



# CHANDLER

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T



**2015**

**Be Extraordinary!**



# District Profile



Nearly 4,900 Employees

## Schools and Sites

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Elementary Schools       | 29 |
| Junior High Schools      | 7  |
| High Schools             | 5  |
| Alternative School Sites | 3  |
| Support Sites            | 5  |

## Students

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Student Enrollment    | 42,419 |
| Student-Teacher ratio | 23:1   |

## CUSD Employees

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Total           | 4,848 |
| Certified Staff | 2,521 |
| Support Staff   | 2,248 |
| Administrative  | 79    |



Today, CUSD serves portions of cities Chandler, Gilbert, Higley and Queen Creek, educating nearly four times the 1990 enrollment of 10,745.

- **Third-Largest District in Arizona**
- **Chandler's Second-Largest Employer**
- **80 Square Miles**
- **872.50 Acres**
- **4.4 Million Square Feet (Equivalent of 2,500 homes)**

**Enrollment expected to grow to 44,500 students in the next five years.**



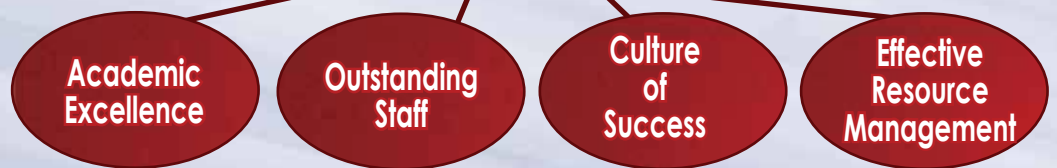
We have responded to growth by starting the construction of two new schools that will open in July. An elementary school on Power and Ocotillo and newly named Dr. Camille Casteel High School on Power and Riggs.

## Journey 2020

Journey 2020 is a strategic plan adopted by the Chandler Schools Governing Board. Its goal is to help make Chandler Unified a nationally recognized district of choice that produces ideal graduates.



### Journey 2020 Metrics 2014-2015



1. Students at all grade levels will surpass state AIMS scores in reading and math.
2. Students at all grade levels will score in the top 20 percent of AZ districts (1,000 or more students per grade level) in reading and math.
3. The percent of third grade students reading at grade level will increase (defined by meets/exceeds on AIMS reading) ARS 15-701.2.
4. Indicators for career/college readiness will increase.
  - a) Scholarship dollars
  - b) Service learning hours
  - c) National merit scholars, Flinn scholars
  - d) ACT/SAT/AP/IB tests
  - e) ACT/SAT/AP/IB scores
  - e) Dual credit hours
  - f) High school pipeline data
  - h) CTE followup/Military data
5. The student dropout rate will be maintained at or below 1.2%.
6. The four-year graduation rate will be at least 92.3%.
7. CUSD will maintain its market share (defined by increased favorability ratings on the community survey and student attrition).
8. CUSD will be an employer of choice (measured by staff survey and desired employee retention).
9. CUSD will be a district of choice (measured by the parent/community survey).
10. CUSD will maintain the percentage of dollars spent in the classroom in the top 10% compared to peer and state average.
11. Outside contributions (financial and in-kind) will exceed 2.5% of the general budget limit.
12. CUSD communication will be rated and A or B by 85% of the stakeholders (measured by the community and staff survey).

WHAT GRADE WOULD YOU GIVE CUSD? <sup>2014</sup> **92%**

As reported in the 2014 "A" or "B" Community Survey for CUSD.

# Academic Performance

Chandler Unified is one of only nine districts to earn the grade in all four years of the state's letter grade accountability program. In addition, all five high schools, ACP-Erie, Basha, Chandler, Hamilton and Perry earned an "A" grade.

## Our Mission

To provide students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

## CUSD 2013-14 Graduates

### CUSD School Grades

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| District  | "A" |
| Grade "A" | 26  |
| Grade "B" | 10  |
| Grade "C" | 4   |

The district's high schools have a 4-year graduation rate of 92.3% (State average 75%).



## CUSD Named No. 1 District

Chandler Unified has been identified as the No. 1 school district in Arizona based on data from 2015 Niche rankings.

## 11 Top 100 Schools

More than any other district in the State.

