

# Whiteriver Unified School District No. 20

## Who we are

### Our Mission

WUSD, together with community, will empower all students to achieve their highest potential, graduating prepared for college and careers.

### Our Core Values

- \*Schools are for children.
- \*Schools belong to the community.
- \*Schools are people developers.
- \*Self-effort educates.

The Whiteriver Unified School District is located on the Ft. Apache Indian Reservation in northeastern Arizona. It is the only public school district on the reservation.

The Whiteriver Unified School District serves 2322 students grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade at five school; three elementary schools, one junior high and one high school.

The student population of Whiteriver Unified School District is primarily comprised of members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Our students participate in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) in conjunction with the



National School Lunch Program (NSLP) due to the level poverty of our students. The Community Eligibility Program allows for all students enrolled in Whiteriver Unified School District No. 20 to eat breakfast and lunch for free.

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## What Impact Aid Means for Whiteriver USD # 20

For the Whiteriver Unified School District, Impact Aid funding means that we can provide a 21st century quality education to our students.

With Impact Aid Whiteriver Unified School District is able to maintain student services and supports that would not be possible with State funding

levels, which is ranked in the lowest 5% in the Nation.

With Impact Aid funds Whiteriver USD # 20 is able to maintain small class sizes, continue to provide ancillary teachers, provide technology for students, scheduled updating and maintaining of student transportation fleet and offer

competitive wages and benefits to attract and maintain staff.

Impact aid funding also allows Whiteriver Unified School District to construct housing for staff, as local housing is not available for those not enrolled in the local Tribe.

## Full Day Kindergarten

The State of Arizona does not fund full day kindergarten, the kindergarten students of Whiteriver Unified School District historically have come in with on average a two year developmental delay.

With Impact Aid dollars Whiteriver Unified School District is able to provide full day kindergarten to our students at no cost the parent.

Kindergarten readiness is impacted by the lack of preschool options in the community. For most of children, kindergarten is their first experience in a school setting therefore it crucial for student to attend full-day kindergarten to build foundational skills, positive social interactions, and reinforcement of new learning.

Providing full day kindergarten to our

students provides the supports they need to build a strong foundation for their educational journey.



## Recruitment and Retention of Staff

The Whiteriver Unified School District is located in Northeastern Arizona, over 3 hours from Phoenix and 4 hours from Tucson, the largest urban areas of the state. This presents challenges to recruitment and retaining highly qualified and effective staff.

With low state funding and unfunded mandates in Arizona, Whiteriver Unified School District would have to increase class sizes, decrease staff and decrease benefits, all while trying to attract and retain highly qualified and effective staff if Impact Aid funding was not available.

With Impact Aid funding, Whiteriver Unified School District is able to keep class sizes low and offer all full time staff full employer paid premium coverage for medical, dental, vision and short term disability insurance.

In addition Whiteriver Unified School District offers all full-time certified and support staff a recruitment/ retention stipend. High needs stipends are offered to recruit teachers in the critical areas of science, math and special education; and more recently we have added an high need stipend for certified bus drivers.

Teachers additionally are offered an annual performance stipend based on student growth and achievement.

The average teacher salary of Whiteriver Unified School District teachers is above their peer average and the state average.

Wages for support staff members are higher than neighboring Districts, whom also receive full employer paid premium coverage for medical, dental, vision and short term disability insurance.

## Technology

With the Arizona state reduction of funding in the District Additional Assistance Fund, the Whiteriver Unified School District would not be able to replace aging student and staff devices, nor equipment for basic operations of the District.

The Whiteriver Unified School District has completed the roll out of one to one student devices that will expose

our students to technology at all stages of their educational journey.

Providing technology for our students allows them to access the internet along with providing access to educational resources that aids in their student success.

Impact Aid funding is used for educational software for student use along with educational software utilized for

beginning, mid and end student assessments to monitor growth and to identify areas of need with our students. Use of such software allows for a more individualized plan of support for our students.

