



*Annual Report* **2017**  
CHANDLER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

***The Premier District of Choice***

# We are Chandler Unified

With a large student body from diverse cultures and backgrounds, we are challenged to empower all students to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens. Our solution is to offer a wealth of educational choices, preparing each child with the right skills to pursue their dreams. By practicing collaboration with equity, integrity and efficiency, CUSD is committed to a bright future for our children and a respectful community for our stakeholders.



## THRIVING

Despite projections of minor growth (or even a reduction), student enrollment leapt to **44,500** students this past fall, up by 1,200 students from the last year.

## DIVERSE

Attending Chandler schools are **8,144** non-native English speakers. We have students fluent in: Pashto, Finnish, Cantonese, Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, German, Greek, and Bengali just to name a few.



## COMMUNITY PARTNER

As a trusted community partner, CUSD works with municipalities and businesses throughout its 80 square miles. We are the **second-largest employer** in Chandler, making us an economic driver for the community. Collaborations with Chandler, Gilbert and Queen Creek have also expanded access of recreational facilities and libraries to local citizens.

## TRUSTED

A survey of the Chandler community indicates **96%** of our parents would give CUSD a grade of "A or B."

## RECOGNIZED

Chandler Schools have been consistently recognized with the Arizona Education Foundation *A+ Schools of Excellence* and *National Blue Ribbon* awards. CUSD received these awards **74** times since 1983. This year, three of our schools were named A+ Schools of Excellence: Andersen Jr. High, Riggs Elementary and San Marcos Elementary.

## SUCCESSFUL

Our high schools have a four-year graduation rate of **92.2%**. Though our dropout rate is a low one percent, we're continuously working toward zero.

## COMMITTED

As part of our commitment to quality, we strive to maintain a student-teacher ratio of **24:1**.

## ACHIEVING

Our 2015-16 graduates earned:

- **\$118,777,315** in scholarships
- **29,193 hours** of college credit (AP, Dual Credit, College-Level Testing)
- **103,957 hours** of service learning

## *The Premier District of Choice*

Consistently recognized with state and national honors, Chandler Unified has proven itself as an undisputed leader in education. At the center of our success is a long-term strategic plan, which identifies specific objectives and a course of action to achieve them. In a continuing effort to clarify and optimize, the Governing Board used stakeholder input to refine its former direction into the current *Journey 2025* plan.

**EXCELLENCE • COLLABORATION • EQUITY • INTEGRITY • EFFICIENCY**



# Achievements

Chandler Unified's reputation for excellence in education is backed by numerous awards and accolades, many on a state and national level. Families feel confident choosing Chandler schools because of our proven track record.

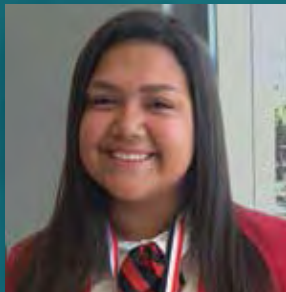
## Academic Achievement

Gabrielle Enns and Nicholas Johnson (Chandler High) both earned a **perfect composite score** of 36 on the **ACT**, putting them among less than one-tenth of 1% of all test takers. Both Chandler High seniors are also National Merit semifinalists.



Chandler schools dominated the **Arizona Science and Engineering Fair**. Knox Gifted Academy won **Best of Fair** for the Elementary Division and Hamilton High won **Best of Fair** for the Senior Division. As well, Aryasp Nejat from Hamilton High won fourth place in Microbiology for the International Science and Engineering Fair awards.

Sara Jones from Perry High was selected to represent Arizona in the **U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize** competition. The Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) is the world's most prestigious youth award for a water-related science project, addressing current and future water challenges.



Basha High student Rylee Williams placed **first in the nation** in her category at the **FCCLA Nationals** in San Diego, CA.

ACP Erie senior McKenna Loop was selected as a **2016 Future Innovator of the Year** by a committee including members of the Arizona Council of Engineering and Scientific Associations. She was also recently accepted to Stanford University.

Casteel High's Dolce Choir received the highest honor, **Superior With Distinction**, at the **Arizona Choral Educators Festival** in Tucson. Mrs. Cami Clausen directs the choir's eighth, ninth and tenth-grade students.

