

Queen Creek Unified School District Community Report

Our Past, Our Successes, Our Future



*Learning is our #1 priority.
Make the right choice for your child!*



OUR PAST, OUR SUCCESSES, OUR FUTURE.

Welcome to Queen Creek Unified School District. We are very proud of the high standards of academic achievement attained by our students and staff. We are pleased to share the news that all of our schools earned "A" or "B" grades from the Arizona Department of Education; we are one of only ten school districts across the state of Arizona that earned a grade of "A" from ADE for the last three years, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013.

Our goal as a District is to provide a quality education with the belief that all children can learn. We are proud of the comprehensive pre-K through 12th grade academic programs that we offer to meet the needs for all of our students. We have quality programs in regular education, gifted, special education and early childhood, as well as offering career, technical and alternative high school services.

Thanks to the support of the Queen Creek community in passing our \$15M Capital Bond in November 2010, all of our classrooms have state-of-the-art technology. Every classroom has interactive boards, projectors, responders, and document cameras. These technology tools enable our staff to better prepare our students for success in the 21st century workforce. We feel very fortunate to have great support from our parents and community; we know this partnership is crucial to our providing an excellent education for students.

For more information about the Queen Creek Unified School District's academic success and financial integrity, visit us at www.qcUSD.org. Thank you for choosing QCUSD as your District of choice.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tom Lindsey
Superintendent

**Proud to be your Premier District
of Choice for the East Valley.**

REPORT OVERVIEW

Queen Creek academics page 3

Programs for all students. . . . page 4

Understanding school funding pages 5-7

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

In Queen Creek we are proud of our 'A' grade from the Arizona Department of Education. It demonstrates the high student achievement in Queen Creek Schools. Student assessment is a critical component in examining the quality of our instructional landscape. Each year, students at all Queen Creek schools are administered the AIMS (Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards). AIMS measures student performance in writing, reading, mathematics and science. The students at Queen Creek School District consistently rank among the highest levels of achievement and outperform all other school districts on the Arizona AIMS tests.

Queen Creek Unified

graded A

by the Dept of Education
for three consecutive years
2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13.

GRADUATION RATE AND SCHOLARSHIP DATA

District Graduation Rate: 92%

State Graduation Rate: 78%

\$3,050,000+ awarded in scholarships and aid to our 2013 senior class

\$1,700,000+ awarded in scholarships and aid to our 2012 senior class

Queen Creek students continue to outperform their peer districts on the AIMS test year after year.

All QCUSD classrooms have interactive smart boards, projectors, document cameras and student responders.

REPORT CARD 2011 AIMS TESTING

GRADED
A

Gr	QCUSD		STATE	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
3	90%	84%	76%	68%
4	93%	88%	75%	65%
5	90%	77%	79%	63%
6	90%	65%	81%	59%
7	91%	76%	82%	61%
8	82%	64%	71%	56%
9	Data not reported			
10	88%	71%	77%	60%
Total	89%	72%	78%	61%
ACT	23.5		19.7	

REPORT CARD 2012 AIMS TESTING

GRADED
A

Gr	QCUSD		STATE	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
3	90%	84%	75%	69%
4	91%	88%	75%	66%
5	89%	80%	78%	63%
6	91%	78%	80%	61%
7	91%	72%	84%	62%
8	82%	65%	71%	56%
9	Data not reported			
10	89%	71%	80%	60%
Total	89%	76%	78%	61%
ACT	23.4		19.7	

REPORT CARD 2013 AIMS TESTING

GRADED
A

Gr	QCUSD		STATE	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
3	90%	88%	75%	68%
4	91%	88%	77%	64%
5	90%	83%	79%	63%
6	92%	85%	80%	63%
7	92%	81%	85%	65%
8	85%	76%	72%	57%
9	Data not reported			
10	90%	72%	83%	61%
ACT	23.4		19.6	

95% of parents gave QCUSD an "A" or "B" in the most recent parent satisfaction survey



Queen Creek Unified School District offers programs and services to all students.

