


Legacy Traditional School- Queen Creek

K-8 charter school, Queen Creek, AZ



Legacy Queen Creek is committed to achievement and excellence for all students without exception. They have been able to translate a culture driven by consistency and high-expectation into measurable results.

The school's dramatic improvement on AZM2 (formerly AzMERIT) test scores has been driven by clarity of expectations, a commitment to excellence, and on-going education and professional development for teachers and staff.

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Legacy Queen Creek's Approach to Student Achievement

Legacy Queen Creek is part of the Legacy Traditional Schools charter system and a Title I school.

are part of the school culture, and instruction is focused on being fast-paced and accelerated.

With clarity of mission and consistency in approach and expectation, the Legacy Queen Creek team demonstrated measurable improvement on the English Language Arts portion of the AZM2 exam, improving their third grade student pass rate of 47% in 2015 to 66% in 2019.

In order to deliver on these expectations and drive excellence, Legacy is committed to professional development and training for staff. Using data and ensuring fidelity to curriculum, training is provided across all levels of Legacy Queen Creek's team.

A cross-section of educators, administrators, and curriculum and instructional experts gathered to provide insight into what makes Legacy Queen Creek's approach to student achievement unique, and ultimately successful.

All Legacy Queen Creek teachers and educators are trained in the Spalding Writing Road to Reading curriculum, which includes spelling, reading, and writing. Spalding training encompasses national training opportunities, summer training, and 9-week training during the school year. Legacy Queen Creek also has four professionals who are Spalding-certified to train others. This on-going professional development ensures they use this program with fidelity and have a deep understanding of the science of reading and writing.

Clear expectations driven by a commitment to excellence are the foundation. A clear mission statement, which students memorize and recite daily, sets the tone for engagement from staff, students, and, of equal importance, parents. Legacy parents new to the school participate in a new parent orientation before school begins where resources are provided. The Legacy team expressed the value of great parent involvement at their Queen Creek school.

Administrators are also trained so they know what to look for in classroom instruction and how to speak the language of early literacy with educators, parents, and students.

Legacy Queen Creek's high expectations—and approach of “direct instruction with engagement”—

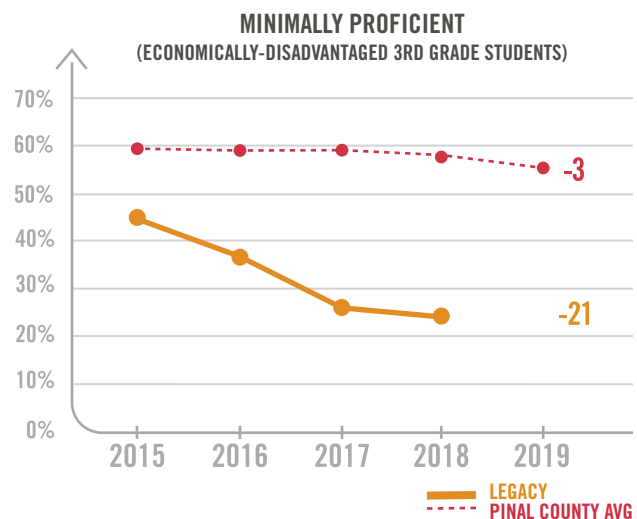
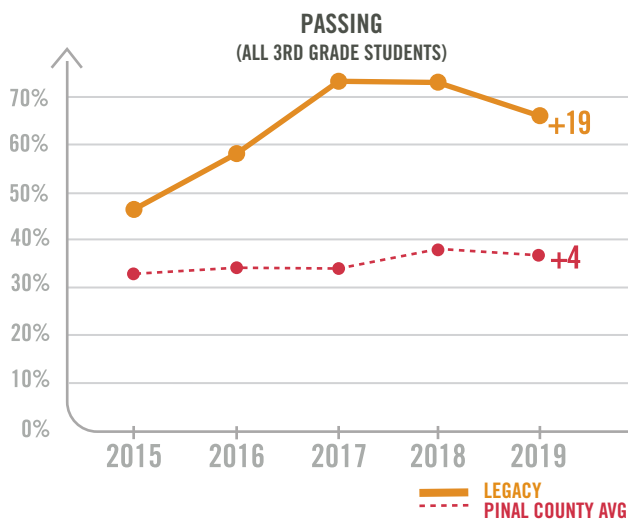
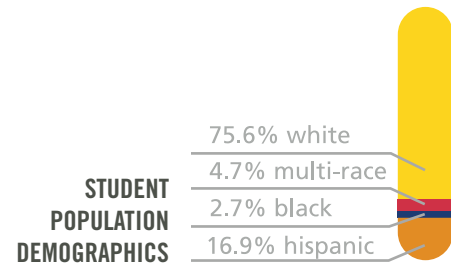
Legacy's Curriculum Assessment Manager has also completed the Arizona Department of Education's



