



**AGUA FRIA**  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fifth Annual West Valley Film Festival Showcases Student Creativity and Talent**

**(AVONDALE, Ariz. — July 1, 2026)** — More than 300 students gathered to celebrate creativity, storytelling and student achievement during the Fifth Annual West Valley Film Festival, an event that continues to inspire the next generation of filmmakers and media professionals.

Held on Thursday, April 30th at Harkins in Avondale, the festival featured student-produced films from across the West Valley, including all schools from the Agua Fria High School District, Dysart Unified School District, and Tolleson Union High School District as well as students from Paradise Valley Unified School District, providing young creators with the opportunity to see their work displayed on the big screen before an audience of peers, educators, families, and community members. Student films were evaluated by industry professionals who judged entries based on creativity, technical execution, and storytelling.

First-place winners in each category received prizes generously donated by local business partners whose support helped make the event possible.

"The West Valley Film Festival gives students an authentic opportunity to showcase their talents and experience the excitement of sharing their work with a live audience," said Superintendent Mark Yslas. "Events like this help students build confidence, develop career-ready skills, and explore future opportunities in the film and media industries."

For many students, seeing their projects projected in a professional theater setting was one of the most rewarding aspects of the event. The experience allowed participants to celebrate months of planning, filming, and editing while receiving recognition for their hard work and creativity.

The festival also serves as an important bridge between classroom learning and future career pathways. By connecting students with industry professionals and providing real-world feedback, the event encourages aspiring filmmakers to continue developing their craft beyond high school.

The Agua Fria High School District extends its appreciation to the judges, educators, volunteers, and business partners whose contributions helped make this year's festival a success. Their

continued support provides valuable opportunities for students to share their voices, tell impactful stories, and gain experience in the creative arts.

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*Agua Fria High School District was established in 1955. Today, the district serves the communities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, and Litchfield Park, with six high schools: Agua Fria, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Goodyear, Millennium, Verrado, and Agua Fria Online. Additionally, the district offers two alternative programs: Coldwater Academy and New Directions. More information can be found at [www.aguafria.org](http://www.aguafria.org)*