Queen Creek Unified School District offers programs and services to all students. Learning is our number one priority. Our schools offer a unique learning delivery model including K-4 elementary schools, 5-6 middle school, 7-8 junior high and one 9-12 comprehensive high school. The following are some of the highlights of the different programs offered to all students.

PRESCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Children between the ages of 3 and 4 years old have the opportunity to participate in several high quality programs including Coyote Plus, Kinder Prep 3 and Kinder Prep 4. The creative curriculum for preschools is used to provide a framework for quality learning experiences and skill development that will help prepare young children for kindergarten. Each program is taught by a highly qualified teacher.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Students at Queen Creek High School are offered a wide variety of instructional opportunities, preparing them for our ever-changing world and the skills needed to be successful. We provide a unique comprehensive educational program for all students. Some of the many courses include Agriculture, Audio/Video Production, Biotechnology, Child Development and Toybox, Computer Aided Design, Construction and Cabinetry, Culinary Arts, Design and Merchandising, Graphic Communications, Health Occupations, Journalism/Yearbook, Marketing.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Family Resource Center (FRC) provides a comprehensive variety of programs and services to the Queen Creek community. It assists families in need by connecting them to non-profit organizations and social services. The FRC provides Adult Education programs for G.E.D. preparation and English Language acquisition. The Adult Education program also provides pre-school classes for children of parents who attend those classes. The FRC also oversees the Migrant Education Program for the children of migratory workers. Services include Parent Involvement, Student Leadership classes, a Home Based Pre-School Program and Social Services.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Queen Creek is proud to offer lifelong learning opportunities by partnering with Chandler Gilbert Community College, Rio Salado Community College and Arizona State University to offer higher education classes in the Queen Creek community.

AP/DUAL ENROLLMENT

AP/Dual Enrollment: The AP program offers classes in Language and Composition, Literature and Composition, World History, US History, Government, Biology, Calculus, and more! The Dual Enrollment Program offers students college credits in English 11/ENG 110-112, English 12/ENG 101-102, College Math/MAT141, Pre-Calculus/MAT187, Calculus/MAT220, Advanced Biology, Marketing, Spanish 3/4.

ATHLETICS

Our Athletic program promotes sportsmanship and fosters the development of good character. Sports programs must be conducted in a manner that enhances the academic, emotional, social, physical and ethical development of student-athletes. Queen Creek High School is a "Pursuing Victory With Honor School of Distinction" and is recognized by Arizona Interscholastic Association. Queen Creek High School strives to teach our student-athletes positive life skills that will help them become personally successful and socially responsible.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Community Education Department at QCUSD is home to Discovery Kids (before and after care program), after school enrichment classes and Intersession Camps and Clinics.

The Discovery Kids program is a licensed before and after care program and is located at each of the K-4 schools in the District. With low staff-to-student ratios, it provides working families a quality program connected to the District curriculum and access to the District's state of the art classroom technology. Discovery Kids provides homework help, structured recreation, art, science and FUN! Programs are contracted with DES to provide financial assistance for families who qualify.

Enrichment Classes vary each quarter and are at each of the K-4 schools. Class topics range from LEGO to duct tape crafting and dodge ball to Karate. Over 800 students participate in these classes each year. Additionally, intersession programs offer a structured, educational and a fun all-day camp, half day speciality camps and clinics.



UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL FUNDING

The annual expenditure budget serves as the foundation for the District's financial planning and control. The objective of these budgetary controls is to ensure compliance with legal provisions embodied in the annual expenditure budget approved by the District's Governing Board.

HOW ARE SCHOOLS FUNDED?

Understanding Arizona School Funding - District Budgets

School district budgets can be very complex. A budget is not just a document full of numbers prepared by the business office, rather it is a working tool central to the successful operation of a school district. Budgeting represents an opportunity to plan a district's mission, improve operations and achieve a district's educational objectives.

