



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona State Legislature

Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17)

Senate President Steve Yarbrough (R-17)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Republicans Pass Budget That Raises Teacher Pay by \$1,000 Above Inflation and Invests Over \$300 Million in New K-12 Spending

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Speaker J.D. Mesnard (R-17) and Senate President Steve Yarbrough (R-17) this morning applauded passage of a budget that increases teacher pay by an average of \$1,000 and adds over \$300 million for K-12 education.

“Republicans in the Legislature and Governor Ducey have worked hard to craft a budget that reflects Arizonans’ top priority: education,” said Speaker Mesnard. **“This budget includes a \$1,000 raise beyond inflation for public school teachers, over \$300 million in new K-12 spending, a massive investment in university research facilities and infrastructure, and dozens of other provisions that boost education funding.”**

“Conservative budgeting over the past few years put extra money in our state coffers,” said President Yarbrough. **“With that, this year we boosted teacher paychecks, provided funding for school repairs and the construction of six new schools, targeted tens of millions of dollars to schools getting results, guaranteed yearly funding for university building projects and provided an additional \$30 million to repair our roads. We also delivered a broad-based tax cut and left the state with a structurally-balanced budget. I’d say the people of Arizona are better off because of this state budget.”**

Highlights of the budget:

- In addition to inflation and growth increases, directs \$68 million over two years for an average \$1,000 raise for public school teachers.
- Appropriates \$62.9 million for new school construction projects.
- Provides \$37.6 million for Results-Based Funding for K-12 education.
- Offsets the impact of Prop. 206 on the developmentally disabled community by directing \$45 million to the Department of Economic Security and AHCCCS.

- Demonstrates a commitment to rural transportation by appropriating \$30 million to the Highway User Revenue Fund.
- Appropriates \$27 million to provide debt service to allow universities to construct new facilities through bonding that could exceed \$1 billion in value in future years.

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