Nine Hamilton High students competed in the **Arizona State Junior Science and Humanities Symposium** and won the **top three spots**. Dhruv Iyer won first place, Ritika Bharati won second place and Rahul Ramesh won third place. Sachin Konan also made it to the finals.

Hamilton High won the **regional Academic Decathlon**. The competition involves 18 schools, 162 contestants, and more than 200 student and adult volunteers.

Hamilton High teacher Mike Lisi led his students (Ron Dorfman, Octavio Chavez, Israel Chacon and Seydi Shekhune) to place first in the state for a third year in the **Arizona Council on Economic Education's Stock Market Game**.





ACP Erie junior Bryson Gregory was crowned the **AIA Individual State Chess Champion** in November. Bryson was co-state champion last year.

For the fourth year in a row, Perry High students participated in the **All-American Marching Band**. Marianne Cayer, Brandon Hermreck and Tatiana Kapos received an all-expenses paid trip to San Antonio, Texas to perform halftime in the 2017 All-American Bowl Game. Only ten students were selected from Arizona this year, out of 125 nationwide.



## Staff Achievement



After a two-year process, Basha High teacher Dr. Michael McKelvy was a recipient of the prestigious **Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**. McKelvy teaches Science is Fun, AP Chemistry, and Honors Science Research. This is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through twelfth grade mathematics or science teacher can receive in the United States. Additionally, Deepa Iyer, Knox Gifted Academy sixth grade teacher, was selected as a state finalist for the award, qualifying her for the national competition.

The National Association of Special Education Teachers selected Haley Elementary's Amy Miller as one of the winners of the **2016 Outstanding Special Education Teacher** award for demonstrating truly exceptional achievement.

The Arizona Council on Economic Education named Rhea Steyer (Santan Junior High) the **2016 Economic Education Teacher of the Year**.



Basha High teacher Sharon Metzger has been named the **Arizona State CTE Teacher of the Year**.

Jena Phillips of Bogle Junior High and Lori Lyford of Chandler High were finalists for the **2017 Ambassadors for Excellence** and **Arizona Teacher of the Year**.



**Si Se Puede** recognized three from CUSD: Jeff Delp of Willis Junior High (Administrator of the Year), Violet Nelson of Chandler High (Secondary Educator of the Year) and Chris Nguyen (Elementary Educator of the Year) from Hartford Sylvania Encinas.



Wendy Meador at Navarrete Elementary won the **AAA Arizona's Crossing Guard of the Year**. She was presented with a plaque and \$500 awards for both herself and her school.

The **Chandler Chamber of Commerce** recognized Michael Buist and Jennifer Nusbaum, both fifth grade teachers at Knox Gifted Academy, as **Co-Educators of the Year**. Barbara Kowalinski, principal at Santan Junior High, was named **Administrator of the Year**, and Michael Watson of the District Office was named **Support Staff Employee of the Year**.



# Achievements

## Athletic Achievement

Arizona 6A football champion team Chandler High defeated Valdosta (the Georgia 6A champion) 44-24 in the **GEICO State Champions Bowl Series**.

Hamilton High won the **boys soccer** Division I **state title**.

Cade Burks won the **1600 meter in track and field** becoming Perry High's first **state champion** since the school became Division I.

Coach Trevor Neider led the Hamilton High Huskies **girls basketball** team to the Division I **state championship**. Hamilton defeated Mesquite, 56-46.

Chandler High girls and boys track teams are Division I **state track and field champions**.

Hamilton High won its **fifth baseball state championship** since 2003 by defeating Glendale Mountain Ridge, 12-3, in the Division I title game.