Arizona school districts receive funding based on a formula defined by state statute, designed to help ensure that all children in the state receive an equitable educational experience. (See A.R.S. 15-901 for details.) The formula applies a rate to the number of enrolled students (weighted by grade) and then adds amounts for transportation, district additional assistance and Classroom Site Fund. Enrollment is adjusted to account for multiple schools that a student might attend.

The portion of the budget that accounts for most of the day-to-day spending is referred to as the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Fund. The majority of this fund is spent on salaries and benefits. The chart below demonstrates how each dollar is spent in the Queen Creek Unified School District.

Professional and Other Services 7.5%

Supplies 8.9%

Employer-Paid Payroll Taxes and Benefits 19.0%

Salaries 64.6%



FINANCIAL AWARDS

The Association of School Business Officials awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting to the District for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. The District has received this distinguished award for the past eight consecutive years. In addition, the Government Finance Officers Association awarded a certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the District for its CAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. Queen Creek Unified has earned this award for the past four consecutive years.



FINANCIAL REPORT CARD

Queen Creek Unified School District

The Arizona Auditor General's office assessed multiple district level measures that impact resources and financial management practices to determine financial stress for each school district. The financial stress assessment measures include:

- number of students attending
- operating and capital overspending
- voter-approved spending increases
- operating reserve percentage
- years of capital reserve held
- financial and internal control status

For 2012, QCUSD received a score of "low level financial stress."





The 2012 Override election failed, requiring a one-third M&O override reduction of approximately \$835,000.



VOTER APPROVED INITIATIVES

Maintenance and Operations Override

What is an override?

State law allows a school district to increase its M&O budget up to 15%, if approved by the voters of the district.

Have voters in QCUSD passed budget overrides in the past?

Yes. The first M&O override approved by Queen Creek Unified School District voters was in 2002 in the amount of 10%. In 2007, voters reauthorized the override. In November, 2012, however, the override election failed, requiring a one-third M&O override reduction of approximately \$835,000 during the 2013-14 school year. If this override is not renewed in November 2013, an additional \$835,000 will be reduced in 2014-15.

How has the reduction of the override affected the district in the current year?

The loss of approximately \$835,000 in override funding combined with the already significant reductions in state funding has resulted in unprecedented reductions in the 2013-14 budget.

Bond Authorization

What is the current bond authorization?

In 2010, the Queen Creek voters approved a \$15M bond authorization.

What can the District use bond funds for?

Proceeds from the District bond can be used for:

- Acquisition or lease of sites
- Construction or renovation of school buildings
- Supplying school buildings with furniture, equipment and technology
- Improving school grounds
- Purchasing pupil transportation vehicles

2013 Budget reductions due to override failure

- Reduction of capital budgets
- Reduction and restructuring of special education programs
- Reduction and reorganization of the Curriculum Department, English Language Learner Program and the data processing functions of the District
- Increased rates for collection of rental and utility fees
- 10 percent reduction of the supply budget District-wide
- Increase in pay-to-participate athletic fees for all junior high and high school athletic programs
- Staffing reductions in elementary music and physical education teachers, requiring teachers to travel between schools
- Elimination of Driver's Education program
- Elimination of student playground aides
- Transportation schedule changes, resulting in less bus driver expenses



WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

The District's funding can be broadly classified as coming from three revenue sources: local, state, and federal. The largest revenue source is the state, followed by local revenue (which includes property taxes), and federal revenue (made up of several grants of various sizes).

Arizona property taxes are divided into two categories: primary and secondary. The primary tax rate is one of the resources for the M&O Fund (see page 5) and capital funds. The secondary tax rate provides the resources for debt payments and the M&O Fund's override (see page 6).

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

The Arizona Auditor General's office issues a report each year that compares individual school districts to state and national spending levels as well as spending trends in instruction and six nonclassroom categories. Below is a summary of the general operating fund, capital projects fund, and grants funds expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.



Queen Creek Unified
School District spends
53.6% of each dollar in
the classroom.

