

# Cave Creek Unified School District

## Budget Resource Guide

### 2015-2016

Welcome to our Cave Creek Unified School District's 2015-2016 Budget Resource Guide. The purpose of this guide is to provide an opportunity for you, our CCUSD® community, to better understand our district budget including:

- What are the types of revenue for school districts?
- Where does our revenue come from?
- What are our tax rates and how do they compare to surrounding districts?
- What is the calendar/timeline for the budget?
- How is the money spent?
- Who are the legislators?



We hope using this guide will provide explanations and illustrations to assist in understanding how the educational budget process works in the State of Arizona and in the Cave Creek Unified School District. Our Governing Board has adopted fiscal stewardship and tax philosophies that demonstrate the Board's commitment to accountability for our staff, families and community in order to provide students the best education possible.

In CCUSD®, we pride ourselves in “doing more with less” by keeping tax rates low yet providing the highest quality education possible for our approximately 5,400 Preschool through Grade 12 students. CCUSD® is an “A” District, as designated by the AZ Department of Education. All seven of our schools are A+ Schools of Excellence. In addition, our district is ranked No. 5 out of 227 school districts state-wide for achievement. We are the No. 1 school district in the northeast valley.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff and we continue to focus on our future through our *Strategic Plan for the 21st Century* and our goals for 2015-2016. These goals will demonstrate continuous improvement in the areas of Writing, Reading and Math in grades K-12. By working together, we can embrace our district mission to *Inspire Excellence*.

Dr. Debbi Burdick  
Superintendent

#### Governing Board

##### 2015 Members

Janet Busbee  
David Schaefer  
Karen Tuffs  
Mark Warren  
Cynthia Weiss

#### PHILOSOPHIES

*Fiscal stewardship:* Cave Creek Unified School District commits to inspiring excellence in all aspects of education, while acting in a financially responsible manner by maximizing all resources possible to enhance student education (i.e., grants, education, community, business partners, and foundations).

*Tax:* Cave Creek Unified School District commits to providing its students with the most comprehensive, high quality education available, while maintaining the lowest voter-approved secondary tax rate possible.

#### Cave Creek Unified School District

33016 N. 60th Street  
Scottsdale, AZ  
P.O. Box 426  
Cave Creek, AZ 85327  
(480) 575-2000  
[www.ccusd93.org](http://www.ccusd93.org)

# CCUSD<sup>®</sup> Revenue Sources

## MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION

This fund is used to budget expenditures for the daily operation of the school district, e.g. salaries, benefits, utilities, paper, pencils, etc. It is funded through the state by the primary tax rate. Funds generated by the primary tax rate are allocated to each school district using a state-defined formula. M & O funds cannot be used for capital items such as construction or new computers.

## CAPITAL

There is one Capital Fund available for the daily operation of the district:

- **Fund 610 - Capital:** This fund accounts for budgeted expenses to obtain items by purchase, lease-purchase, lease or long-term lease of capital items.

## OVERRIDES

An override is a way for a school district to generate additional revenue with voter approval. There are three types of overrides: Special Program, Capital, and Maintenance and Operation (M & O). The Special Program override allows a District to increase its Maintenance and Operation (M & O) budget by up to 5% for seven years. It may be paired with a general M & O override which allows for an increase of up to 10% for seven years. In place of these two, a District may have a general M & O override of up to 15% for seven years. Full funding of these overrides occurs for the first five years, then decreases by one-third each year, unless renewed. A Capital override may be approved and provides funding for capital purchases at a stated dollar amount per year for a stated number of years. Currently, up to 75 percent of the school districts in Maricopa County operate with some type of override. However, CCUSD<sup>®</sup> does not have any type of override in place at this time.

