



## You Make The Difference Award

Congratulations to the recipients of the first You Make the Difference Awards by Newell Barney Junior High School! For this award, a person is selected from among those eligible, who has clearly demonstrated the outstanding qualities and efforts in making a difference that we look for in our Queen Creek schools. Denise Johnson, Principal of Newell Barney Junior High

School, presented the first ever award at the September 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting where she recognized: Dr. LaFawn Berry, Sharon VanAllen, Candice Lipkin, and Dr. Kari Potthoff. Each month a Queen Creek School will nominate those shining stars who help Make the Difference.



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YOU MAKE THE  
*Difference*

# Queen Creek Unified School District

## Opt-in to receive text alerts!

# Text YES to 68453

Get instant text alerts on campus events, important dates, school closings, and emergency notifications.

### To Participate:

1. Ensure your mobile number is on file with your school(s).
2. Text YES from device(s) to 68453 or simply scan the QR code with your smartphone then hit send.

For help information, text HELP to 68453.  
To opt out at any time, text STOP to 68453.  
Message & data rates may apply.



## AzMERIT

Arizona's Statewide Achievement Assessment  
for English Language Arts and Mathematics

**Who takes AzMERIT?** Arizona students in public district and charter schools in third grade through high school began taking the tests in reading, writing and math in spring 2015. For high school students, the new assessments are given at the end of their courses, similar to a final exam.

**Will my child have to pass it to graduate from high school?** No. Passing the new assessments is not a graduation requirement.

**Will my child's scores look different than before?** Yes, you should expect that the scores will be different from the AIMS test. They may also be lower than what you've seen previously because the new tests set a higher benchmark for student success. Students and teachers will both need time to adjust to the new assessments. But with time and our support, we know Arizona students will do well.

[Expect More Arizona](#) is a great resource to learn more about AzMERIT!

"The scores aren't crashing, the expectations are soaring!" -Joe O'Rielly

### Queen Creek Schools Education Foundation

#### Golf Scramble



The Queen Creek Schools Education Foundation announces their Eighth Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, September 12, 2015 at Las Colinas Golf Course in Queen Creek with a 7:00 AM Shotgun start.

Would you like the opportunity to help advertise and promote your business while helping a very worthy cause?

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. It was founded in 2005 and in the past 8 years has awarded: Scholarships totaling over \$60,000 and Teacher Grants totaling over \$5,000.

Visit [qcsef.org](http://qcsef.org) for registration and sponsor information. If you have any questions please email [qcqolf15@gmail.com](mailto:qcqolf15@gmail.com).

To stay updated on news, events and activities, follow Queen Creek Unified School District on [Facebook.com/qcUSD](https://www.facebook.com/qcUSD) or [Twitter.com/qcUSD](https://twitter.com/qcUSD). For additional information visit [QCUSD.org](http://QCUSD.org).

### From Rittenhouse to QC

Queen Creek turns 26 on Sept. 5th! To celebrate the founding of QC, enjoy the historical documentary about QC's heritage, [From Rittenhouse to the QC](#). And don't forget to join us at the [Founders' Day](#) celebration.



Stay updated on events and activities in the community, by following the Town on

- [Facebook.com/QueenCreek](https://www.facebook.com/QueenCreek)
- [Twitter.com/TOQC\\_official](https://twitter.com/TOQC_official)
- [QC Chamber of Commerce](#)



### School Messenger

A text message to "Opt-in" to receive future text messages from QCUSD was sent on Monday, August 31st to all parents/guardians that have a cell phone on record with their child's school. If you did not receive a text message, please verify with your child's school that they have your cell phone listed. Once verified, please text "Yes" to 68453. Please allow 24 hours for the system to be updated.





# Budget Override

Facts 2015

## Our Programs

- All Day Kindergarten
- Band and Orchestra
- Dual Enrollment Courses
- Advanced Placement Courses
- Athletics
- Preschool Program
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program

## OUR SCHOOLS

Queen Creek High School	9-12
Newell Barney Junior High	7-8
Queen Creek Middle School	6
Desert Mountain Elementary	K-5
Jack Barnes Elementary	K-5
Frances-Brandon Pickett Elementary	K-5
Queen Creek Elementary School	K-5
Gateway Polytechnic Academy	K-6

