



Traditional Academy Litchfield Elementary School District

Program Guide

2025-2026



Litchfield Elementary School District Traditional Academy Program

The Litchfield Elementary School District has long had a reputation for academic excellence and high quality educational programming for the students in our community. District schools and leaders have received numerous awards and recognitions over the years for outstanding performance. We take pride in the performance of our students, our teachers, and the support of our community.

Educators across the country agree that “one size does not fit all” when it comes to meeting a student’s needs in the classroom. Parents/Guardians have many choices in selecting schools to meet their children’s educational needs and life goals. The Litchfield Elementary School District has also always been known as an innovative District that is willing to face any challenges or changes in the community that may be needed. Traditional Academy is one option parents may consider when choosing the Litchfield Elementary School District.

The Litchfield Elementary School District is accepting applications from students in first-fifth grade who wish to be considered for enrollment during the 2025-2026 school year in the Litchfield Elementary School District Traditional Academy Program. The LESD Traditional Academy Program is available at eleven of our elementary schools first-fifth grade.

LESD Traditional Academy Mission

The purpose of the LESD Traditional Academy Program is to offer students, who qualify through an application process, access to a different curriculum while working alongside other similarly identified students. The qualifying criteria for admittance and programs used in The Traditional Academy allows for a faster pace and advancement through grade level standards at a rigorous level.

LESD Traditional Academy Program Overview

The LESD Traditional Academy teachers work as a program within the local school campus following the same school day hours. In addition to their program activities, students have access to all local campus programs and benefits just as any other student attending each school. The students integrate with the rest of the school for lunch, recess, school activities, and specials. The learning will be fast-paced and advance through grade level standards at a rigorous level. Homework may include 10 minutes of schoolwork per grade level per night and one content-based project per quarter.

Parents/Guardians are expected to be strong partners in the educational success of their children. Continued academic and behavioral success will be required to remain in the program. Teachers will work closely with parents to ensure that students are making good academic progress and demonstrating appropriate classroom behavior.

LESD Traditional Academy Program Locations

Elementary Campuses:

- Barbara B. Robey, 5340 N. Wigwam Creek Blvd., Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
- Belen Soto, 18601 W. Campbell Ave., Goodyear, AZ 85395
- Corte Sierra, 3300 N. Santa Fe Trail, Avondale, AZ 85392
- Dreaming Summit, 13335 W. Missouri Ave., Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
- Litchfield, 255 E. Wigwam Blvd., Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
- Mabel Padgett, 15430 W. Turney, Goodyear, AZ 85395
- Palm Valley, 2801 N. 135th Ave., Goodyear, AZ 85395
- Rancho Santa Fe, 2150 N. Rancho Santa Fe Blvd., Avondale, AZ 85392
- Scott L. Libby, 18701 W. Thomas Rd., Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
- Verrado, 20873 W. Sunrise Ln., Buckeye, AZ 85396
- Verrado Heritage, 20895 W. Hamilton St. Buckeye, AZ 85396

Application Process

Parents/Guardians interested in having their children considered for entrance into the LESD Traditional Academy Program will need to complete an application for each child seeking admittance into the program. The applications will be available on February 6, 2025 and should be dropped off at the District Office, 272 E. Sagebrush St., Litchfield Park. **The Traditional Academy application deadline is April 17, 2025.** Applications will be accepted after this date to fill any slots that still remain.

Parents/Guardians of children who will be new to the program in first-fifth grade for the 2025-2026 school year, will be notified May 15-23, 2025 **via email.**

Students who qualify, but are not accepted due to space, will be placed on a waitlist. Upon availability in the program, applications will be analyzed with consideration to assessment data, priority level, student and parent input, and teacher feedback when applicable.

Questions regarding the LESD Traditional Academy Program can be referred to the campus principal or the office of the Director of Curriculum and Professional Development during the summer.

Program Acceptance

All applications will be evaluated. Qualifying applicants will be sorted according to priority listed in this LESD Traditional Academy Program Guide (page 6) and given to the appropriate school sites. Site administrators will analyze applications with consideration to assessment data, priority level, student and parent input, and teacher feedback when applicable.

First-Fifth grade applicant notifications will take place May 15-23, 2025 **via email.**

Open Enrollment Procedures

If a student lives outside the district or chooses to apply to a school not within their neighborhood boundary, open enrollment guidelines will be followed. Out-of-district residents will need to register with the District Office and comply with all registration procedures. Children must meet district age requirements for entry into the program. If the child **does not continue in the Traditional Academy Program** he/she will need to submit open enrollment to remain at that school or another school of choice. Out-of-district and in-district open enrollment applicants must complete an Open Enrollment Application for 2025-2026. Considerations for open enrollment will apply as per District Policy.

Traditional Academy Criteria

Research shows that students achieve at higher levels when parents are involved in the educational process of their children. Parents/Guardians are expected to be partners with teachers in the educational process of their children enrolled in this program. Traditional Academy parents/guardians are encouraged to take an active part in the campus programs and campus Parent Teacher Organization for the betterment of all students enrolled in the school of attendance.

All parents/guardians of students accepted into the Litchfield Elementary School District Traditional Academy Program will be required to sign a parent contract. If your child is accepted into the Litchfield Elementary School District Traditional Academy Program or continues in the program, please know your child will participate in a fast-paced learning environment that advances through the curriculum at a rigorous level. Acceptance and continuance in the Traditional Academy Program will be determined based on the following criteria:

1. The student will maintain grade level standards and expectations evidenced by classroom participation, quarterly report cards, proficiency on district benchmarks, and ongoing classroom/school assessments.
2. The student will maintain timely and regular attendance.
3. The student will maintain positive behavior necessary to promote individual growth and contribute to the learning environment of the classroom.