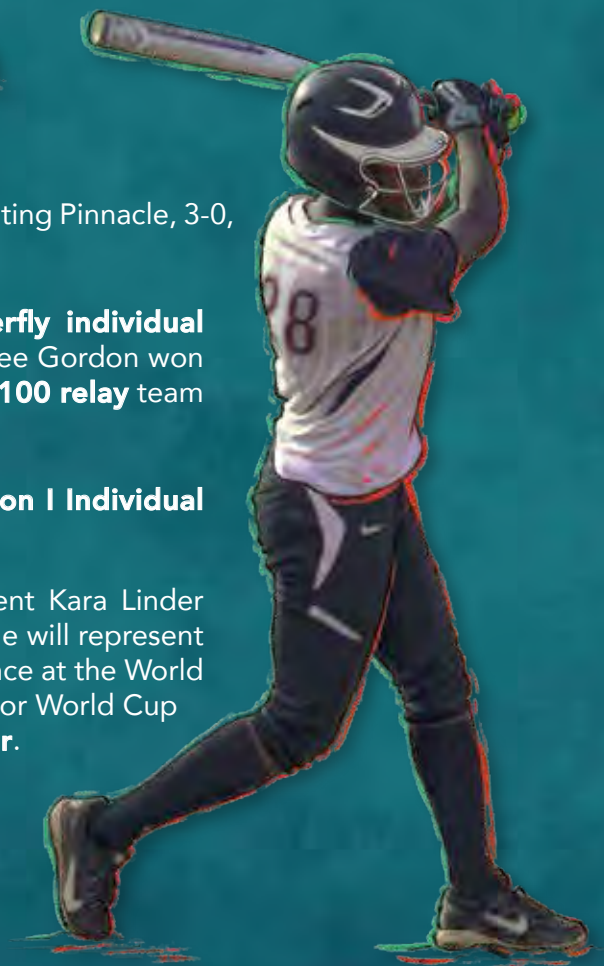
Hamilton High captured its first **Division I softball title**, defeating Pinnacle, 3-0, at Arizona State's Farrington Stadium in May.

Chandler High student Michael Klaus won the **100 butterfly individual state swimming title**. Additionally, Hamilton High's McKenzie Gordon won the **500 freestyle state championship**, and the Hamilton **4x100 relay** team won the **state championship**.

Hamilton High student Hannah (Weixi) Li won the **AIA Division I Individual State Girls Golf Championship** in 2016.

Chandler Online Academy and Hamilton High School student Kara Linder made both the **Cadet and Junior World Fencing teams**. She will represent Team USA at the Pan American Games in Mexico and then fence at the World Championships in France. She also placed seventh at the Junior World Cup in Italy which made her the **highest-placing American fencer**.

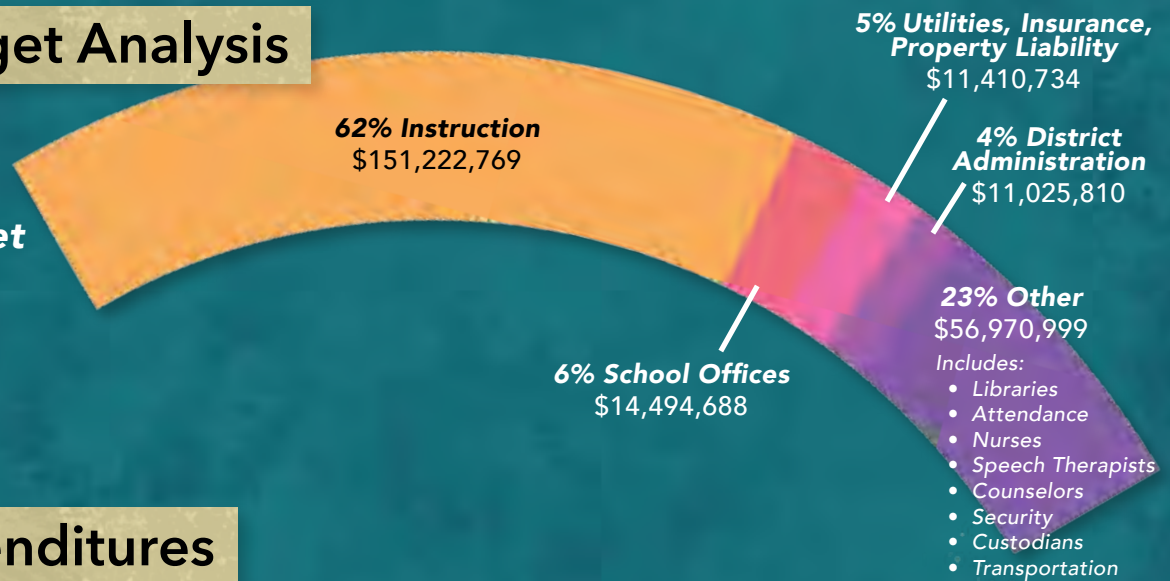
The Santan Junior High Storm cheerleaders finished an amazing season including five first-place wins, winning the **State Title** and placing **National Runner Up**.