## District Overview

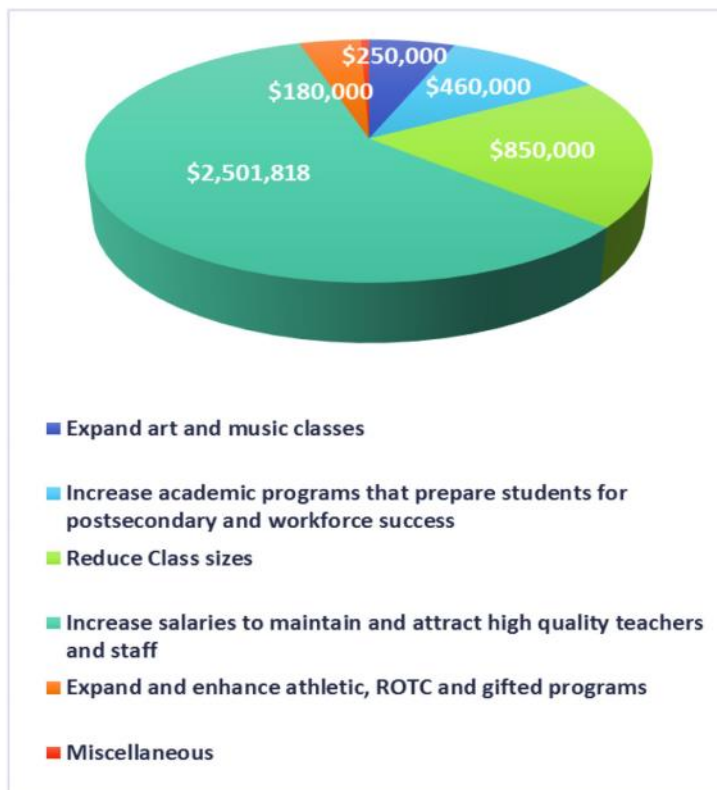
Queen Creek is a suburban community in the central part of Arizona. Our town has many amenities for growing families and is a short commute from the Phoenix metropolitan area. We're proud of our small town feel and family atmosphere - a place where you know your neighbors by name.

Queen Creek School District consists of four elementary schools, one academy, one middle school, one junior high school, and one high school. Our enrollment is approximately 5,000 students. We offer a quality educational program with our top-notch educators and support staff. Our students continue to exceed state and national averages on our achievement test scores. We are dedicated to providing a challenging learning experience for our students in a loving, supportive environment. Queen Creek is a great place to be!

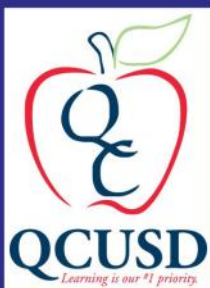
Queen Creek Unified School District is one of only nine districts in the state to have been graded "A" by the [Arizona Department of Education](#) for four consecutive years. We are proud of that designation, and we are proud of the high academic and athletic performance of our students.

## Proposed Override Spending

### By the Numbers...



- 6 Arizona Board of Regent's High Honors recipients
- 7 National Merit Finalists
- 13 National Merit Commendations
- 24 Honors, Dual Enrollment or AP course offerings
- 33+ Different Career, Fine Art, Modern Language, and Athletic Elective programs
- 43 students earned college credit in AP testing last year
- 428 students exceeded on one or more AIMS test
- \$3,050,000 + awarded in Scholarships & Aid to our 2013 senior class
- An "A" rated district four years in a row



# Budget Override

## Facts 2015

### What is an override?

An override allows school district voters to approve additional funding for operational expenses. The override would allow the district to exceed its budget by 15 percent. If approved, the election authorizes an increase for seven years, but the override must be renewed every five years to maintain full funding.

### Has the district been operating under an override?

Queen Creek Unified School District was operating with an override from 2004-2015. The override election for 2015-16 failed by 300 votes.

### What does the override pay for?

The override funds teaching positions, academic programs, employee compensation and reducing class sizes.

### What does the override cost me?

For your personal tax impact, check your tax bill. The owner of an average home in the district will pay \$244 a year, or \$20 per month.

### How will the override appear on my ballot?

On the ballot it is referred to as a "budget override"

### What is the difference between a bond and an override?

A bond provides the district additional funding to use for capital items such as new buildings, additions or renovations to buildings, school buses, equipment and technology. Queen Creek voters last approved a bond in November 2014.

An override is for day-to-day operational expenses including salaries and benefits, classroom supplies, utilities and transportation. Queen Creek voters approved the last override in November 2008.

### How long does an override last?

Once approved, the override lasts for 7 years, with full funding for 5 years. Should constituents not pass another override in the 5th year, the override phases out over the next two years.