Your child's teacher and school are committed to ensuring that every student is successful and working at his/her potential. Part of guaranteeing that all students are successful is determining if they are in the right learning environment that is most conducive to their learning style and abilities. If a child's academic performance or behavioral conduct is not in accordance with the above criteria, then the following interventions will occur:

1. A conference will be held with the parents/guardians and school team to discuss academic and/or behavioral concerns.
2. The school team and parents/guardians will create a plan to teach the missing academic and/or behavioral skills.
3. The team will set a target date and determine success criteria.
4. The teacher and school will implement the plan and document progress.
5. The school team and parents/guardians will meet again regarding progress and to decide upon continuance in the program.

Entrance Requirements

Due to the pace of the curriculum and rigor of the program, entry into the program will only be considered at the start of each school year. Applications will not be accepted after the first 2 weeks of school; entry into the program after school has begun will be limited. The Superintendent and/or Principal may make an exception. Students accepted into the program who maintain satisfactory academic and behavioral performance may continue in the program and are not required to reapply for consideration each year unless they leave the program. Students who leave the program but who wish to return to the program at a future point in time, will be considered as a new applicant and be subject to the same priorities and guidelines in place at the time of application. The following requirements will also be in effect:

First and Second Grades: Students currently completing kindergarten or first grade must be at or above grade level benchmark on the spring kindergarten or first grade Acadience and math assessments. Students coming from outside the district, who do not have Acadience and math assessment scores, please provide copies of any assessments and/or report card information from your previous school. Students must display acceptable academic progress and school behaviors that adhere to school and classroom rules at his or her present school.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades: Students currently completing second, third, or fourth grades must be performing at or above grade level benchmarks in both reading and math on district assessments. Students must also have report card marks indicating performance at or above grade level expectations in all areas. Students coming from outside the district, who do not have reading and math assessment scores, please provide copies of any assessments and/or report card information from your previous school. Students must display acceptable academic progress and school behaviors that adhere to school and classroom rules at his or her present school.

Traditional Academy Recommitment for 2025-2026 - Current Students

Current Traditional Academy students will receive a digital recommitment form **via email** during the third quarter outlining the criteria for continuance in the program.

Traditional Academy Priorities for 2025-2026 - New Applicants

All applications will be evaluated. Qualifying applicants will be sorted according to priority listed below and given to the appropriate school sites. Site administrators will analyze applications with consideration to assessment data, priority level, student and parent input, and teacher feedback when applicable. **The application deadline is April 17, 2025.**

1. Current employee children may apply to any school if child qualifies and space permits.
2. Siblings of current Traditional Academy students who qualify for the program within the same school.
3. Current in-district school within neighborhood boundary.
4. Current Traditional Academy in-district and out-of-district approved open enrollments.
5. Current in-district approved open enrollments.
6. New in-district enrollees.
7. New out-of-district approved open enrollments.

The Principal will review and determine final admittance.

The LESD Traditional Academy Curriculum

All LESD classrooms offer a student-centered approach that encompasses challenging and differentiated learning using multiple research-based programs and best teaching practices.

By design, the LESD Traditional Academy program offers a faster pace and advancement through grade level Arizona Standards at a rigorous level. Teachers utilize various instructional practices including acceleration, differentiation, curriculum compacting, project/problem based learning, and critical thinking to provide a rigorous learning environment. English Language Arts, Science, and History are closely integrated within Traditional Academy classes through the Core Knowledge Framework. Core Knowledge (CK) is a rigorous, coherent, cumulative, content-specific, classical curriculum.

- Literacy: CKLA is the primary English Language Arts Curriculum. McGraw Hill, Wonders may also be utilized within the Traditional Academy classroom. Literacy instruction for primary grades may continue to use the Wilson Foundations Program. This program is a systematic and sequenced phonics program that has demonstrated high success with all students in the district.
- Math: Singapore Math is used as the primary resource to help students meet the Arizona Math standards. Ready Math and iReady Diagnostic may also be utilized within the Traditional Academy classroom. Instruction will be enhanced with hands-on, conceptual learning.
- Science and Social Studies: Inspire Science and CKSci (Science) and CKHG (History and Geography) units are utilized. The CK curriculum integrates Science and History into English Language Arts. Use of STEM will be highly encouraged within the Traditional Academy classroom.
- Technology: Technology will be used to enhance and extend learning in all aspects of the curriculum as well as the Arizona Computer Science Standards. A focus will be placed on using various mediums of technology to enhance project-based learning opportunities, research projects, pursue individualized interests, and demonstrate high levels of learning.
- Foreign language: Research shows that learning a second language increases problem-solving, critical thinking, and listening skills. When children are exposed to a foreign language, they exhibit signs of enhanced creativity and mental flexibility. Traditional Academy classes will have foreign language online opportunities.

To ensure mastery of standards and provide differentiation for students, teachers may utilize additional district adopted curriculum, approved supplemental programs, and resources shared within their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). PLCs are paramount to student success and a pillar of excellence in the Litchfield Elementary School District.

Extended Day Services

Students needing extended day care may make arrangements to attend extended day after-school care. For more information on these services contact the Community Education Office at 623-535-6042.

Transportation

Students who live within the neighborhood school boundaries may ride the regular school bus to and from school.