- ACP-Erie
- ACP-Oakland
- Chandler High
- CTA-Independence
- CTA-Liberty
- CTA-Goodman
- Fulton Elementary
- Hamilton High
- Perry High
- Riggs Elementary
- Santan Elementary

Hamilton was named the No. 1 neighborhood high school in Arizona. Additionally, ACP Oakland was the third-highest ranked school in the State.



CUSD's dropout rate of 1.2 percent is below state (3.2%) and national averages.

CUSD 2014 graduates earned \$90.8 million in scholarship offers and accrued 21,729 hours of college credit. Additionally, 54 attended the nation's top 50 universities, including three to MIT.

## State Testing

100% of all CUSD grade levels scored in the top 25 percent of Arizona districts of similar size in all subjects.



## Spring 2015 AzMERIT

Arizona's Measurement for Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching (AzMERIT) is a suite of assessments including English Language Arts, mathematics and writing. AzMERIT is aligned to Arizona Career and College Readiness Standards and seeks to measure a student's readiness for college and career in these subjects. The assessment advances expectations amongst students in Arizona public schools and encourages a higher level of rigor in content taught from 3rd grade through 11th grade.

## Key Points on Our Vision

- Our graduates experience success
- Our parents experience satisfaction
- Our staff experiences a sense of accomplishment
- Our community takes pride in CUSD

**NEW!**



# CUSD Achievement

## Academic Awards

### Flinn Scholars

Three CUSD students were named as 2014 Flinn Scholars, **Lindsay Chew**, **Viputheshwar Sitaraman** and **Jimmy Xu** of **Hamilton High School**.

### National Merit

21 National Merit Finalists hail from CUSD

## Individual Awards



**Basha High** senior **Samantha Bouchal** earned a perfect score on her SAT.

**Perry High** 2011 graduate **Alysha Green** of Arizona State University was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to Brazil for an English Teaching Assistantship, the U.S. Department of State.

**Chandler High School** senior **Briana Espinosa** graduated with 13 years of perfect attendance.

**Perry High** school freshman **Emily Woodward-Shaw** was awarded an 'AriZoni'! An award for theatre excellence (it is Arizona's version of the Tony Awards).

**Perry High** junior **Hannah Stevenson** was selected as a 2014 Young Woman of Distinction from the Girl Scouts of America.

**Perry High** students **Emily West** and **Kelsey O'Brien** were selected to participate in the 2015 U.S. All-American Marching band. They were two of only six in Arizona selected out of 1,300 applicants nationwide.

**Perry High** journalism program won first place for general excellence by the Arizona Interscholastic Press Association.

A team of students from the **Basha Accelerated Middle School** won first place in the Future City Competition where they had to build a model of a futuristic city. They competed against more than 100 teams in the state.

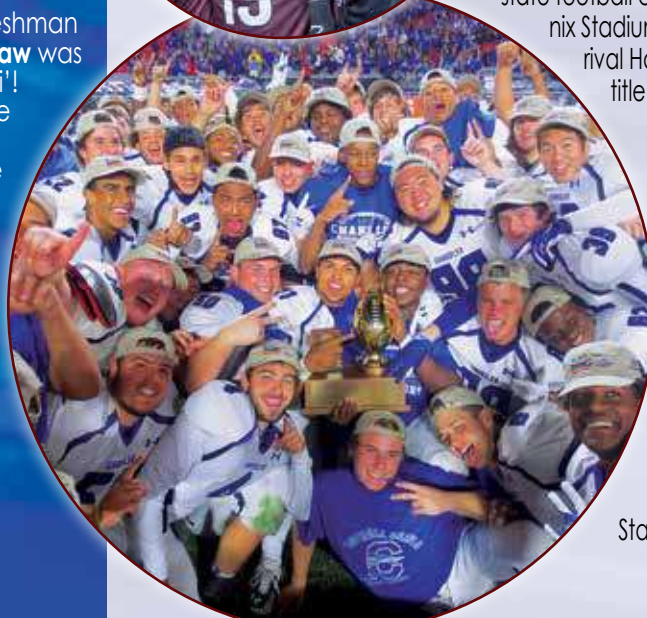
**Hamilton High** speech and debate team captured first place in the Bickel & Brewer/New York University 2013-14 International Public Policy Forum in New York.