## BONDS

A bond is a debt instrument that is secured by a political subdivision of Arizona. It allows school districts to fund projects immediately and pay back the debt over time from the taxation of homes and businesses in the district. In November of 2014, the local taxpayers approved the issuance of \$30 million in new bonds for the renovation of existing facilities, a small amount of new construction, grounds improvements, technological improvements, and the purchase of student transportation vehicles. In addition, the taxpayers approved the use of approximately \$10 million of existing bond funds for the renovation of existing facilities, grounds improvements, and technological improvements.

## FEDERAL GRANTS

These funds are provided by the federal government to pay for federally mandated programs such as Title IV (safe and drug-free schools) and Title 1 (remedial education).

## STATE GRANTS

The district receives these funds from the State of Arizona after completing an application and review process. They must be used for specific programs.

## CCUSD<sup>®</sup> 2015-2016 BUDGET

Maintenance and Operation	\$31,582,956
Capital	\$ 2,004,480

### State and Federal Grants Received

CTE Federal Perkins	\$ 61,859
CTE State Priority	\$ 24,065
IDEA—Basic Entitlement	\$ 667,730
IDEA—Preschool	\$ 24,375
School Safety Program	\$ 189,759
School Safety Plus	\$ 8,000
Title I LEA-ESEA	\$ 379,625
Title II Improving Teacher Quality—ESEA	\$ 65,011
Title III LEP	\$ 11,849
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,432,273</b>

## TERMS TO KNOW

**budget:** a financial plan that advances the mission of the organization utilizing available financial resources.

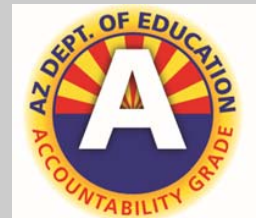
**budgeting:** a priority-setting process for expenditures.

**bond:** a debt instrument that is secured by a political subdivision of Arizona. It allows school districts to fund projects immediately and pay back the debt over time against the taxation of homes and businesses in the district.

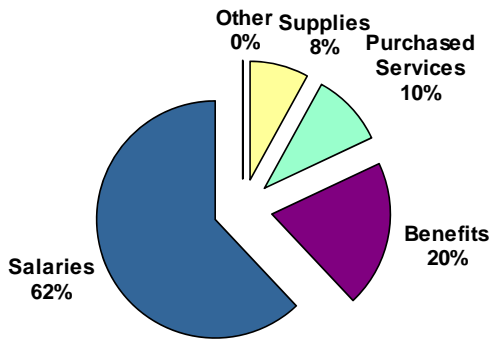
**override:** a mechanism for a school district to generate additional revenue with voter approval; there are three types of overrides: Special Program, Capital, and Maintenance and Operation (M & O).

**primary tax rate:** this tax rate is applied to homes and businesses in a school district to help support the M & O and capital budgets.

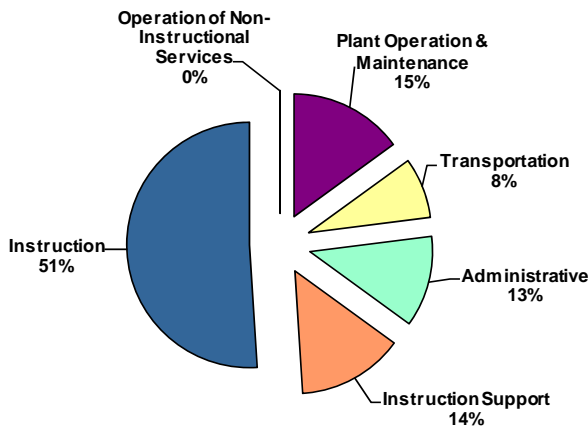
**secondary tax rate:** this tax rate is applied to homes and businesses to pay for overrides and bonds.