For more information on how school district funding works, please see the District website at the following address to view a brief video clip: <http://www.qcUSD.org/index.cfm?plD=15704>

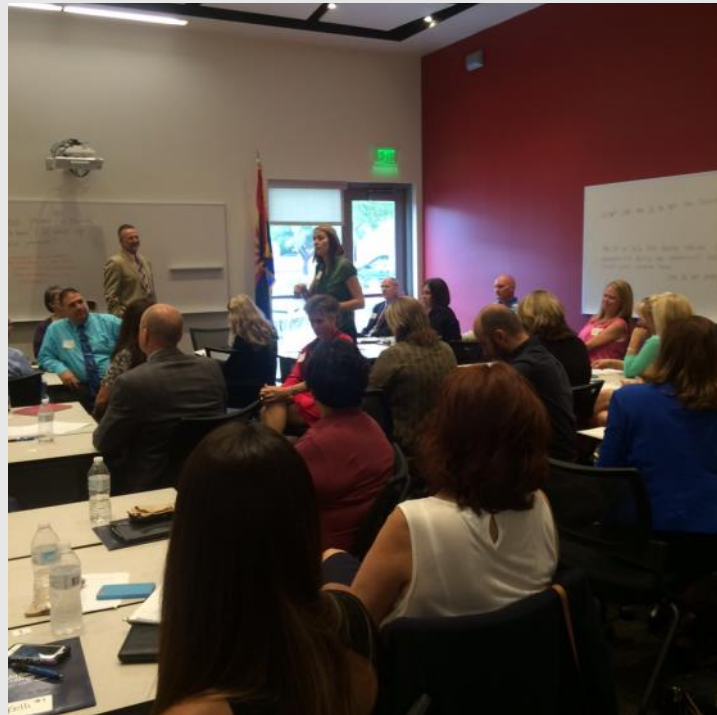




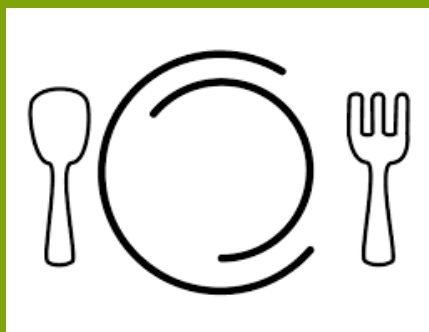
### 2015 Education Summit

We feel our community is a great place to live, work and raise our families, and we are fortunate to have schools that are performing well. Even so, we are facing significant challenges related to education that have a direct impact on our children and the future of our community. Budget cuts to education, difficulty attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers, resultant classroom size, restrictions on experiential employment training and many other challenges need a local, community-based effort at finding solutions.

We will take this opportunity to come together in order to identify strengths and challenges, as well as to propose and implement solutions that allow us to leverage each others' skills and resources in order to improve the quality and outcomes of our educational system in our community. The transition from school to work is one area of focus, efforts to develop mentorship initiatives, internships, job-shadowing programs and other ideas all need to be discussed, identified and adapted, if we are to improve outcomes for our future generations.



### Free & Reduced Price Meal Applications



All applications from last year expired today, parents who were on the free and reduced lunch program last school year and have not applied for the 2015-16 school year or have not been processed for this school year will be full pay starting today.

Any parents who wish to apply for free and reduced benefits can apply online at <https://family.titank12.com> (Titan requires Internet Explore 8 or above, Chrome or Firefox). All applications completed online today will be processed prior to tomorrow.

Please email [cweekly@gcusd.org](mailto:cweekly@gcusd.org) with any questions.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**DISCOVERY KIDS** is a great program that offers before and after school care for kids at all K-6 sites.

Registration for Fall Break Camps and Activities is open now. We will have full day and part day (mini-camps) available for all ages. Register at [www.qcusd.feepay.com](http://www.qcusd.feepay.com).

Community Education also offers before & after school enrichment classes for grades K-6.

Current afterschool enrichment classes:

- As You Wish Pottery
- Chess
- Basketball (player development)
- Stop Motion Animation with LEGOS
- Tennis at QCHS

For more information and to register go to [www.qcusd.feepay.com](http://www.qcusd.feepay.com)

Questions?  
Contact Lauren  
480-987-5935



## SEPTEMBER 8TH IS INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

Whether it's reading or writing, literacy is an outlet to an untouchable world – your imagination. Not only is literacy a basic human right, it is a fundamental building block for learning as well as a personal empowerment tool. It is the catalyst for social and global progress.

International Literacy Day gives children and communities a chance to rediscover the joys of reading while raising awareness for those without access to education.

On Tuesday, September 8th, 2015, let's show our country as well as around the world, the importance of literacy by celebrating International Literacy Day. Help join communities to act as a united voice in raising awareness for those who cannot read or write.



## Contact Us

**District Office**  
480-987-5935

**Desert Mountain Elementary**  
480-987-5912



**Frances Brandon Pickett Elementary**  
480-987-7420



**Gateway Polytechnic Academy**  
480-987-7440



**Jack Barnes Elementary**  
480-987-7400



**Queen Creek Elementary**  
480-987-5920



**Queen Creek Middle School**  
480-987-5940



**Newell Barney Junior High**  
480-474-6700



**Queen Creek High School**  
480-987-5973

