



# SPECIAL REPORT -TO- THE COMMUNITY

## Proving the Value of Your Support



## The DVUSD Difference At A Glance

Learning goes beyond the classroom, and learning is not just confined to childhood. A DVUSD education sparks the desire to learn, ask questions, work with others, and understand the changing world our graduates are entering.



DVUSD offers award-winning athletic and visual & performing arts programs, furthering growth beyond the classroom.



DVUSD serves more than **31,000** students located in northern Maricopa County.



DVUSD has **25 A+ Schools of Excellence**, awarded by the Arizona Educational Foundation.

DVUSD vs. State-Wide 2024 Student Passing Averages On State Testing

**+19%**

MATH

**+17%**

ELA

**+26%**

SCIENCE



**88%** of DVUSD schools are rated "A" or "B" by the Arizona State Board of Education.



DVUSD's class of 2025 graduates earned more than **\$70 million** in scholarships.



DVUSD's 4-year graduation rate for 2025 was **96%** – **16% higher** than the state average.

## Override Q&A with Dr. Curtis Finch



Dr. Curtis Finch  
DVUSD Superintendent

Follow Dr. Finch  
on Social Media!

@DrFinchDVUSD



Instagram



X / Twitter

### What will be on a voter's ballot?

A restoration of **the Override**, as well as a **district land sale** for a parcel near 83rd Ave & Happy Valley Rd. The Override has been approved by the Deer Valley voters since the 1990s.

### What is an Override?

The DVUSD Override is a voter authorization to exceed the amount of the budget otherwise allowed by the State of Arizona. This **additional 15%** to our budget provides **local support** of instructional programs **deemed important by the community**.

### What is included in this Override?

The district is asking to **restore** the Override for the Fiscal Year 2027 (2026-2027 school year) to prevent further freezes to pay, continue providing free full-day kindergarten and support for athletics and fine arts programs.

### What benefit does the Override offer to our community?

**Quality schooling options** are one of the most important factors when considering a home purchase. Strong schools prepare future generations to be community contributors, and having a reputable public school near your home is proven to **boost the overall home values**, reduce crime in the area, and strengthen community connection.

### What impact will this Override have on a DVUSD resident's taxes?

The total cost to restore the Override for homeowners within the District boundaries is less than **\$20.67 per month** on the average assessed home value. That's an average annual cost of **\$248.04 a year**.

### What are the implications of an Override failure for DVUSD Schools and Students?

The district would have to again reduce investments in district and school programs by **\$11 million** for two more years, following initial cuts of **\$11 million** last year due to the Override not being reauthorized by district residents in November of 2024. This would amount to a total of **\$33 million** over three years.

This means the possibility of a reduction in student and family programs such as free full-day kindergarten, support for athletics and fine arts programs, and the inability to attract and retain highly-qualified employees.

For more information about this mail-in ballot only election, scan the QR code or visit [dvusd.org/election](https://dvusd.org/election)



# Override 2025 Election

## The DVUSD Override Restores Funds to:

- **Free, full-day kindergarten** with transportation
- **Strengthen** arts, music, theater, dance, athletics, and other extracurriculars
- **Support specialized programs** like language immersion, gifted services, fine arts, and online education
- Recruit and keep **highly qualified teachers and staff**
- Retaining **smaller class sizes**
- Maintain **vital student services** including counseling, nursing, instructional technology, and literacy support.
- **Support** school & department needs

Approximately 8% of employee pay comes from Override funding, which is at risk of potential future budget cuts.

Since 2016, DVUSD has funded full-day kindergarten to our community at no out-of-pocket cost to families.

## Failure of Passing the DVUSD Override Risks:

- Potential Loss of Free, Full-Day Kindergarten, resulting in additional daycare costs for parents
- Potential cuts to extracurricular programs

Get more facts at [dvusd.org/election](https://dvusd.org/election)

## DVUSD's Bud

DVUSD spent 72.5% of its FY2024 budget on classroom spending of in-classroom spending per student for similar "very large" uni



## Big Kid Book Club



Prior to enrolling in Kindergarten, the Deer Valley Unified School District invites your 3-5 year-old child to cultivate their love for reading by joining the Big Kid Book Club! We will periodically send your child a **FREE** book in the mail, along with helpful advice for the parents.

Sign up now at [dvusd.org/bookclub](https://dvusd.org/bookclub)

## Kindergarten Registration

Begins in November 2025!

### Why Register?



- **FREE** full-day program
- Special classes offered *every day*, including: Art, Physical Education, and Music
- Before and After School Care Programs
- All teachers are highly qualified and properly certified



# get Spending

g. This is one of the highest amounts  
fied school districts in Arizona.

Non-classroom  
spending was 27.5%




The 2025 Override Election  
is a **MAIL-IN**  
BALLOT ONLY ELECTION

Learn more at [dvusd.org/ballot](https://dvusd.org/ballot)

The total cost of restoring the Override for homeowners is less than **\$20.67 per month** on the average assessed home value. That's an average annual cost of **\$248.04**.

**The average Arizonan pays more than 248.04 on...**

- One month of groceries for one person (\$278.83)\*
- One month of health care coverage (\$569)\*
- One month of HOA dues (\$448)\*\*
- 4 tickets to a pro football home game (\$452.46)\*\*

Sources \*So-Fi.com \*\*AZFamily.com

**Funding a community's public education is often less expensive than many activities we take for granted.**

Athletics participation fees have increased for the 2025-26 school year for middle school and high school athletes, as well as high school marching bands and AFJROTC color guard units. Fees were increased in part because of the failure of the Override passage in November 2024. The increased rates were approved unanimously (5-0) by the DVUSD Governing Board on May 13, 2025.

