



2023

EDUCATORS' BUDGET

AS EDUCATORS, we know that our schools are not funded at nearly the level they should be, and low wages and underfunded classrooms are causing far too many of our colleagues to leave the state or the profession.

This is a solvable problem. With the right investments, we can ensure that educators have what they need to remain in their roles for the long-term.

Our recommendations include:

- Raising salaries and wages so that Arizona can compete with other states
- Increasing funding for healthcare to the level necessary to cover 100% of employee healthcare costs
- Address areas that are currently underfunded by adding resources for special education, career and technical education, schools serving Indigenous students, schools serving in-need students, junior high, and dual enrollment assistance
- Support early childhood education through funding for pre-K
- Restore funding for full day kindergarten
- Add funding to district additional assistance to make sure that this critical form of funding keeps up with inflation
- Ensure aspiring educators are able to graduate debt-free by adding funding for the Teachers Academy
- Provide funding for student mental health support
- Use one-time funding for school facilities and broadband

To ensure that there is long-term funding available to cover these priorities, we are calling on lawmakers to end tax cuts for the rich and corporations, repeal the state's voucher program, and eliminate the school funding cap.

Just as importantly, we need our lawmakers to treat educators with respect. If Arizona wants to retain qualified and passionate educators, the endless attacks need to stop. Talk with us, visit our schools, and work with us to get the resources that our students and colleagues need.

Ongoing Funding:

Budget Item	FY 2024 Educators' Budget
1. Educator Salaries	\$580,000,000
2. Full-Day K	\$281,000,000
3. SPED Funding	\$100,000,000
4. Opportunity Weight	\$50,000,000
5. CTE	\$2,500,000
6. Tribal Student Weight	\$50,000,000
7. Junior High Weight	\$45,000,000
8. Pre-K	\$25,000,000
9. Teachers Academy	\$15,000,000
10. Annual Inflation Adjustment for DAA	\$10,900,000
11. Health Care for Educators	\$600,000,000
12. Dual Enrollment Assistance	\$15,000,000
13. Student Mental Health Support	\$75,000,000
TOTAL:	\$1,849,400,000

One-time Funding:

Budget Item	FY 2024 Educators' Budget
14. Broadband	\$5,000,000
15. School Facilities (Building Renewal)	\$400,000,000
TOTAL:	\$405,000,000

What Each Budget Item Means

Ongoing funding to be used for the following priorities:

- **Educator Salaries:** Increase funding for educator salaries so that Arizona can compete effectively with other states.
- **Restore Full-Day Kindergarten:** Fully restore state funding for full-day kindergarten that was cut during the Great Recession.
- **Special Education (SPED) Funding:** Increase funding for our students with disabilities and/or that receive special education services.
- **Opportunity Weight:** Establish a new funding weight for our schools that serve the most in-need students to provide additional resources and support.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE):** Expand and increase access to high-quality CTE programs and courses.
- **Tribal Student Weight:** Establish a new funding weight providing additional monies for schools that serve Indigenous students and students in tribal areas.
- **Junior High School Weight:** Establish a new funding weight for grades 6-8, recognizing those grades require additional resources and supplies to prepare students for high school.
- **Pre-K:** Provide additional state funding for free and accessible preschool.
- **Teachers Academy:** Increase funding to the Teachers Academy to provide additional scholarships to future educators and ensure they graduate debt-free.
- **District Additional Assistance (DAA) Inflation:** Increase DAA annually to keep up with inflation to ensure schools can still afford textbooks, computers, and other classroom supplies. Since the creation of the DAA formula it has never increased to account for inflation. This would put it on an equal footing as Charter Additional Assistance, which does increase annually for inflation.
- **Healthcare:** Provide funding to ensure districts can cover 100% of employee healthcare costs.
- **Dual Enrollment Assistance:** Provide funding for high school dual enrollment programs.
- **Student Mental Health Support:** Provide support for student mental health programs with a focus on adding social workers and counselors.

One-time funding for the following priorities:

- **School Facilities Funding:** Provide funding for school facilities repair and maintenance, recognizing the state has failed to fully fund school capitol since before the Great Recession.
- **Broadband Access:** Provide additional funding for broadband access in rural and remote areas of the state so every student and school has access to reliable, high-speed internet.