Queen Creek Classroom Spending

Instruction: salaries, payroll taxes and benefits for teachers and instructional aides, classroom supplies

Administration: expenses associated with the superintendent's office, business office, human resources, administrative technology, and school administration

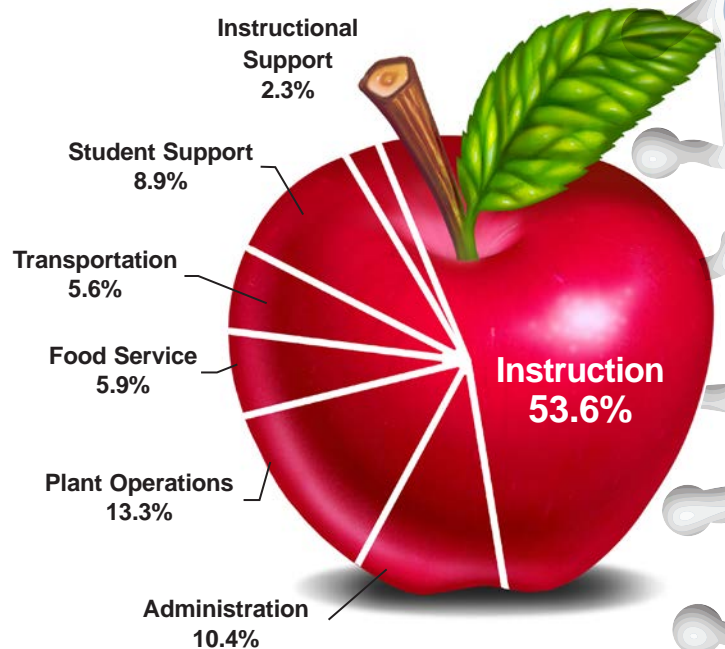
Plant Operations: utilities, equipment repair, groundskeeping, security

Food Service: cost of preparing and serving student meals

Transportation: cost of transporting students to and from school and school activities

Student Support: salaries, payroll taxes and benefits for counselors, speech pathologists, nurses, attendance staff, and social workers

Instructional Support: expenses associated with school libraries, teacher training, curriculum development, instructional technology



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The District and community have set an expectation of high standards for academic achievement and work ethic for the District's students and employees. Excellence is continuously reinforced as we prepare our students to develop their fullest potential academically, emotionally, and physically. Students, teachers, administrators, and parents all work together to maintain the high performance standards for which the District is recognized. On average, the District's students score above the state and national means on AIMS and Stanford 10 Tests in reading, language, and math.

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The Queen Creek Unified School District spans between the town of Queen Creek as well as south Mesa. Our District is located approximately 16 miles southeast of Chandler, AZ, near the junction of Chandler Heights and Hawes Roads.

THE QUEEN CREEK SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Queen Creek Schools Education Foundation partners with the community to promote excellent education and encourages responsible citizens by financially supporting growth and learning opportunities for teachers and students.

The Foundation awarded five teacher/classroom scholarships in 2013 totaling \$10,500. The Foundation also issues teacher grant programs to enhance the instructional program.

BOARD MEMBERS

The five elected members of Queen Creek Unified School District's Governing Board play a critical role in the formulation and approval of policies which guide the operations of the District. Each member of the Governing Board is elected to serve a four-year term. Governing Board members are unpaid elected volunteers. We thank our Governing Board Members for their countless hours of support and dedication to ensuring Queen Creek Schools are the best in the state.

Governing Board Members:

Del Caron Judah Nativio
Ken Braque Laurie Roland
Wendy Baggs

CONNECT

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MISSION:

To inspire and motivate students by teaching them the skills needed
for lifelong learning and service to their communities
as productive citizens.

VISION:

To be the school district of choice for the East Valley, recognized
for providing students a safe, resource-rich learning environment
that ensures academic success.

CHARACTER COUNTS SIX PILLARS:

Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship.



Graded 'A' by the Arizona Department of Education
At QCUSD, Learning is our #1 Priority!