



BESD BUZZ

A COMMUNITY PASSIONATE ABOUT STUDENT SUCCESS SPRING 2023

HOW

THE DISTRICT
IMPROVED
student performance

Leader In Public Education

From technology to student voice



PLUS

JSM III: A Pivotal
Education Center



HERE'S HOW BESD IMPROVED STUDENT PERFORMANCE

By Griselda Zetino, KTAR News



"After disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic caused many students to fall behind, one West Valley elementary school district is lauding its latest strategy that it says is seeing significant academic improvements among students.

"We knew that there was some heavy lifting to do," Mike Lee, Buckeye Elementary School District assistant superintendent, told KTAR News 92.3 FM. "Our schools were not where they needed to be."

That summer, the message was, "We're going to take on the greatest challenges of our professional careers right now, and we're going to do it within weeks," Lee said.

The district began participating in Project Momentum, a state-funded initiative that provides schools with an extra \$150 per student. Much of the funding goes to cover additional time and work teachers spend to improve outcomes."



The district had several schools that were issued D's and F's by the state's letter grade system, which takes into account test scores and other measures. In 2020, district leaders made a bold decision.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

BESD: A Leader In Public Education

One of three districts highlighted at AASA's National Conference on Education in San Antonio



BESD Superintendent, Dr. Kristi Wilson, highlighting the impactful work the district is working on at AASA's panel

"From technology to student voice to diversity, a litany of factors is forcing teaching and learning to evolve for the needs not just of a fast-changing work world, but for rapidly shifting student demographics.

In a panel discussion at the National Conference on Education, hosted by AASA, three superintendents shared their best practices and lessons learned in navigating educational transformation.

Building on that idea, Kristi Wilson, superintendent of Buckeye Elementary School District #33 in Arizona, said it's critical to recognize opportunities that exist now to make changes and to collaborate on those with the community. 'If you're in a district where you can build a new school or you can reimagine spaces or rebuild ... you can think about what is it that you want your educational program to look like, because we don't know what the future is going to hold' for what jobs will look like, Wilson said. By working with the community, district leaders can find ways to think about the future differently."

HIGHLY PERFORMING



In the last year, BESD has transformed all their campuses. All eligible Buckeye Elementary School District schools are performing above average in growth and received A and B letter grades through the state of Arizona.

Results from Arizona's 2022 AASA state assessments showed BESD to have far exceeded the state's growth rate in student achievement. The academic success is a result of an intensive and district-wide school turnaround effort by the Buckeye Elementary School District which has shown unprecedented academic growth.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

STAY IN THE LOOP



$-10 = -5x$

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JSM III: A PIVOTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Educational leaders from across the country and world continuously visit the modern campus



John S. McCain III Elementary School has become a pivotal center for educational leaders from across the world to gain insight at the modern, technological elementary campus.

More than 25 states have visited the kinder through eighth grade school since its opening in August of 2021.

Photograph by **Gradient Learning**

Countries from outside of the United States have also weighed in on the popularity of the innovative school with educational institutions visiting from the Virgin Islands and more.

The revolutionizing elementary school is breaking the “traditional design formula for schools and becoming a model for schools of the future.” Further, it has already been named as one of thirteen in the nation designated by AASA as a Lighthouse School for its Innovative Design.

The campus incorporates learning communities based on grade levels and an advanced C-STEM curriculum. Throughout the trajectory of a student’s time at the school, they will also learn critical thinking, humanities through history and social skills.

“When you watch children doing advanced coding for their age, or collaborating seamlessly with others to demonstrate a variety of learning outcomes, it reminds us that we have done what we set out to do. It is wonderful to hear the feedback of our guests who are looking to replicate this experience in their own contexts, and it only adds to the validation that John S. McCain Elementary is something special,” says Dr. Kristi Wilson, BESD Superintendent.

With visitors from all over the state, country and world visiting on a weekly basis, John S. McCain III Elementary School is paving the way for the future of public education.



DID YOU KNOW?

John S. McCain III Elementary School opened its doors in 2021 with its mascot being the mavericks, honoring the late John S. McCain's nickname while in the Navy.