



SELIGMAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #40

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"Home of the Seligman Antelopes"

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today!"

Dear Friends and Families of Seligman Unified School District,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I just wanted to update and inform the community about the A-F accountability grades for schools in Arizona. As of this writing our district's two schools have received their letter grades from last school-year (2018-2019). Seligman Elementary had moved from a "C" the previous year to a "D" for last year and Seligman High School has remained a "D" grade for last and the year previous. However there is more to the picture than meets the eye in the case of these grades. I want to give you a little more detail about these grades.

In the case of Seligman Elementary, there continues to be slow but steady growth in several areas. In fact Seligman Elementary was only 2.85 points away from maintaining the "C" level grade. Seligman Elementary covers grades K-8 and so middle school grades 6-8 are also included under the school letter grades. Some of the best growth in student achievement last school year was in grades 3, 4, 6 and 8th grade in their ELA (English Language Arts) scores and in grades 3 & 4 in math scores of proficiency.

In the case of Seligman High School, historically the high school improved from being an "F" grade in 2017 and then showed growth the year following(2018) to a "D" letter grade and this last year maintained a "D" letter status based on the state's AzMerit student scores and per State Board of Education decision on April 15, 2019, that 9-12 schools will receive the higher of their overall 2018 or overall 2019 A-F letter grade, which in the case of Seligman High allowed the designation of the letter "D."

Based on receiving "D" letter grades, both schools are in school improvement status. That means that each school will be working alongside of the superintendent/principal and a school improvement specialist from the Arizona Department of Education to create a comprehensive needs assessment on each school. Following that assessment, the school teams will be determining 3 primary needs that are hindering student achievement. From those 3 primary needs, the root causes of those problems will be researched to solve the problems or barriers to greater student achievement. The final step will be for each school to develop and implement an integrated action plan that will be monitored closely and adjusted as needed throughout the school year and into the next year. A Public Meeting will be held in the high school in early March to provide the community information about the school improvement plan for each school.

Overall I commend our grade level leaders, our teachers and paraprofessionals, our support staff at all levels, and our students and our families. Seligman Unified School District is on a positive upward trend in the area of academic achievement. The growth is never as fast as we would like, but it is moving in a positive direction. I thank all of the players involved, including the greater Seligman community for their support. I have a dedicated staff who work hard every day to teach our students the necessary skills to be successful in school and later in life.

If you would like to meet with me to share your support or ideas, please stop in. My door is always open to parents and the community of Seligman.

James Phillips, Superintendent/principal