Children's Action Alliance

THE ARIZONA CENTER FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS

What Proposition 320 would mean for:

HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Prop 320: No new school funding. No guaranteed teacher raises.

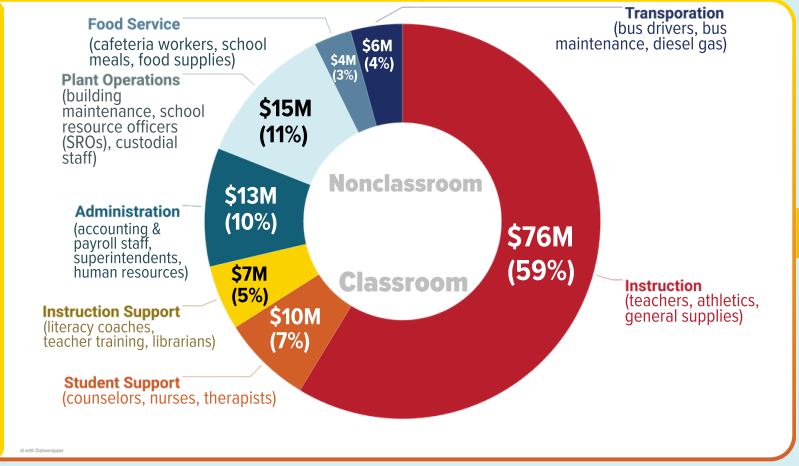
Instead, it imposes an unclear rule on already underfunded public schools and will likely lead to teacher pay cuts, classroom cuts, and more if districts do not comply.

Higley Unified Budget Snapshot

Public school budgets pay for **instruction**, **student support**, and **classroom resources**, along with **transportation**, **meals**, **plant operations**, and **administration**.

All of these **resources** play a **key role** in **student learning** and **teacher supports**.

Like families, schools face **rising costs** that outpace their funding. Schools already spend **more than half** their budgets on classrooms and try to make the most of limited, and often shrinking funds.



-$1.7M

In cuts to meet 60% target with $0 new dollars

Prop 320 would put **more financial pressure** on public schools by requiring 60% of spending to go toward "instruction", just one of three types of classroom support.

For Higley Unified, that means **cutting at least $1.7 million** (equal to half of food service costs) from other services, **with no requirement to direct funding to teacher pay.**

Prop 320 gives schools time to reach the 60% target but provides no extra funding.

Higley Unified would have to **cut at least an additional $650,200 every year until meeting 60%** from other student supports, including **school safety officers**, **cafeteria staff**, **literacy coaches**, **bus drivers**, **counselors**, and **accountants**.

-$650K

In cuts to student resources each year with $0 new dollars

-$3.2M

In loss of teacher funding per year if noncompliant

... AND Prop 320 punishes teachers if schools don't comply

Schools that **don't meet** Prop 320's yearly spending requirement **would lose 25%** of their teacher pay funding each year—**and all of it after four years**.

Higley Unified could lose about **$3.2 million a year for teacher pay**, with that money going to other public and charter schools.

BUT there is a better way to help our teachers and students!

Policymakers should **fund Prop 320's 60% target** instead of forcing schools to cut essential services.

Higley Unified would need **at least $4.4 million** in additional funding each year to meet the target without cutting other school needs.

$4.4M

Minimum funding needed to reach 60% with no cuts

Sources: Arizona Auditor General, FY2025 School District Spending Analysis; Arizona Department of Education, FY2027 Classroom Site Fund Payment Detail Report

Vote No on Prop 320 - Schools Can't Afford More Cuts

Have questions? Connect with Geraldine Miranda at gmiranda@azcenter.org

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