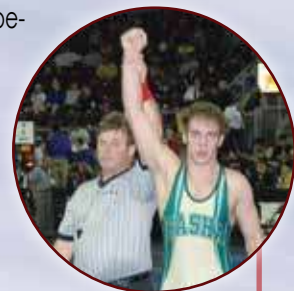
**Chandler High** girls track team won its ninth consecutive Division I state championship.

**Hamilton High** captured the Division I state baseball championship.

**Chandler High**, celebrating its 100th year, won the Division I state football championship at the University of Phoenix Stadium. The Wolves prevailed over their rival Hamilton, 28-7, to capture their first title since 1949.



**Trey Ronayne** of **Basha High** and **Dajour Reece** of **Chandler High** captured championships at the Division I state wrestling meet.



**Mark Jurek** of **Chandler High** captured state swim championships in the 200 Individual Medley and 100 Butterfly. Mark broke two state records and qualified as a high school All-American in both events.

**Hamilton High** boys golf team captured the 5A Division I State championship.



**Isha Paode**, a seventh grader at **Willis Junior High School**, won the regional spelling bee, besting 35 competitors from Chandler, Gilbert, Higley and Queen Creek.





# Achievement



**Basha High, Hancock Elementary and Tarwater Elementary** were named A+ Schools of Excellence for 2014 by the Arizona Education Foundation. CUSD schools have been named A+ Schools of Excellence or U.S. Blue Ribbon schools 66 times since 1983.

Chandler Chamber of Commerce named **Sonya Roche** of **Santan Junior High** the Educator of the Year, **ACP-Oakland** custodian **Miguel Martinez** Support Staff Employee of the Year, and Director of Instructional Services **Meg Gianesello** the Administrator of the Year.



**Hamilton High** teacher **Holly Kain** was chosen as one of the top 10 teachers in the state by the Arizona Educational Foundation.

**Haley Elementary** special education teacher **Amy Miller** was awarded the Coach Jesse Parker Legacy Award.



Chandler Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities selected **Basha High** special education teacher **Julie Mitchell** as the 2014 Educator of the Year and **Basha High** junior **Jaime Arias, Jr.** as the 2014 Student of the Year.

## Si Se Puede Recognition

**Lourdes Galindo** of **Frye Elementary**, **Kim Bratcher** and **Norma Meza** of **Galveston Elementary**, **Ascencion Alexander** of **Galveston** and **San Marcos Elementary**, **Yvette Rosales** of **Harford Sylvia Encinas Elementary**, **Kathy Mejia** of **Santan Junior High**, **Vidal Mejia** of **Chandler High**, and **Frank Narducci** of the district office were recognized as educators of the year by Si Se Puede.

**Chandler Unified School District's Chandler Education Television** and **Community Relations** program won three **Rocky Mountain Emmy awards** from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences at the Scottsdale Princess. They were honored for their work on historical documentaries outlining the early years of CUSD.



## School Awards

The **Perry High School "STEM Diploma Program"** earned a 2014 Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Golden Bell award.

The Arizona Department of Education recognized both **Chandler High** and **Hamilton High** as Arizona Civic Engagement Schools.

**Wesley Delbridge R.D.**, director of food and nutrition, was selected as a 2014 national spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.



**Basha High** Principal **Ken James** was named the Arizona Thespian Administrator of the Year for the Central Region by the Arizona Thespian Association.

CUSD excelled at the Arizona Science and Engineering Fair (AzSEF) with 108 students earning 75 awards. **Hamilton High School** was named the "Outstanding Senior High Division School of the Year." Additionally, seven CUSD high school students qualified for the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) **Kaitlyn Loop, Arizona College Preparatory - Erie, Tejas Dharmaraj** with **Manav Sevak, Chandler High School, Aundrea DeGravina** with **Shea VanSlyke, Hamilton High School, Rebecca Jernigan, Hamilton High School, Viputheshwar Sitaraman, Hamilton High School.** AzSEF is able to send 12 projects on to ISEF; five of the 12 projects sent were from CUSD.



# Financial Statement

**86%**

Of the school district budget is spent on salaries and benefits.

## CUSD State Budget Cuts

Due to the recession, the district's operating budget and capital budget have been substantially reduced.

