



For Immediate Release

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Pendergast District Pleased about Recent Court Ruling on Education Funding Levels
Additional funds will have a positive impact on PESD students and district

Phoenix Az. – July 14, 2014 – [Pendergast](#) students along with all of Arizona’s 1.1 million public school children received a victory on July 11, 2014. The court decision which supported earlier rulings by both the Court of Appeals and the Arizona Supreme Court detailed that the State is required to make annual inflation adjustments to the base level funding for students and schools. The particulars are still being reviewed as this will have a marked effect on student per pupil funding.

The [Arizona Republic](#) stated, “Arizona public schools will get \$317 million in new funding next year, after a judge Friday did the math on a state Supreme Court decision that found the state shorted the public-school system for four years during the recession. The total tab could be \$2.9 billion. For the next five years, the ruling could cost the state \$1.6 billion as it resets the starting point for school funding. The state may also have to come up with an additional \$1.3 billion for inflation costs lawmakers didn't fund during the recession, but that has yet to be decided.”

According to Chuck Essigs of the [Arizona Association of School Business Officials](#) (AASBO), “Questions on implementation and how the state might be required to make corrections for not funding inflation in prior years are still being reviewed. To view the court ruling and get the specifics go to <http://www.courtminutes.maricopa.gov/docs/Civil/072014/m6386517.pdf>.

Martín Quezada, Pendergast Governing Board President is, “Extremely pleased with the ruling because it will increase the base level funding by \$236.34 or 7% and directly help our students. This translates into more money to put into the classrooms that will positively impact our students in their growth and higher achievement. This is a huge victory for students in Arizona and in our district.”

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