guidance.

Our efforts take on new meaning as we push all our schools to reach the highest performance profile.

The sophistication of our voting populace is not naïve and recognizes that it takes risk taking and visionary leadership to continue our successful trend in raising the bar in how we define our academic expectations and standards.

Big educational miracles begin with relationships.

The historical academic growth in district learning environments is evidence of the strength of visionary and transforming leadership in guiding the relationships of collaborating groups that make up our school district.

This relationship begins with you, the voting public. You demanded a focused commitment to raising academic expectations and standards from our district leadership. You elected board members that accepted this challenge, becoming risk takers and change agents as academic leaders.

Through the authoring of an academic vision statement and the adoption of a new mission statement identifying new governing board goals and objectives, a vision of leadership is firmly in place to focus efforts on academic expectations and standards to the forefront of district leadership thinking.

Vision needs definition. At this point, we turn to district leadership. Dr. Gail Pletnick, Superintendent of the Dysart School District, and her leadership team takes the terms "Rigor, Relevance, Relationship, and Reflection", requirements found in our Governing Board Goals and Objectives, to put into place a data-driven decision making process that utilizes collaboration and shared leadership.

With this in mind, the Governing Board tasked Dr. Pletnick to convene a New Century Learner Committee, made up of business, civic, community, parent, and educational leadership, to start at the early age of kindergarten to define what a high school graduate needs to look like in the 21st century.

This committee, the New Century Learner, will in turn, report its findings and recommendations to a much larger Strategic Planning Committee that will continue the task of determining how our 21st century learning environments should feel, sound, and look.

The accountability of rigor, relevance, relationship, and reflection, defined in the Governing Board Goals and Objectives, demand that decision-making reflect logical, rational, and syllogistic thought processes.

These committees will ensure that the Governing Board's commitment to a collaborative process that respects the talents and opinions of all self-interest groups in our school district is met.

Definition needs implementation. Implementation occurs when vision and definition in academic leadership becomes practical in the relationship between your child and their teacher. The implementation process that involves the transference of knowledge from educator to child will create responsible complex thinkers able to be effective communicators with a passion for life long learners. In other words, 21st century learners.

This task seems daunting, but less so, with the support of individual and community partnerships and a strong staff professional development program. To paraphrase an old African Proverb: It takes a village to support a 21st century learning environment.

The stakes are high. Let us exalt our present accomplishments, but rededicate ourselves to the idea of graduating 21st century learners, that will benefit and give example to, our community's humane political and economic freedom and happiness.

To lead, a great district must command a synergy between its vision, how it defines its vision, and the implementation of this relationship between vision and action. If we can live up to the idea that all students can learn, no exceptions, if we can live up to the idea that it is our duty to develop responsible complex thinkers that are effective communicators with a passion for life long learning, then we will continue to make historical improvements in academic achievement and excellence.

Charles Otterman
Governing Board President



William Lipscomb



Bridget
Pauletich-Otterman



Charles Otterman

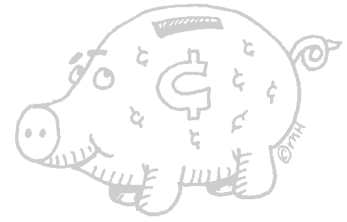


Michael Planeta



Christine A. K.
Pritchard

MEET THE GOVERNING BOARD



Arizona Tax Credit Contribution

Support local schools and receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit

Couples filing joint taxes may donate up to **\$400**; Individuals up to **\$200**

MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Dysart Unified School District
Attn: Tax Credit Program
15802 North Parkview Place
Surprise, AZ 85374

thank you

Dysart Unified School District No.89

Apply my tax credit to the following school:

K - 8 SCHOOLS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ashton Ranch Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain View School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canyon Ridge School | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkview Elementary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cimarron Springs Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> Rancho Gabriela Elementary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Countryside Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> Sonoran Heights Elementary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dysart Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunset Hills Elementary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Mirage Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> Surprise Elementary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kingswood Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> Thompson Ranch Elementary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> West Point Elementary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marley Park Elementary School | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Peaks Elementary School |

HIGH SCHOOLS:

- Dysart High School
- Valley Vista High School
- Willow Canyon High School



Name: _____ Social Security #: _____ - _____ - _____
(optional—for accurate reporting)

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Amount Donated: \$400 \$200 other: _____

I want to support...

- School may designate
- Enrichment Programs
- Athletics
- Fine Arts
- Clubs
- Field Trips

How did you learn about Dysart's tax credit program? (check one)

- Contributed in past years
- TV
- Newspaper
- ValPak advertisement
- Achiever newsletter
- Friend
- Other: (please explain) _____



"During our eight years in the Dysart District we went from being unsure of our educational path to being committed to the continued growth of the district. We have met many teachers and administrators who work hard daily to educate and mentor the students. We would like to let you know that we appreciate all of you."

*Jeff and Kristine Benek
Willow Canyon High School parents*

"We moved from San Diego, CA to Surprise...We know that we made the right choice to move here and we are excited to grow with the DUSD and to be a part of Sonoran Heights Elementary."

*Justin and Julie Tolby
Sonoran Heights Elementary School parents*

"They surpass many other districts in their caring for the students. What more can be said about this friendly professional group of well knowledge mentor type of people."

*Keith Williams
El Mirage Elementary School parent*

"The 2001/02 school year [DysartUSD] had 6,867 students enrolled and by 2006/07 there were 20,481 of

our kids in the classroom...Even with this phenomenal growth rate I have been pleased with my daughter's academic experience at Marley Park Elementary. I look forward to continued progress and success within the Dysart Unified School District."

*Amy Rae Mullins
Marley Park Elementary School parent*

"My girls absolutely loved learning about science and couldn't wait to get back to school to learn more. They have no worries of not liking the teacher that they will have in the fall because they KNOW that all the teachers are the best of the best!"

*Vikki Adams
Cimarron Springs Elementary School parent*

"My children are so excited to get up every morning and go to school. The teachers definitely love what they do

and it shows through their teaching and caring for the students."

*Teresa and Tom Casper
Dysart Elementary School parents*

"...the best thing about being a part of the Dysart Unified School District is the sense of partnership. As a parent volunteer, I feel a part of a team working together to insure the academic success of my community's future: our children."

*Deanna Gibbs
Sunset Hills Elementary School parent*



What they're saying about us...

Dysart
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Surprise, Arizona 85374

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