



PRESS RELEASE

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Agua Fria High School Third Annual State of the District Address

(AVONDALE, Ariz. – Oct. 18, 2024) At the recent State of the District Address, the Agua Fria High School District Governing Board and Superintendent Mark Yslas shared exciting updates about the District’s commitment to growing alongside the community and providing extra support for students. A key focus of the address was the District’s 10-year strategic plan, designed to expand the workforce and enhance opportunities for all students.

The address introduced the Academies of the Southwest Valley, a new program that allows freshmen to choose career or creative pathways aligned with their interests. Students gain hands-on vocational experience through internships and workforce opportunities. They will also earn credits and credentialing in their pathway of study. Nearly 100 companies have already committed to partnering with the Academies to support students in exploring future career options.

Superintendent Yslas also provided updates on initiatives like AI integration and safety.

“As the first district in Arizona to partner with ChatGPT, Agua Fria is leading the way in AI integration,” he said. “By introducing AI into the classrooms, students are experiencing enhanced learning, increased efficiency, the ability to generate solutions that might not otherwise be considered, and opportunities for collaboration without the need for direct human interaction.”

Additionally, the District continues to prioritize safety by implementing several safety improvements across all campuses, including ballistic film, weapons detectors, and perimeter fencing.

Looking ahead, Yslas highlighted several initiatives launching in 2025, including a West-MEC Academy offering programs in Diesel Mechanics, HVAC, electrical work, and welding, as well as a medical consortium aimed at addressing healthcare workforce shortages. Other upcoming projects include a female leadership group, arts initiatives, a Buckeye aquatics center, and the opening of Goodyear High School in fall 2025.

The 2024 State of the District Address showcased the District’s dedication to improving education and creating a brighter future for the Southwest Valley. To view the full 2024 State of the District Address, visit the Agua Fria High School District [YouTube](#) channel.