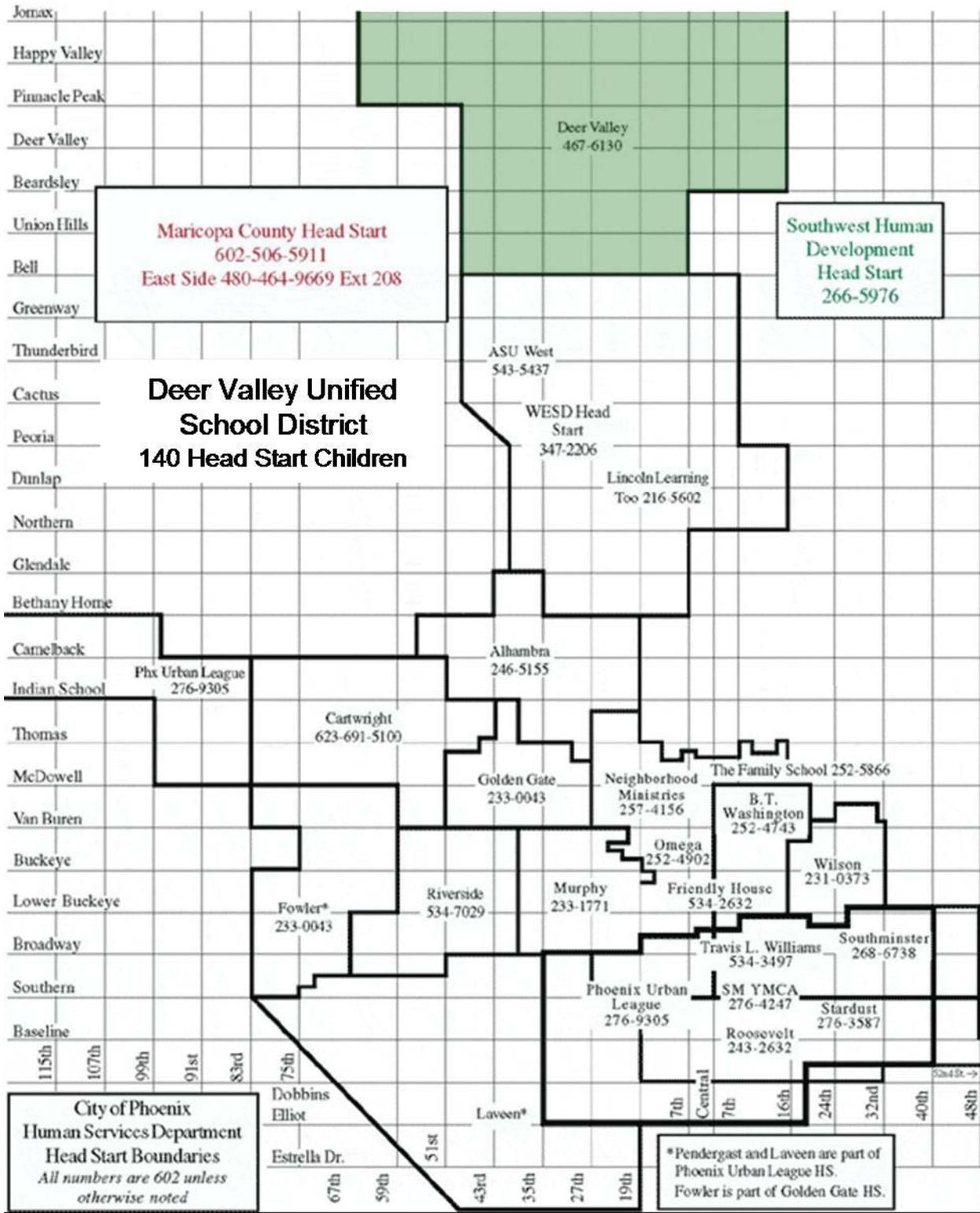


Deer Valley Unified School District

**City of Phoenix Head Start Map Showing Individual Delegate Agencies
Deer Valley Unified School District**



City of Phoenix Head Start

Program Approvals

Program Year 39 (2004-2005)

