



May 18, 2016

Dear Laveen Neighbor,

Great communities have great schools, and schools can only be great with the support of their communities. Once again, the Laveen School District is very appreciative of our community's support for public education. Voter approval of Proposition 123, will soon provide significant funding to schools throughout Arizona including Laveen.

Passage of 123 settles the long-standing K-12 funding lawsuit and restores a portion of the inflation dollars that were withheld from all schools during the recession. In Laveen, support of this measure means restoration of \$1.2 million annually for our local schools. The Laveen District is pleased to put these additional dollars in the hands of all our employees. Earlier this spring, our Governing Board approved two salary schedules, one of which includes employee raises for the 2016-17 school year in the event Prop 123 passed.

While this funding is welcomed, it is only the first step in providing for our schools. Per the terms of the settlement, Prop. 123 only restores about 48% of the funding withheld from schools in recent years. Moving forward, it will provide about 72% of the funding increase that school districts should be receiving. Prop 123 does nothing to restore capital funding, which has been reduced by 85%.

Districts must still rely on their local communities to provide for educational programs that go beyond the state's minimum requirements. Voter approved budget overrides and bonds continue to be essential to fund art, music, P.E. and technology programs; provide full-day kindergarten; keep class sizes low; provide competitive teacher salaries; complete construction and renovation projects; and maintain safe and secure school facilities. These are items essential to the success and quality of our schools.

Your continued support confirms the investment we are making in our children, their future, and our community. We recognize the important role that our schools play in the quality of life in Laveen and will continue to strive to ensure a high quality school system and the success of every child.

Sincerely,

Williams M. Johnson, Ed.D.
Superintendent