



SCHOOL PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING SANTAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2024-25 Evaluation Report

In partnership with Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton College of Teaching and Learning Innovation & Participatory Governance Initiative, Center for the Future of Arizona, and Santan Junior High School in Chandler Unified School District.

In 2018, Chandler Unified School District (CUSD) piloted School Participatory Budgeting (SPB). Through SPB, students “learn democracy by doing” through a process of generating ideas, developing proposals, campaigning and deliberating, and voting to fund improvement projects that build stronger school communities.

CUSD partnered with Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) and Arizona State University (ASU) to pilot, implement, scale, and evaluate the SPB process.

Since Academic Year 2018-19, 14 CUSD junior highs and high schools have participated in this process, engaging approximately 55,000 students in voting on 132 campus improvement projects. The process has also led to over 3,100 students registered to vote in Arizona through SPB Vote Days.

This report highlights student reflections from Academic Year 2024-25 at Santan Junior High School.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Santan Junior High has been implementing School PB since 2020-21. The 2024-25 process was supported by:

CUSD District Leaders

- Frank Narducci, Superintendent
- Dr. Jessica Edgar, Assistant Superintendent
- Lana Berry, Chief Financial Officer
- Tom Dunn, Executive Director of Capital Projects and Operations
- Heather Caviar, Director of Finance
- Philip Robertson, Academic Coach Social Studies

School Leaders

- Principal Jayson Phillips

SPB Sponsor

- Kendra Barro
- Erika Aguilar

Student Steering Committees

- 31 7-8TH Grade Student Council Members

SPB Advisors

- Center for the Future of Arizona's Civic Health Team
- Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton College of Teaching and Learning Innovation & Participatory Governance Initiative



2024-25 Winning Project & Budget

\$5,000
Leaderboard Lighting
Voter Turnout: 86%

STUDENT/EDUCATOR REFLECTIONS

- “This process gives the students a say in what our school needs and makes those needs and wants come to life.”
- “Being a part of the process makes me proud because it helps us come together and connect with one another.”
- “I enjoy the fact that I can directly contribute to significant change at my school that is beneficial to all students.”
- “All the students are able to vote for what they want, and they are able to experience the voting process.”
- “The process is very organized, which made it easy to do.”

HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT GAINS IN KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, SKILLS, AND PRACTICES

- **+20%** “I know how my school’s budget works.”
- **+14%** “I feel my ideas are being heard by others in my school.”
- **+13%** “I feel like I can make a difference in my school.”
- **+12%** “I know how decisions are made in my school.”
- **+11%** “I discuss solutions with others in my school.”

