



PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Agua Fria High School District: Advancing Education and Community
Through a Bold Strategic Vision**

(Avondale, Ariz – November 1, 2024) Agua Fria High School District is now three years into its 10-year strategic plan, guided by the organization’s vision of “Creating Choice, Crafting Character, and Cultivating Community.” Developed with input from more than 500 stakeholders—including parents, students, educators, community leaders, and local businesses—the plan centers on five key priorities: Community Outreach, Career Opportunities, Academic Success, Wellness and Connectedness, and Resource Stewardship.

“Our strategic plan was crafted with intentionality to ensure we remain focused and accountable to our community’s priorities,” said Superintendent Mark Yslas. “By continuously collaborating with our stakeholders, we emphasize what matters most and are able to respond to the evolving needs of our students and community. Each year, we reassess our objectives and implement new action steps within the strategic plan to ensure our initiatives are relevant and reflect the valuable insights we gather from our community,” said Yslas.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the District expanded its action steps by 50% compared to the initial year, underscoring its commitment to advancing student achievement and effectively addressing stakeholder feedback.

Over the past three years, Agua Fria High School District has made significant strides in enhancing the educational experience and fostering community connections. The plan emphasizes creating choice for students through the launch of The Academies of the Southwest Valley, a collaboration with local businesses, which offers hands-on training and career exploration opportunities that align with their interests and future aspirations. The District’s focus on crafting character is evident in the implementation of the Portrait of a Graduate framework, which equips students with essential employability skills necessary for success in the workforce. Additionally, the District has demonstrated its commitment to cultivating community through the Senior to Senior program, fostering meaningful connections between students and retirees.

Together, these initiatives reflect the District’s dedication to providing an enriching educational experience that prepares students for diverse futures while strengthening community ties. According to Yslas, “We launched this plan with purpose, and our dedication to these principles

has not wavered. This update is more than a progress report – it’s a reaffirmation of our pledge to serve our students and community with transparency and intentionality.”

Transparency and accountability are foundational to the District’s approach. Through its online tracking tool and annual reports, the District keeps the community informed and actively involved in monitoring progress.

“These tools allow us to uphold the highest level of accountability,” Yslas noted. “As needs evolve, we adapt our priorities to stay responsive and impactful.”

Looking ahead, the District will prioritize community involvement in the strategic plan by hosting events where community members can review updates, engage with District leaders, and actively contribute to shaping future goals.

“By working together, we aim to create a vibrant region where education enhances the overall quality of life for all residents,” said Yslas.

For more information on the strategic plan, please visit www.aguafria.org.



Comunicado de Prensa

Para Publicación Inmediata

*Insert date

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El Distrito de Escuelas Secundarias Agua Fria Union se estableció en 1955. Hoy en día, el distrito sirve a las comunidades de Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, con seis escuelas secundarias: Agua Fria, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Millennium, Verrado y Agua Fria Online. Además, el distrito ofrece dos programas alternativos: Coldwater Academy y New Directions. Más información se puede encontrar en aguafria.org