### Yearly reductions:

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| 2010-11 | \$14,600,000 |
| 2011-12 | \$5,800,000  |
| 2012-13 | \$16,865,654 |
| 2013-14 | \$11,123,143 |

Only three other states spend less on K-12 education. Additionally, Arizona ranks last on school administration spending per year.

## Administrator Per Pupil Ratio

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| CUSD          | 1:105 |
| State Average | 1:67  |
| Peer Average  | 1:80  |



## Did You Know?

Chandler Unified School District has received a clean audit from an independent CPA firm for 30 straight years.

## 2014 Extracurricular Tax Credit

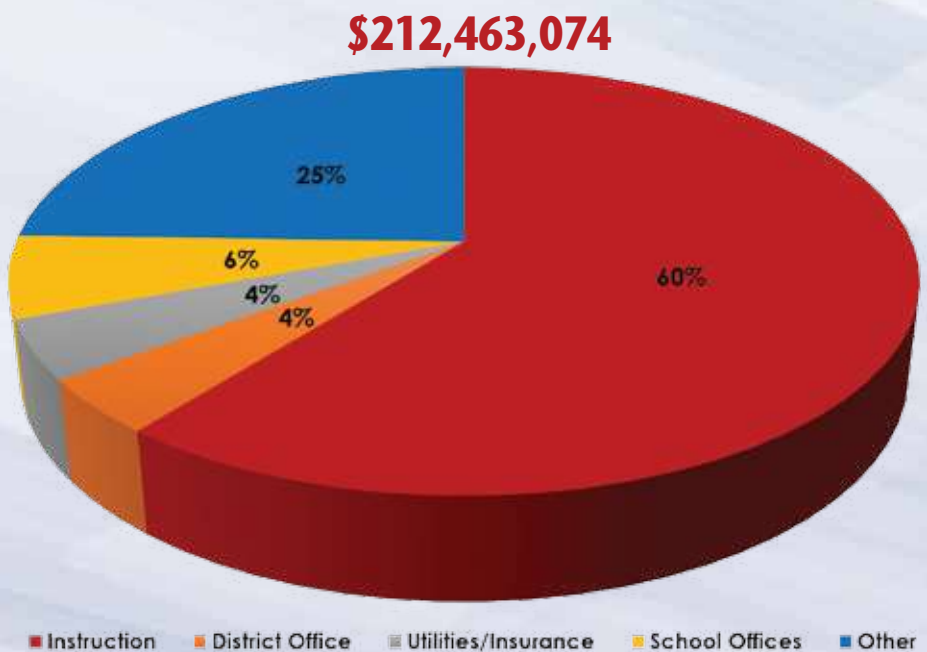
Staff, parents, and community members donated more than \$2.2 million to help fund a variety of extracurricular activities, ranging from fine arts to athletics and after-school programs.

## How is Budget Determined?

A school district's funding formula is determined by multiplying the number of student enrolled times the per-pupil funding set aside by the State. Districts also are reimbursed per mile for transportation of students. Voters can authorize a district to exceed the state funding level by up to 15 percent.

## Maintenance & Operation Expenditures: 2013-2014

The operating budget includes expenditures for salaries, benefits supplies, utilities, insurance, travel and repairs. The annual operating budget is \$212 million.



## Administrative Costs:

**4.09%**

The district spends 4.09 percent of its budget on administrative costs.

### School Finance Presentations

Officials are available to facilitate meetings for community groups about the district budget and property taxes. To arrange for a presentation for a civic organization, homeowners' association or employee meeting, please call 812-7650.

Thanks to the generous support of the community and conservative strategies, CUSD has been able to manage cuts without affecting classroom instruction. The district's budget priorities are to maintain or improve student-to-teacher ratio, recruit and retain quality staff, and provide meaningful technology.



# Financial Statement

## Why Does the District Sell Bonds?

During the recession, the State cut virtually all capital funds provided to build and renovate schools. In 2008 the district received \$25,000,000 in capital funding. Effective 2009 to present, the district has received no funding to build/renovate schools. We have an obligation to maintain the community's investments in our buildings and grounds.