Community Assessments, Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

Delegate Agency Name: Deer Valley Unified School District
Address: 18440 N. 15th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85023

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Board Chairperson/Executive Director

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Delegate Agency Director

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____
Policy Committee Chairperson

Deer Valley Unified School District Refunding Application Program Year 39 (2004-2005)

Deer Valley Unified School District Profile:

Deer Valley Unified School District #97 (DVUSD) is a pre-K-12 district. It encompasses the northern-most area of the City of Phoenix and adjoining cities and unincorporated areas of Maricopa County. Its 367 square miles make it one of the largest districts, in area, in the state, and the largest area district in Maricopa County. Enrollment of more than 30,140 students makes DVUSD one of the largest districts in the state. Deer Valley is also one of the most rapidly growing districts in Arizona, with a student population increase greater than 5 percent annually. By 2005-06 DVUSD is projected to experience an enrollment increase of 6,000 students, or 20%. By 2008-2009 projected enrollment will be 43,446, a 44% increase from today. The District has 31 campuses and anticipates constructing two campuses each year to keep pace with the growth.

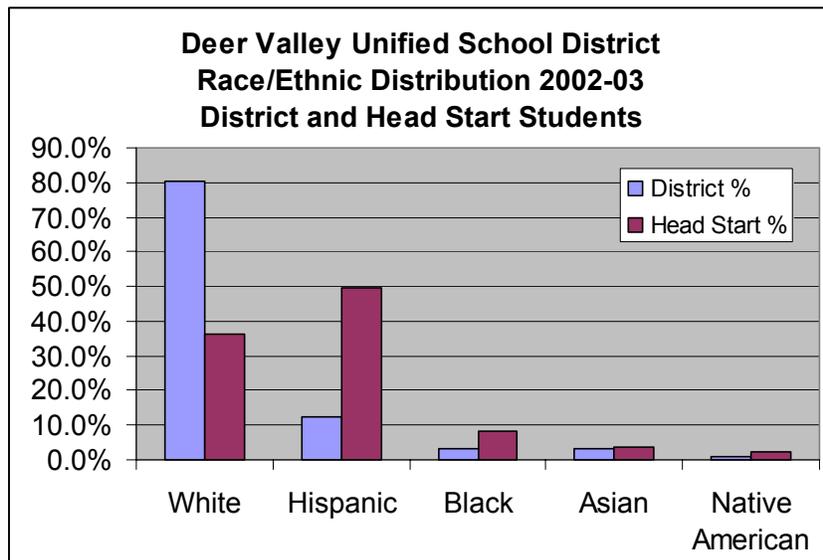


An estimated 13,000 new students will enter DVUSD schools in the next few years. Several master planned developments will bring nearly 100,000 new residents into the community. The state School Facilities Board has already approved completing one new high school in 2004 and two elementary schools by 2005. Applications are pending for another high school for 2006 and five additional elementary schools by 2009.

The number of registered preschoolers is growing as well. Projections for the 2004-05 school year estimate that 500 students will be in self-contained preschool classrooms, in addition to the 140 funded Head Start preschoolers.

Demographic Profile

Deer Valley has become a district of great diversity. While portions of the western and the northern areas of the district house schools that serve primarily upper-income communities—including the much publicized *Anthem Community* in New River—the eastern area has substantial pockets of poverty. Large apartment complexes, trailer courts, and the desert provide low-cost housing for many families.



The 2002-03 student ethnic breakdown of DVUSD indicates a minority enrollment of 19% as compared to the district's Head Start enrollment of 64% minority. The District's minority population increased 3% this year.

Race/Ethnic Group	District %	Head Start %
White	80.3%	36.3%
Hispanic	12.4%	49.6%
African American	3.1%	8.1%
Asian	3.3%	3.7%
Native American	0.9%	2.2%

Head Start Job Status

Employment Status	Number	Percent
Full Time	64	45.7%
Two-parent/guardian employed	10	7.1%
Training/School	11	7.9%
Unemployed	55	39.3%

Parents of Deer Valley Head Start students experience significant unemployment and under-employment, based on 2002-03 PIR survey data. Over 39% are unemployed, and only 7% have two working adults in the household. A different survey yielded similar results, but showed that nearly one-third of working adults works part-time, instead of full-time.

