



A TOLLESON ESD MAGAZINE

TOLLESON TODAY

MAY 2026

ENROLL FOR
KINDERGARTEN



READY FOR
KINDER?

JAG
GOES TO
NATIONALS

CMA
RECOGNIZES
DR. CASILLAS

NEW TO TOLLESON?



**ENROLL YOUR
TREASURE AT OUR
SCHOOLS**



**NOW ENROLLING KINDER - 8TH GRADE
NO BOUNDARY LIMITS!**



Message from the Superintendent

Will Your Child Be A Tolleson Treasure?

Welcome to Tolleson ESD, where we believe every child deserves opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.

Our schools are built on strong relationships, innovative learning experiences, and a commitment to supporting the whole child, both inside and outside of the classroom.

From award-winning arts and leadership programs to STEM, athletics, family engagement, and academic excellence, our students are provided with opportunities that prepare them for a bright future.

What truly makes Tolleson ESD special is our people—educators who lead with heart, families who partner with us, and students who inspire us every day.

We invite you to experience what makes a Tolleson ESD education different and become part of our family.

Gisselle Herrera

Strong Partnerships Supporting Students

Tolleson ESD continues to expand partnerships that directly support students, staff, and families throughout the district.

This spring, the district hosted Together for Treasures gatherings with community leaders, business partners, and families to discuss future collaboration opportunities and student support initiatives for the upcoming school year.

The district was also recognized for its partnership with Touchstone, whose Teen Outreach Program has positively impacted more than 700 students through mentorship, wellness support, and leadership development opportunities.

Together, these partnerships are helping create stronger schools and brighter futures for students across the district.



Built on Heart. Driven by Purpose.



This month, Tolleson ESD proudly celebrated outstanding educators and staff members who continue making a difference in the lives of students every day.

Four teachers were recognized as Westside Impact Teachers of the Year:

- Ms. Dilts – Arizona Desert
- Mr. Hazen – Desert Oasis
- Ms. Elias – Porfirio H. Gonzales
- Mr. Ponce – Sheely Farms

Tolleson ESD remains committed to supporting the educators who help students thrive every day.

JUMPSTART SUMMER CAMP



ENROLL NOW!

June 1st - June 25th
Mondays through Thursday
8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Free meals & transportation

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED. LOCALLY PROUD.

CMA FOUNDATION NAMES DR. CASILLAS MUSIC TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENT

Desert Oasis mariachi teacher Dr. Efrain Casillas was recognized nationally by the Country Music Awards Foundation as a Music Teacher of Excellence — marking the second time he has received this prestigious honor.

Selected as one of only 30 educators nationwide, Dr. Casillas continues to inspire students through music, culture, leadership, and performance opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. Under his direction, students have performed at major events and conferences while building confidence and pride in their talents.

This recognition celebrates the incredible impact arts education continues to have across Tolleson ESD.



Arizona Desert Students Shine at JAG Nationals

Tolleson ESD students continue to prove that excellence has no limits. This spring, Arizona Desert's Jobs for Arizona's Graduates (JAG) students traveled to the National Career Development Conference for the third consecutive year, competing against top students from across the country in leadership and career readiness events.

Students proudly brought home national honors, including:

- **2nd Place in Career & Employability Skills**
- **4th Place in Creative Decision Making**

Their success reflects the strength of Tolleson ESD programs that prepare students with real-world skills, leadership experience, confidence, and opportunities for future success.

STUDENT EARNS TOP HONORS

Tolleson ESD mariachi students once again represented the district at the Tucson International Mariachi Conference, where students performed among talented groups from across the region.

During the conference, Desert Oasis student Nataly Perez Encarnación was recognized as the El Mariachi Canta Elementary Category Winner, highlighting the exceptional talent and dedication of our students.

From performances to competitions, Tolleson ESD students continue to shine while celebrating culture, music, and tradition.





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- ✓ **AWARD-WINNING SCHOOLS, STAFF & PROGRAMS**



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TOLLESON & PHOENIX**



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