

# Whiteriver Unified School District No. 20

## Who we are

### Whiteriver Unified School District students are:

- Capable
- Hopeful
- Proud
- Resilient
- Smart
- Strong

The Whiteriver Unified School District is located on the Ft. Apache Indian Reservation in northeastern Arizona, serving the children of the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

The Whiteriver Unified School District is comprised of 5 schools serving on average 2376 students annually in grades pre-K through 12. The Whiteriver Unified School District has three elementary schools, 1 middle school and 1 high school.

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



Our students of the Whiteriver Unified School District No. 20 are able to participate in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) in conjunction with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) due to the level poverty of our students, CEP allows for all students enrolled in Whiteriver Unified School District No. 20 to eat breakfast and lunch for free.

## What Impact Aid Means for Whiteriver USD # 20

For the Whiteriver Unified School District, Impact Aid funding for us 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.

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## 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.

Providing full day kindergarten to our students provides the supports they need to build a strong foundation for their educational journey.

Providing a strong foundation for our students allows our students more opportunity to dream and more support to reach their goals.

## 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 urban areas of the state.

**THE  
WHITERIVER  
UNIFIED SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
STRIVES TO  
OFFER  
COMPETITIVE  
PAY AND  
BENEFITS TO ALL  
STAFF MEMBERS**

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 quality 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 its professional staff a recruitment/ retention stipend.

Teachers additionally are offered an annual performance stipend for student performance.

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.



## 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 is updating an older campus within the District, our Alchey High School.

In fiscal year 21, the Whiteriver Unified School District began work on a new food services facility at the high

school , the completed facility can accommodate 500 students inside with additional seating outside in the added courtyard. Final completion was in August 2021.

A fitness center was completed at the Alchey High School Campus has

been completed in 2023.

Current projects includes repair of the athletic track at the high school, baseball and softball field upgrades, parking lot and exterior light upgrades at the high school, asphalt and concrete repair at the Middle School and , and additional teacher housing.



## 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, 1 school receiving a “B” grade with 2 schools receiving “C” grading, and 2 schools receiving a “D” grade. In previous years Whiteriver Unified

School District had 1 “D” school and 4 “F” schools.

Whiteriver Unified School District has also increased its graduation rate within the past 5 years from 53% to 74 %.

The District utilizes Impact Aid funds to fund a Drop Out Prevention specialist and the drop out percentage has decreased from 21% to 11% in 2022. The District has extended its dropout

prevention efforts down to the Junior high/ middle school level.

## Whiteriver Unified School District No. 20

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We believe all kids are capable  
of success no exceptions!

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.WUSD.US](http://WWW.WUSD.US)

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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

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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 provided competitive wages and benefits 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 posi-

tively impact.

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

Please support the Impact Aid Program.

Our students are depending on your support.