



# Tom Horne Reports to Educators

Volume III, Issue II February 2006

## A Message from the Superintendent

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Teacher compensation: I have written earlier about giving highest priority this legislative session to increasing educator compensation. The following is a press release I issued on February 22nd.

### HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES \$150 MILLION PERMANENT PAY RAISE FOR EDUCATORS

PHOENIX (Wednesday, February 22, 2006) -- The House Education Committee this morning, by a unanimous vote of 9-0, passed a \$150 million permanent raise for educators. Proposed by State Superintendent Tom Horne, and sponsored by Education Chairman Mark Anderson and Representative Tom O'Halleran, the bill would provide funds to school districts to provide a permanent raise of \$2,500 for each educator.

Horne stated, "We have been working hard on accountability. We are holding our schools accountable and teachers accountable. We have added a new videotaped assessment in which all teachers will have to demonstrate efficiency in teaching in six years, or leave teaching. All of this will lead to increased student learning. But we must do something on the positive side to retain our highly qualified teachers and attract more talented people into teaching."

The bill applies to all educators statewide as defined in Proposition 301 and requires that the raise be given in equal amounts of \$2,500 for each educator.

Horne originally proposed a \$2,500 tax credit which would have been the equivalent of a \$3,500 pretax pay raise. When that failed to attract sufficient political support he proposed to substitute a permanent pay raise.

"With a budget surplus that is \$600 million more than anticipated last year, \$150 million is reasonable to request for raises for educators," Horne added.

"It is gratifying that both Republicans and Democrats supported this raise. This vote will be a major boost to achieving a substantial raise for our educators as the budget process proceeds," Horne stated.

Sincerely,

Tom Horne  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

### Did You Know

You can help support Character Education in Arizona by purchasing a Character Education License Plate!

The cost is \$25, with \$17 going to support proven and effective character education programs in Arizona!

Visit:  
[servicearizona.com](http://servicearizona.com) for more information.

Thank you for supporting Character Education in Arizona!

### The Month Ahead: March

*Key Appearances/ Speaking Engagements for Superintendent Horne*

March 10 - Sheraton Crescent Hotel, NBCT Leadership Conference Reception & Dinner (National Board of Certified Teachers)

March 13 - Paradise Valley Community College, Native American Advisory Committee

March 16 - Arizona State University, "Teaching About the Holocaust" forum- Opening Remarks

March 20 - ADE, Charter Advisory Committee Meeting

March 20 - ADE, Teachers Advisory Committee Meeting

March 31 - Erickson Elementary School, Tucson Academic Pep Rally

## Clarification between State Certification and NCLB Highly Qualified

There has been some confusion regarding requirements for state certification and NCLB highly qualified regulations.

To be **appropriately certified** for their primary teaching assignment, teachers in grades 7 through 12 must have the subject area(s) of demonstrated proficiency on their state teaching certificate. R7-2-607. J *“Teachers in grades 7 through 12 whose primary assignment is in an academic subject required pursuant to R7-2-302 shall demonstrate proficiency by passing the appropriate subject area portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment. The subject areas of demonstrated proficiency shall be specified on the certificate. If a proficiency assessment is not offered in a subject area, an approved area shall consist of a minimum of 24 semester hours of courses in the subject.”*

To be highly qualified, a teacher must

- hold a bachelor’s degree, AND
- hold a valid Arizona state certificate – intern, provisional, or standard (charter school teachers are exempt from this requirement) – Special Education teachers must be appropriately certified for the Special Education area in which they teach, AND
- meet one of the following requirements:
  - o pass the AEPA Subject Knowledge Test (AEPA Social Studies exam excluded), OR
  - o hold an advanced degree in the core academic subject area, OR
  - o hold National Board Certification in the core academic subject area, OR
  - o have at least 24 credit hours in the core academic subject area, OR
  - o earn a minimum of 100 points on the AZ HOUSSE rubric for this core academic subject – all teaching, coursework, and professional development must be in the core academic subject area.

NOTES: **7-12 Social Studies:** The AEPA Social Studies exam allows a teacher to be **appropriately certified** to teach any of the core academic social studies classes. However, teachers in grades 9 through 12 **cannot use that exam to be highly qualified** in history, geography, government/civics, or economics. The specific AEPA exams for those subjects are the only ones accepted under NCLB guidelines.

**9-12 Science:** Because Arizona does not offer an AEPA Science exam, but instead offers AEPA Chemistry, AEPA Physics, science teachers must show that they are NCLB **highly qualified in those discrete subject areas** if those are their teaching assignments. However, teachers can have general science added to their state certification as an approved area if they have 12 hours of physical science and 12 hours of life science until such time as there is an AEPA General Science exam.

In our annual report to the USDOE, we must report the number classes taught by highly qualified teachers and the number of classes taught by out-field teachers – teachers who are not highly qualified in that subject area.