**New K-6 Elementary School**  
22700 South Power Road  
Queen Creek, AZ 85298



**Dr. Camille Casteel High School**  
24901 South Power Road  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

## Thank You!

Students and staff have benefited from the community's support of bond elections in 2006 and 2010 and a 15% maintenance and operations override in November 2013. The district continues to grow approximately 600 to 1,000 students per year which requires additional classrooms, related technology, furniture and equipment. Funds have helped the district pay for a variety of important capital projects including new school construction and upgrades at existing schools.

## Did You Know?

District-wide maintenance is performed 24 hours a day seven days a week, to increase efficiency through fewer purchases of equipment and vehicles.

## By the Numbers Annually

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Payroll Every Two Weeks           | \$6.8 million   |
| Technology Devices                | 17,000          |
| Total Utilities                   | \$9.3 million   |
| Work Orders                       | 86,000          |
| Purchase Orders                   | 20,000          |
| Bathrooms                         | 837             |
| Camera Servers                    | 75              |
| Security Cameras                  | 780             |
| Printers                          | 1,234           |
| Package A/C Units                 | 1,898           |
| Buses                             | 220             |
| Support Vehicles                  | 165             |
| Miles                             | 2.5 million     |
| Fuel                              | \$1.65 million  |
| CUSD Nutrition Meals              | 5.5 million     |
| CARE Center<br>Individuals Served | 36,166          |
| Community<br>Education            | 11,924 Students |
| Facility Use -<br>Out of District | 42,000 hours    |
| Annual Operating<br>Budget:       | \$212 million   |

# LEADERSHIP

## Superintendent

Dr. Camille Casteel began her professional career with CUSD in 1971 as a first grade teacher and went on to become the first principal of Weinberg Elementary and associate superintendent, prior to being named superintendent in 1996. She is responsible for the day-to-day operation of Arizona's third-largest school district. Through Dr. Casteel's leadership, Chandler has earned a reputation for student achievement, fiscal responsibility, partnership with parents, staff, and community with all aspects of education, including joint-use collaborative efforts. She is currently a member of the Dignity Health East Valley Hospital Board (since 1988), East Valley Think Tank, the Superintendents Advisory for the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA), is a member of the ASU Polytech Community Board, inaugural Board Member for the Regional Health Record Banking Alliance, member of the Chandler Chamber of Commerce Foundation Board and member of the Board of Directors for The Alliance.



Dr. Casteel is a past Arizona Superintendent of the Year and the recipient of leadership awards from the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Tribune Newspapers and East Valley Partnership. The Governing Board voted on January 14, 2015 to name a new high school in honor of Dr. Casteel. In 2014, she was the recipient of the Arizona School Administrators Dr. Raymond Sterling Kellis leadership award. In 2012, Si Se Puede named Dr. Casteel the Administrator of the Year. In 2011, she was a recipient of a national Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award from eSchool News and was featured in Education Executive's July 2011 edition.

## Governing Board

Governing Board members are elected by the public and serve four-year terms. The Governing Board sets all district policies and has final authority over all school district business. The Governing Board welcomes the public to attend its meetings. Regular meetings are usually held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, beginning at 7 p.m. Study sessions are held, as needed, for the purpose of studying one or more specific issues in depth. No action is taken during a study session.

In December 2011, Chandler Unified School District received the Arizona School Boards Association's Total Board award for its members commitment to continuing education and training.

Additionally, Governing Board member David Evans was elected as the National School Boards Association Black Caucus Pacific Region Director in April 2013. David also served as the Black Caucus Founder and President for the Arizona School Boards Association 2011-2013.

## Meet Our Governing Board

Annette Auxier  
480-786-3544 • [auxier.annette@cUSD80.com](mailto:auxier.annette@cUSD80.com)  
*Term expires December 2018*

David Evans  
480-269-2688 • [evans.david@cUSD80.com](mailto:evans.david@cUSD80.com)  
*Term expires December 2016*

Karen M. McGee  
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*Term expires December 2016*

Barb Mozdzen  
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*Term expires December 2016*

Robert Rice  
480-963-0307 • [rice.robert@cUSD80.com](mailto:rice.robert@cUSD80.com)  
*Term expires December 2018*



*Left to right: Barb Mozdzen, David Evans, Karen M. McGee, Robert Rice, and Annette Auxier*

**Chandler Unified School District**  
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[www.cUSD80.com](http://www.cUSD80.com)