## Transportation

With Impact Aid funding the Whiteriver Unified School District is able to keep their fleet of student transportation vehicles updated and maintained.

Students in the Whiteriver Unified School District normally traveled on average a total of 1650 miles daily to and from school, totaling 237,600 annually.

The longest bus ride for our students is a 50+ mile ride with students getting on the bus at 5:30 each morning.

The high number of miles traveled daily requires the student transportation fleet to be updated more frequently than urban area school districts.

In addition to the long miles traveled by our students to and from school, the roads traveled are not always adequately maintained causing above average wear and tear on the student fleet vehicles., requiring sooner replacement.

During the last two years, Impact Aid funds were used to purchase 5 new

buses, 9 white fleet vehicles, including 15-passenger vans. These vehicles provide safe transport of students and staff.



## Construction

With almost non-existent funding available for Arizona school districts to utilize for capital projects, the Whiteriver Unified School District would not be able to construct new buildings to offer our students a safe and adequate 21st century learning environment.

Currently with Impact Aid funding, the Whiteriver Unified School District has nearly completed updating an older campus within the District, our Alchেসay High School.

In the last 3 years, the Whiteriver Unified School District has used Impact

Aid funding for renovation and new construction at all five campus such as a new food services facility and wellness building at the high school; athletic track and baseball field renovations; a new softball field; lighting upgrades in parking lots; roof and structural repairs to elementary schools.

Current projects include HVAC upgrades in all district buildings, bathroom renovations at all schools; and one of the most crucial is the construction of new teacher housing units.

None of these projects would be possible without Impact Aid funding.

Impact Aid funding has allowed for continuous repairs and renovations.



## Student Success

With the ability to utilize Impact Aid funding for student support Whiteriver Unified School District has began to make gains with our Students.

Within the last few years, our schools have made gains in their letter grades, one school receiving a "B" grade with three schools receiving "C" grading, and one school receiving a "D" grade. In previous years Whiteriver Unified

School District had 1 "D" school and 4 "F" schools.

The District utilizes Impact Aid funds to ensure schools have adequate support staff to address dropout prevention, instructional intervention, campus security, certified support for teachers in order to retain effective instructional staff.

Impact Aid also support the district's

efforts to provide extended learning through robotics coaches, equipment and local and state competitions. For the last several years, teams have been invited to the Worlds Robotics competition.

At the high school level, Impact Aid supports dual enrollment courses at no cost to the student.

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Article VI of the U.S. Constitution states...

*All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be valid against the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, and Thing in the Constitution of Laws of any state to the Contrary notwithstanding.*



## We need your support

The Whiteriver Unified School District is able to offer our students a 21st education in a safe and secure environment due to the use of Impact Aid funds.

Impact Aid allows the Whiteriver Unified School District to provide full day kindergarten to our students.

Impact Aid allows the Whiteriver Unified School District to provide competitive wages and benefits and housing to retain and attract quality staff members.

Impact Aid funding allows the Whiteriver Unified School District to provide technology to our students to allow them to learn on the same level as their peers.

Impact Aid funding allows for regular scheduled updating of student transportation fleet vehicles to safely bring our students to and from school daily.

Impact Aid allows for Whiteriver Unified School District to construct 21st century learning environments for our students along with maintain our facilities to offer a safe and secure learning environment.

With Impact Aid and the supports we can offer our students we are seeing gains in our students academically and socially.

There is not an area in the operations of the Whiteriver Unified School District that Impact Aid does not positively impact.

Without continued support of Impact Aid, the effects would be dire on our students of the Whiteriver Unified School District.

In FY 26 we ask that you support Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act and the Impact Aid Infrastructure Partnership Act.

Please also join the Impact Aid coalition if you are not a current member.

For a small, rural school district such as Whiteriver Unified School District, Impact Aid funding directly impacts student learning.

Please support the Impact Aid Program.

Our students are depending on your support.