Legacy Queen Creek: By the Numbers

19 point increase in third grade students passing AZM2 ELA (proficient and highly proficient).

21 point decrease in economically disadvantaged students scoring minimally proficient.



Grades: **K-8**
 Enrollment: **1057**
 Full Day K: **Yes**
 Title I: **Yes**
 Free-and-or-Reduced Lunch: **n/a**



Legacy Traditional Schools Mission

Provide motivated students with the opportunity to achieve academic excellence in an accelerated, back-to-basics, safe learning environment taught by caring, knowledgeable, and highly effective educators in cooperation with supportive, involved parents.

Teaching Reading Effectively and *Teaching Reading Effectively: Trainer of Trainers* professional development. In turn, she trains Legacy Queen Creek staff in the *Teaching Reading Effectively* training, building the staff's capacity in the science of teaching reading.

Legacy Queen Creek also utilizes Professional Learning Communities which meet at least one hour every week and engage teachers, administrators, special education professionals, and instructional coaches. Professional development is also guided by teacher feedback, crafting training that addresses teacher need.

This intensive commitment to professional development results in consistency in approach across and within grade levels and school departments. The Legacy Queen Creek team uses vertical planning, ensuring what is taught to students now is always building upon what was taught previously.

There is also consistency in leadership and instructional staff, with Legacy Queen Creek boasting an 84% teacher retention rate and a third grade team that has been working together for years. Legacy Queen Creek has a student retention rate of around 70%.

They also recognize that to maintain consistent, high achievement, students must be appropriately supported. They provide a variety of different tutoring for students in need, including before and after in-school tutoring and adaptive

Move On When Reading Literacy Plan: Legacy Queen Creek

Literacy Programs:

1. Core Reading Program: Spalding: Writing Road to Reading
2. Reading Intervention Program: Journeys
3. Writing Program: Spalding: Writing Road to Reading
4. Enrichment: Depth and Complexity (Kaplan)

Instructional Time:

Reading: At least 90 minutes per day (More for those that require intervention)
 Writing: An average of 40 minutes per day (in addition to reading instruction)

Professional Development:

Weekly 90-minute grade-level and PLC meetings
 Spalding training during the summer and school year

computer tutoring. All families also have password access to additional computer-based supports at home.

Finally, utilizing positive discipline, "WOW" boards and celebrations, Legacy Queen Creek recognizes that excellence is to be celebrated.

Examining Census data for the community surrounding Legacy Queen Creek:

22.2% of the population is between 5 and 17 years old; compared to **17.8%** in Pinal County

24.2% of the community population lives below 200% of the poverty level; compared to **37.6%** of the Pinal County population

Median household income is

\$64,737

Source: MapLIT ACS 2013-2017, 5 year data for Legacy Queen Creek and Pinal County profile.



Working Together—Making an Impact

We would like to thank all the Legacy team members above for their participation in the case study interview.

Founding Partners & Advisory Board



Advisory Board Members



When Arizona Reads, Arizona Thrives