# Financials

## M&O Budget Analysis

**2015-16 Budget**  
\$245,125,000



## Bond Expenditures

**Thanks to community support** of a \$196 bond election in November 2015, a number of important capital projects have been completed or are underway:

Server farm and disaster recovery hardware	\$560,000	50% Complete
9 activity buses	\$537,000	Complete
26 84-passenger buses	\$3.9 million	Complete
3,960 HP laptops for elementary schools	\$2.2 million	In process
900 laptops for junior highs	\$1.1 million	Complete
Weinberg fencing project	\$300,000	Complete
District office back-up generator	\$325,000	Complete
Structural column repairs at Andersen Elementary, Andersen Junior High, CTA Humphrey, Jacobson, Sanborn, Weinberg	\$2.1 million	60% Complete
47 modular buildings district wide to be refreshed	\$2.3 million	20% Complete
New central plant at Conley	\$2.1 million	Complete
Water and sewer line replacement at Galveston, Hartford Sylvia Encinas, ACP Oakland, San Marcos	\$2 million	Complete
Roofs for Andersen Elementary, Andersen Junior High, Knox Gifted Academy	\$2.3 million	Complete
New Telephone system district wide	\$1.9 million	In process
Gymnasium seating replaced at Chandler High	\$199,000	Complete
Carpeting and floor grinding at Basha High, Bologna, Chandler High, Conley, Tarwater, Willis Junior High	\$1.3 million	Complete



# Leadership

## Superintendent

Dr. Camille Casteel has dedicated her professional career to the success of Chandler schools. Beginning as a first grade teacher, she advanced to become the first principal of Weinberg Elementary then associate superintendent before being appointed superintendent in 1996. Since then, she has led CUSD through its greatest period of growth and expansion, all the while cultivating and expanding partnerships with key advocates, community groups, municipalities and businesses.

Dr. Casteel is a former *Arizona Superintendent of the Year*, *Tech-Savvy Superintendent* and *Chandler Education Foundation Woman of Greatness*, as well as recipient of leadership awards from the *Si Se Puede Foundation*, *Chandler Chamber of Commerce*, *Tribune Newspapers* and *East Valley Partnership*. In 2014, *Arizona School Administrators (ASA)* presented her with the *Dr. Raymond Sterling Kellis Leadership Award*. In 2015, the *Governing Board* voted to name Chandler's newest high school in her honor, and, in 2016, she was awarded *Extraordinary Superintendent of the Year* from the *Maricopa County Education Service Agency*.



## Governing Board

Chandler Unified's success is equally dependant on the vision and stability provided by our governing board. Drawing on diverse backgrounds, the board's commitment to collaboration and consensus has been noted both internally and publicly. In December 2011, CUSD received the *Arizona School Boards Association's Total Board Award*, recognizing its members' commitment to continuing education and training. Additionally, in April 2013, *Governing Board* member David Evans was elected as the *National School Boards Association Black Caucus Pacific Region Director*. Mr. Evans also served as the *Black Caucus Founder* and as *President for the Arizona School Boards Association 2011-2013*.

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*Term expires December 2018*

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*Term expires December 2020*

### Karen M. McGee

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*Term expires December 2020*

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*Term Expires December 2018*



*Left to right: Barb Mozdzen, David Evans, Karen M. McGee, Robert Rice and Annette Auxier*

Governing board members are elected by the public, serving four year terms. The board sets all district policies and has final authority over all district business. The public is welcome to attend governing board business meetings, usually held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month (7 PM). Study sessions are held as needed, to explore specific issues in further depth.

## CHANDLER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1525 West Frye Road, Chandler, AZ 85224 • [CUSD80.com](http://CUSD80.com)