



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #30
350 W. SAHUARITA ROAD, BUILDING 10
SAHUARITA, AZ 85629-9000
PH: (520) 625-3502 x1001
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 4, 2017

Dear Families:

In the coming days, every public school in Arizona will be receiving a letter grade for the 2016-2017 school year. These new labels are the first assigned to schools in multiple years. The purpose of this communication is to convey some points regarding these determinations, and their relationship to our overall commitment to the vision of excellence.

First, it is meaningful to note that this is a new State accountability system, only approved in all elements over the last few weeks. It includes multiple pieces, weighted largely upon performance and growth on the AZ Merit State Examination, which was taken by students last March 2017. By fairly strong consensus, this test and corresponding formula for label determination are significantly more difficult than previous State assessments, thus making it somewhat difficult to draw parallels to past determinations.

Second, the formula includes AZ Merit performance and growth, and also indicators such as graduation rate, proficiency of English Language Learners (ELL), and "College and Career Readiness," a multifaceted measure that includes completing the FAFSA, ASVAB proficiency, ACT/SAT proficiency, and CTE program completion. In the final determination, the labels can be described as a rank order, based upon these inputs, with determined lines, or cut scores, used to define each letter.

Third, we would like to share the State label determinations for each of our schools:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Anza Trail K-8 School | B |
| • Copper View Elementary School | B |
| • Sahuarita Intermediate School | C |
| • Sahuarita Middle School | C |
| • Sahuarita High School | C |
| • Sopori Elementary School | C |
| • Walden Grove High School | C |

Please note that Sahuarita Primary School, due to its K-2 configuration, was not labeled this year.

The SUSD team values the role of assessment data to help advance our goals of developing excellent educational programs and meeting the individualized needs of all students. Furthermore, we value the valid and multifaceted process of continuous improvement and quest for total quality in all we do. These labels present one indicator of determination, among multiple indicators of success. In that spirit, we'll use these labels, and the underlying data, to reinforce strengths, and also tackle areas in need of refinement.

In a related matter, I'm pleased to share that, in the first quarter of the year, we've already reached multiple achievements, including:

- Both high school bands being recognized in the first marching band competitions.
- Launching a newly enhanced elementary gifted education program.



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- Honoring 105 students for achieving qualifying scores on rigorous math, science, and English college Advanced Placement (AP) courses through our National Math & Science Initiative (NMSI).
- Reframing the attendance policy to further support greater flexibility, service and communication.
- Launching a new, industry level, Career & Technical Education (CTE) program in Heavy Equipment Operations.
- Launching a new, innovative iCats professional training program with the University of Arizona.

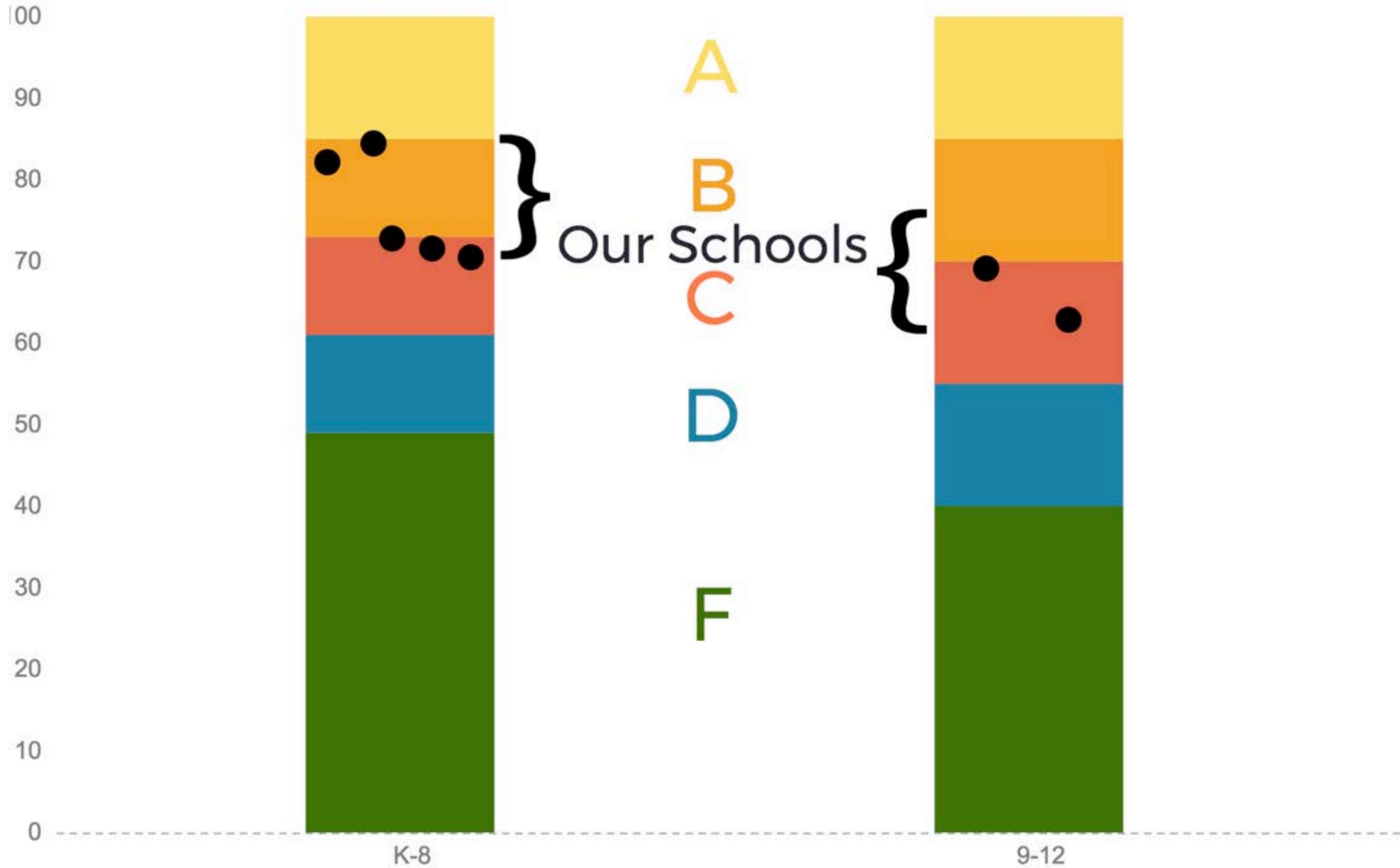
We will continue our relentless quest to pursue excellence, as determined by multiple measures, but always with a strong focus on our mission of “working as a team to help every student succeed.”

If you have any questions about your school’s label, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s principal or my office.

Respectfully,

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent

SUSD A-F Letter Grade Distribution



AZ School Letter Grade Distribution