See the new fees at [dvusd.org/athletics](https://dvusd.org/athletics)

## Important Dates

**October 6, 2025**  
Last date to register to vote

**October 8, 2025**  
Ballots mailed, early voting begins

**October 24, 2025**  
Last date to request early ballot

**October 28, 2025**  
Last day to mail in your ballot

**November 4, 2025**  
Election Day



# DISTRICT OF CHAMPIONS

## High School Championships & Top Athletes of 2024-2025



**Sandra Day O'Connor**  
Girls Beach Volleyball  
4-Time 6A Conference State Champions

**Deer Valley High School**  
Boys 4X400m Relay  
D-3 State Champions

**Boulder Creek**  
Girls 200 yard Medley Relay  
D-1 State Champions

**Dylan Hayhurst**  
Barry Goldwater Varsity Football  
School Record 2,304 Rushing Yards  
#1 5-A Northwest Valley, #2 in State

**Kierra Simmons**  
Sandra Day O'Connor  
Girls High Jump D-1 State Champion

**Jase Weingart**  
Deer Valley High School  
Boys 400m Dash D-3 State Champion

**Sanel Eminovic**  
Mountain Ridge  
Boys 300m Hurdles D-1 State Champion

**Michelle Bullock**  
Boulder Creek  
Tennis Singles D-1 State Champion



### DVUSD Governing Board

- Paul Carver, Jr. — President
  - Dr. Karen C. Pack — Vice President
  - Steve Bottfeld — Member
  - Kimberly K. Fisher — Member
  - Stephanie Simacek — Member
- [dvusd.org/governingboard](https://dvusd.org/governingboard)



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# AVENUE 27

thoughtful cuisine

Barry Goldwater High School's  
CTE Culinary Arts Program

Avenue 27 is Barry Goldwater High School's own student-run fine dining restaurant that allows students to learn all aspects of culinary arts while having the opportunity to serve real customers.

Avenue 27 is currently serving customers for the 2025-2026 school year on **Thursdays from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**. Further dates are to be determined.

Avenue 27 is moving to a cash-free system, accepting all major credit cards and checks.

Reservations are required prior to arrival by emailing [Avenue27@dvusd.org](mailto:Avenue27@dvusd.org)



## LEMON SCONES

PREHEAT OVEN 350°F (175°C) | BAKE 12-15 MINUTES

### INGREDIENTS

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 cups all-purpose flour      | 3/4 cup cold butter        |
| 1/3 cup white sugar           | 1/3 cup milk               |
| 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder | 3 tablespoons lemon juice  |
| 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda   | 2 1/2 teaspoons lemon zest |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt             | 1 1/2 teaspoons vinegar    |

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Mix flour, white sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a bowl.
- Cut butter into pieces. Cut in cold butter with a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
- Whisk milk, lemon juice, lemon zest, and vinegar in a small bowl and stir into flour mixture until moistened; turn out onto a lightly-floured surface.
- Knead dough briefly. Cut in half and create 2 round disks by hand.
- Using a bench scraper, cut each disk into 8 wedges and arrange on a baking sheet, leaving 1 inch between each wedge.
- Bake in preheated oven until bottom edges are lightly tan. Allow scones to cool.

### GLAZE RECIPE

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups confectioners' sugar (SIFTED)
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 2 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons water (or as needed)
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- While scones are cooling, stir confectioners' sugar, melted butter, lemon juice, and vanilla extract in a bowl until smooth.
- Stir water into sugar mixture, 1 tablespoon at a time, until mixture is easily drizzled.
- Drizzle glaze over warm scones.



## CTE Student Achievements

Students throughout the six DVUSD high schools have put their skills developed within our Career and Technical Education classes to the test, **competing at the state, national, and international levels**. Their dedication, hard work, and talent earned them top recognition at prestigious national and international competitions.

#### Ayan Bhatka

Mountain Ridge DECA  
4th in the World - Hospitality & Tourism  
Professional Selling

#### Shamitha Doki & Karina Kapadia

Mountain Ridge DECA  
Top 20 in the World & Overall Finalists -  
Community Awareness Project

#### Nicholas Solla

Boulder Creek  
Repeat National Academic Decathlon  
Champion - 7 Gold Medals & 2 Silver Medals  
in Individual Events

#### Charles McCue

Sandra Day O'Connor  
2nd Place Nationally - Financial  
Statement Analysis

#### Aiden Young

Sandra Day O'Connor FBLA  
7th Place Nationally - Securities  
and Investments

#### Yohavarsheni Muthuvinayagam

Mountain Ridge FBLA  
8th Place Nationally - Public  
Speaking

#### Sadie Caldwell

Boulder Creek FCCLA  
FCCLA Orlando Nationals Gold Medal  
- Teach or Train

#### Ronald Blacic & Preston Dejong

Boulder Creek SkillsUSA Engineering  
2nd Place Spring SkillsUSA Competition -  
Urban Search and Rescue

#### Derick Scott

Boulder Creek FCCLA  
State Gold Medal - Impromptu Speech  
for Education Professions



DVUSD offers **50 award-winning Career Technical Education (CTE) programs** that assist high school students in being career-ready after graduation.

DVUSD is a member of West-MEC, a CTE district that partners with school districts to improve and expand Career and Technical Education programs. West-MEC currently offers an **additional 25 programs** that students can participate in by applying.

To visit course offerings, visit [West-MEC.edu](http://West-MEC.edu)

Visit [dvusd.org/cte](http://dvusd.org/cte) for more!