**There is no statute – either state or federal – that requires a district to dismiss a teacher who is inappropriately certified or not highly qualified.**

### SEI Endorsement

By August 31, 2006, teachers, superintendents, supervisors, and principals must obtain the provisional Structured English Immersion (SEI) endorsement. The provisional SEI endorsement is 15 clock hours of professional development or one semester hour from an institute of higher learning. The training for the SEI endorsement must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Since provisional endorsements are valid for three years and are non-renewable, the additional 45 clock hours, or three semester hours, must be obtained by August 31, 2009. The full SEI endorsement is a total of 60 clock hours or four semester hours.

[Click here to visit our Teacher Certification website!](#)



# Celebrating Education

Washington Elementary School District recently honored two teachers who earned National Board Certification (NBC), an advanced teaching credential that is the highest level of distinction a classroom teacher can achieve. Katherine Salamone, first grade teacher at Sunnyslope Elementary, and Joy McCain, reading teacher at Shaw Butte Elementary, join 17 other WESD teachers who have previously achieved National Board Certification. Katharine and Joy were two of 34 in Arizona to receive certification this year and among 7,289 teachers nationwide.



Director of Professional Development Maggie Westhoff, Sunnyslope Principal Lori Ritz and Superintendent Dr. Susan J. Cook (l to r) congratulate Sunnyslope teacher Katherine Salamone on her accomplishment.



Superintendent Dr. Susan J. Cook congratulates Joy McCain on her achievement at the recent Governing Board Good News meeting.



[The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program](#) is a federally funded program for high school graduates who show academic excellence and the promise of continued postsecondary education. A Byrd Scholar receives \$1,500 for each academic year for a maximum of four years to be applied toward undergraduate study at any accredited college or university in the United States. The number of scholarships awarded each year is subject to change due to funding. Interested students must contact the principal or their high school counselor regarding possible nomination to the program.

#### Eligibility

- >Be a graduating senior from a public or private high school with outstanding academic achievements or have received a recognized equivalent of a high school diploma (GED)
- >Be a United States citizen or have evidence from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services that he or she is a permanent resident
- >Be a resident of Arizona
- >Have applied or been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education as a full time student

Got a story idea, picture or celebration?

We'd love to hear from you!

Email us at:

[ADENews@ade.az.gov](mailto:ADENews@ade.az.gov)

## Tribulations and Triumphs

Spotlight on Success 2005 Winner - Best Practices

### MESQUITE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mesquite Elementary School is located in Tucson, Arizona where we excel in "Bell to Bell Learning". As you enter Mesquite, you will see the bridge that leads to our school, which represents our school motto, "Bridge to the Past, Branch to the Future".

The school attendance boundaries include students from a neighborhood known as Rita Ranch. Our population is made up of students from households ranging from stay at home parents to two income families needing both before and after school child care. Many of our students come from military families, as we are located near Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Mesquite currently serves 575 students, grades Kindergarten through eighth grade.

Mesquite is a Standards Based Instruction school. Teachers design a curriculum map of the state standards and use it to guide their instruction of the standards, assuring that they teach what is necessary in the school year. Each grade level meets weekly with their team to "Unwrap the Standards" which is a collaboration of ideas, materials, resources, and teaching strategies. We focus specifically on the reading and math standards in these brainstorming sessions. Formative test questions are written based on the state standards being taught. All teachers recognize that the state standards are the root of all our instruction.

Quarterly Benchmark assessments are given to all students in second through eighth grade. All Benchmark assessments are aligned to the Arizona State Academic Standards required for AIMS testing. Once the data is received for the quarterly Benchmark, teachers determine the performance of each student, each class and each grade level. The data from the Benchmarks are analyzed to determine which students are Meeting the Standards, Approaching the Standards, and Falling Far Below the Standards. This data allows us to determine the effectiveness of the curriculum and instruction implemented in the classroom. Based on quarterly data, teachers are able to modify their instruction to increase student achievement. Benchmark assessments provide immediate feedback.

Teachers are instructed in the Essential Elements of Instruction, best practices in classroom management, Standards Based Instruction, Balanced Literacy, and the Vail philosophy of high expectations for all students. Continuity is evident in our staff's teaching methods and written lesson plans.

Our school wide program, "Bell to Bell Learning", received the 2005 Golden Bell Award presented by the Arizona School Boards Association. In order to achieve our goal of effective instruction, we are committed to using every available minute of teaching time. Our commitment led to the implementation of a school-wide philosophy and culture of "Bell to Bell Learning." "Bell to Bell Learning" is a time on task/student engagement program created by the staff of Mesquite Elementary. It utilizes the research-based principle that classroom instructional practices and student active participation have the largest impact on student achievement while other factors such as school or student demographics have the lowest. Our school wide motto, "We Excel in Bell to Bell Learning," is supported by parents, community, staff and students. We all focus on minimizing interruptions to instruction and learning, while maximizing our learning opportunities and teaching time. This has resulted in an observable increase in student achievement.

**Congratulations Mesquite Elementary School!**

*Photo of  
the Month*



Superintendent Horne and ADE staff participate in the first annual Character Challenge 6K Run/Walk on February 12, 2006.