Head Start Educational Level

Nearly one-third of the parents of Head Start students did not graduate from high school, and 85% have no education beyond high school. Just 6% have a college degree.

Educational Level	Number	Percent
Less than high school graduate	49	32.5%
High school graduate or GED	79	52.3%
Some college, vocational, or associate degree	14	9.3%
Bachelors or advanced degree	9	6.0%

Head Start Annual Income Status

Income Range	Number	Percent
\$0-2,999	16	12.5%
\$3,000-5,999	16	12.5%
\$6,000-8,999	12	9.4%
\$9,000-11,999	21	16.4%
\$12,000-14,999	15	11.7%
\$15,000 and over	48	37.5%

Deer Valley Head Start families are relatively poor, with only three in eight earning \$15,000 or more. Over half make less than \$1,000 per month. Deer Valley has only five over-income families (excluding SSI, TANF, SSDI, and Foster Families) using 2002 Poverty Guidelines, comprising less than 4 percent of Deer Valley Head Start families.

District Income Status

2003-04 District enrollment data reports that 6,147 District children (20%) are eligible for free and reduced meals.

Language Profile

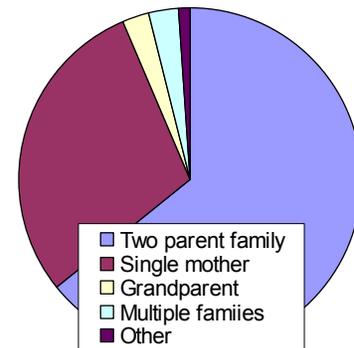
English is the predominant language at Deer Valley Head Start, spoken by 69% of students, but over a quarter speak only Spanish, and another 4% speak other languages.

Language Profile	Number	Percent
English	114	69.1%
Spanish	44	26.7%
Asian	5	3.0%
Other	2	1.2%

Household Composition

The household composition for the Deer Valley Head Start families are mostly two parent families (62%). Single mothers comprise a large number (28%) of the Head Start families. A small number of households include the grandparents as the primary caregivers (3%), multiple family situations (3%) or foster families (1%) as reflected in the chart below.

Deer Valley Head Start Household Composition



Mission Statement

The mission of Deer Valley Unified School District is to graduate students as contributing members of society, empowered to shape their futures using knowledge and skills gained through educational services developed in partnership with students, family, community, business and government and provided within a safe environment.

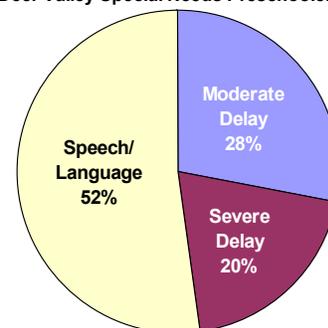
In support of the mission of DVUSD and the City of Phoenix Human Services Department Head Start Program, **the Deer Valley Head Start Program's mission is:** To collaborate with parents, educators, and the community to provide quality child development services that promote family well-being and self-sufficiency and prepare children to make positive choices and experience success in school.

Deer Valley Community Strengths

Some strengths of the District community include:

- Head Start provides services to 140 families at 5 elementary sites within the Deer Valley District, under the Special Education Services Department. This organizational placement of the Head Start program assures that families and children are served as *registered district students and families*. The beautiful classrooms, state-of-the-art phone systems and convenient playgrounds are maintained by the District as *in-kind* contributions to the program.
- DVUSD served 406 special needs preschoolers in 2002-03. Of these preschoolers 114 are certified Preschool Moderate Delay (PMD), 80 are Preschool Severe Delay (PSD) and 212 are Preschool Speech/ Language (PSL). Each child can receive *speech* as a related service as well as *occupational, physical and adaptive physical education therapy*. The District also provided vision (2 preschool children) and hearing impaired services (1 preschool child).
- An average of 26% of Head Start's students are eligible preschoolers placed through Individual Education Plans (IEP's) in a least-restrictive environment.

