

Good News from PUSD!

Strong schools make for strong communities. Our Prescott Unified School District schools support Prescott's positive community culture, help strengthen families, build future leaders, and draw qualified medical personnel and other professionals to Prescott.

However, sometimes people hear stories in the national media that are worrisome. Are our schools failing and falling apart? Are we teaching kids the right things? Is what you heard about that school in Connecticut/Kansas/California happening here in Prescott? These are all valid questions.

The good news in Prescott is that we have great schools that reflect our community's values and are among the most successful in the state. [Here are 5 things you should know about Prescott Unified School District:](#)

1. PUSD schools are the choice of the vast majority of families in Prescott. Arizona leads the nation in school choice, with more charter schools per capita than any other state. Heck, Arizona will give away over \$7000 in taxpayer money as an "empowerment scholarship" for not sending your child to school at all! With all of this, PUSD is a definite leader in "school choice." About 75% of Prescott's families choose our PUSD schools for their children. Prescott's population of children declines every year, but PUSD's enrollment has grown four years in a row.

2. PUSD schools teach Arizona state standards and skills in every subject. In addition to rigorous courses in math, science, reading, writing, and social studies, we offer courses in computer programming, business management, instrumental and choral music, physical education, military science, visual arts and animation, modern languages, drama, cyber security, life skills, digital media, and so much more! We also teach important "soft skills" and community values like responsibility, honesty, persistence, kindness, teamwork, and patriotism. People can always look up the Pythagorean theorem or the year of the Spanish-American War, but you can't look up how to be trustworthy or hardworking.

3. Our students perform among the best in the state on standardized tests. As a district, our English Language Arts scores are in the top 16% of all Arizona school districts, our Math scores are in the top 24%, and our Science scores are in the top 14%. Our efforts have earned PUSD top ratings from the AZ State Board of Education. Two of our schools earned a 'B' ("Highly Performing") rating, and our other four schools all earned 'A' ("Distinguished") ratings. PUSD is one of only 5 school districts in all of northern Arizona to earn an 'A' rating. Additionally, our PUSD preschools earned 5 out of 5 Stars from the very rigorous Quality First program.

4. Our PUSD graduates go on to great success in top universities and careers all over Arizona and the United States. PHS grads are engineers, doctors and nurses, civic leaders, soldiers, teachers, authors, business owners, and more. PHS graduates receive appointments to West Point, and the U.S. Naval Academy and Air Force Academy at among the highest rates of any high school in the U.S., with 10 appointees in recent years. The Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, Arizona Attorney General, both Prescott and Prescott Valley Police Chiefs, our current LD1 Senator and an LD1 Representative, and many other local and state leaders are graduates of Prescott High School.

5. **There are so many great things happening in our PUSD schools! Find out more** by visiting prescottschools.com, and clicking on our “Common Community Questions” section to learn more about how we support families and students. We also invite you to visit our schools! There is always a terrific basketball game or jazz concert or mock trial competition to attend. Or give one of our schools a call to arrange for a tour and see the great things happening in our PUSD classrooms, where we support “Every Child, Every Day.”