

What Is Proposition 320?

A Simple Guide for CUSD Families & Staff

November 3, 2026 Ballot · Informational Only

This November, Arizona voters will decide on **Proposition 320**, a measure that would change how school districts like CUSD are required to spend their day-to-day funding. Here's a simple, factual breakdown of what Prop 320 says and what it could mean to CUSD.



What Does Prop 320 Do?

Proposition 320 would require certain school districts to spend **at least 60%** of their everyday operating budget on **direct instruction** — things like teacher salaries and classroom supplies. If a district spends less than that, it would need to raise that share a little bit every year until it reaches 60%. Charter schools are not covered by Prop 320.



Does This Affect CUSD?

Yes. The rule applies to any district with 7,500 or more students, and to every district in a county with more than 500,000 residents — which includes Maricopa County, where CUSD is located. CUSD currently has about 40,000 students, so it would be covered either way.



What Would Change?

Think of it this way: for every \$100 CUSD spends on daily operations, Prop 320 says at least \$60 of it would need to be coded as "direct instruction." The other \$40 could cover everything else a school needs — nurses, counselors, custodians, bus drivers, front-office staff, and more.



What Counts as “Direct Instruction”?

Based upon information known at this time, the following personnel and services will likely NOT fall within the definition of direct instruction.

This Counts	This Likely Does Not Count
- Teachers - Teacher aides & substitutes - Classroom supplies - Field trips, athletics, clubs	- Counselors & social workers - Nurses - Psychologists - Librarians - Instructional coaches - Principals & office staff - Bus drivers & cafeteria staff - Security staff - Speech therapists - Grounds services - Custodial staff - Heating and cooling



Where Does CUSD Stand Today?

Right now, CUSD spends about **55.2%** of its operating budget on direct instruction — already close to, but under, the 60% target. (Source: Arizona Auditor General, FY2024-25 Classroom Dollar Report.)

 55.2% CUSD today	 60.0% Prop 320 target	 4.8 pts the gap to close
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What Happens If a District Doesn't Meet the Goal?

If a district stays below 60%, the state would reduce that district's **Classroom Site Fund** (a special pot of money mostly used for teacher pay and class-size reduction) starting at a 25% cut and growing to a full 100% cut after four years of not meeting the target. That withheld money doesn't disappear from schools altogether — it stays in the statewide Classroom Site Fund for the following year.



Key Dates to Know

- **2027-28 school year:** the 60% rule takes effect.
- **2028-29 school year:** districts under 60% must show they raised their share by at least 0.5%.
- **2029-30 school year:** funding could first be reduced for districts still out of compliance.

This guide is for informational purposes only and reflects the text of the measure and CUSD's own publicly reported spending data. It does not represent a recommendation for or against Proposition 320.