Deer Valley Special Needs Preschoolers



- Head Start is the District's model for the State Early Childhood Block Grant funded pre-school classrooms. The established Head Start dollar per child campaign is funded annually to assure Head Start's quality comprehensive service delivery. The program is integrated into the federal program by providing full day services to 40 children of parents/guardians who work or go to school at least half-time.
- The Parent Policy Committee and District recommended that the parent education program (for example: GED, ESL and basic computer classes) be maintained.
- Deer Valley Head Start's full-day program is one outcome of the previous three-year plan for Head Start. To support this program further, DVUSD and Head Start collaborated with the Deer Valley YMCA in 1997; this three-way partnership provides full-day service to families. The YMCA provides daily early morning and late afternoon care and holiday and recess care (as needed) to Head Start children at no cost to the participating families.
- The Deer Valley community has welcomed and supported the Head Start program. From November 1992, through October 2003, Head Start has documented 42,239 volunteer hours donated by 2,525 parent and community volunteers. This translates into \$358,861 in volunteer in-kind support to the Head Start program.
- The Governing Board of DVUSD is very supportive of prevention and early intervention services programs. The District is fortunate to have Dr. Susan Burke, a nationally-recognized early childhood expert and active child and family advocate, as Governing Board President.

Survey Results

A total of 140 survey forms were distributed to families, and when possible these forms were completed during home visits or in person while a family member was at a Head Start site. A total of 78 survey forms were returned, for a 55% response rate.

Deer Valley Community Needs:

Deer Valley Head Start conducted a community assessment to collect data that would influence the goals and objectives of the 2004-07 *Three Year Plan for Head Start* in Deer Valley. The Community Needs Survey was presented for approval to the Associate Superintendent of Education Services, (James Garver) on August 25, 2003. Upon approval, it was presented for approval to the Policy Committee. All surveys were completed and submitted for data analysis to the City of Phoenix on October 17, 2003. The survey data analysis was returned to Deer Valley Head Start on November 7, 2003.

In addition to this community needs survey, Deer Valley Unified School District has established a Strategic Planning Committee to develop goals and objectives based on the needs of the community. This committee's plan will influence and support the goals for the Deer Valley Head Start program. Parents and staff of Deer Valley Head Start will continue to work collaboratively in this strategic planning process to develop long range goals and an action plan based on further analysis and discussion of the findings below.

Community Needs Assessment Findings

Based on the assessment data, the following areas were identified to be of highest concern:

1. Housing
 2. Medical/Dental Care
 3. Job Training
 4. Quality/Affordable Child Care/After School Care
 5. Assistance for food, clothing and utilities
 6. Neighborhood Safety
- 40% to 46% of respondents felt housing was difficult to access and identified this as an area in need of more services. 29% indicated the quality of housing services fell below average.
 - 36% of respondents found child care difficult to access, and 44% need more services for after school care.
 - 28% of respondents found that existing job training services were difficult to access, and 42% indicated a need for more services.
 - 52% of respondents indicated a need for more dental care services. Medical and dental care were identified areas of need with the greater need indicated for dental care.
 - 47% of respondents indicated a need for more services in accessing assistance for food, clothing and utilities.
 - 42% of respondents requested a need for more neighborhood safety services.

Future Focus

The long range goals for 2004-07 include the following:

1. To improve community partnerships and identify resources in order to assist families to locate necessary assistance which may include housing, job training, medical and/or dental care.
2. To improve quality and availability of child care and neighborhood safety through community resources and development of partnerships between families, providers of child care and law enforcement.

The current focus for parents and staff of Deer Valley Head Start is to use this report and data analysis, with results of the District Strategic Plan, to develop more specific short range goals and objectives to meet the needs of the families served. The Policy Committee will review these goals and make any necessary revisions. Then, strategies and steps to attain the goals will be developed and implemented.