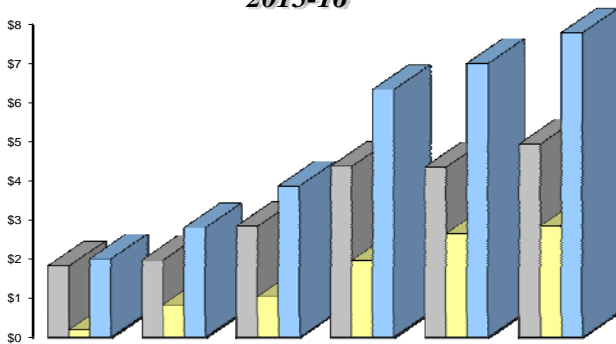
**Cave Creek Unified School District No. 93  
2014-2015  
M&O Expenditures Budget by Object**



**Cave Creek Unified School District No. 93  
2014-2015  
M&O Expenditures by Function**



**Tax Rate Comparison Unified School Districts  
2015-16**



2015/16	Cave Creek	Fountain Hills	Scottsdale	Deer Valley	Paradise Valley	Peoria
Primary	\$1.8198	\$1.9688	\$2.8332	\$4.3630	\$4.3431	\$4.9320
Secondary	\$0.1829	\$0.8246	\$1.0263	\$1.9610	\$2.6499	\$2.8437
Combined	\$2.0027	\$2.7934	\$3.8595	\$6.3240	\$6.9930	\$7.7757

**Where does the funding come from?**

The legislature determines funding levels for school districts.

The majority of funding for public education comes from the taxpayers. The state collects and allocates money to school districts using a state-defined formula. It is the Legislature that decides how much money schools will receive and which educational programs will be funded.

If you have questions regarding public education funding, contact your state representative. Below is a list of the representatives in the Cave Creek Unified School District.

**DISTRICT 1**

**Sen. Steve Pierce (R)**  
spierce@azleg.gov

**Rep. Karen Fann (R)**  
kfann@azleg.gov

**Rep. Noel Campbell (R)**  
ncampbell@azleg.gov

**DISTRICT 15**

**Sen. Nancy Barto (R)**  
nbarto@azleg.gov

**Rep. John Allen (R)**  
jallen@azleg.gov

**Rep. Heather Carter (R)**  
hcarter@azleg.gov

**DISTRICT 23**

**Sen. John Kavanagh (R)**  
jkavanagh@azleg.gov

**Rep. Jay Lawrence (R)**  
jlawrence@azleg.gov

**Rep. Michelle Ugenti (R)**  
mugenti@azleg.gov

For up-to-date information about bills being considered in the Legislature, go online to [www.azleg.state.az.us](http://www.azleg.state.az.us). Or call: (602) 926-3559 (Senate) (602) 926-4221 (House)

# FISCAL YEAR BUDGET CALENDAR

AUGUST	Finance and Human Resources conduct budget training sessions for new administrators.  Finance Department distributes new budget information.
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER - MAY	Interest-Based Negotiations Teams meet to discuss compensation package for 2016-17.
MARCH	Governing Board reviews budget proposals and provides additional input.
MARCH-APRIL	Interest-Based Negotiations Team prioritizes needs and defines possible adjustments.
APRIL	Interest-Based Negotiations Team submits proposed 2016-17 compensation package proposal to District Administration.
APRIL-MAY	Finance Department prepares total district-wide preliminary budget request which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interest-Based Negotiations Team proposal</li><li>• District-wide proposals</li><li>• Insurance and other fixed cost increases</li></ul>
MAY	Finance Department defines revenue sources and prepares budget summary comparing requested expenditures to available revenue.
MAY-JUNE	Finance Department prepares final budget proposal for presentation to Governing Board.
JUNE-JULY	Final budget proposal presented to Governing Board for approval and authorization to advertise.  Proposed 2016-17 budget to Arizona Department of Education for advertising.  Publication of 2016-17 Proposed Budget and Notice of Public Hearing.  Public Hearing and Adoption of 2016-17 Budget.  Statutory deadline for Public Hearing and Adoption.  Statutory deadline to file 2016-17 Budget with County School Superintendent.