



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

Legislature Passes Budget That Makes Unprecedented Investment in K-12 Education

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Speaker J.D. Mesnard (R-17) and Senate President Steve Yarbrough (R-17) today applauded the passage of a [budget](#) to fund state operations for fiscal year 2019.

The budget makes unprecedented investments in K-12 education funding, including implementing Governor Ducey's 20x2020 proposal by providing school districts with nearly \$1 billion intended for a 20% raise in teacher compensation by 2020 without raising taxes. The teacher compensation funding is in the base level amount, meaning that it will be permanent, ongoing, and adjusted for inflation.

It also funds over a half billion dollars over five years to restore additional assistance to pay for classroom resources like support staff, textbooks, technology, school buses, and other expenses.

“The Legislature’s priority in this budget is crystal clear: K-12 education,” said Speaker Mesnard. “This is a fiscally sound budget that funds Governor Ducey’s 20x2020 teacher pay plan and begins to restore additional assistance – all without raising taxes. That’s an achievement that Governor Ducey and my colleagues in the Legislature should be proud of.”

“This is a proud moment for Arizona, its students, parents, and teachers,” said President Yarbrough. “The hard work we’ve done with budgeting in the Legislature over the past few years helped put us in a position to provide funding for unprecedented pay raises for our outstanding teachers, without raising taxes. I have said from the beginning of session that education was the number one priority for Republicans in the Senate, and this morning you’ve seen that confirmed. As our schools open their doors, teachers can return knowing that the Legislature heard their concerns and delivered the pay increase they deserve.”

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