

As a member of the Tucson school board and as a Pima County Supervisor, Grijalva has repeatedly and illegally used her power to silence her critics while making government less accountable. She killed a proposal for a watchdog position for Tucson schools and banned critics from board meetings after voting to close half a dozen schools and lay off hundreds of teachers

On The Tucson School Board, Grijalva Slashed A Proposal For A Watchdog Position For Tucson Public Schools And Removed A Critic From Board Meetings

In 2015, Grijalva Voted To Kill A Proposal To Create An Internal Auditor Position For The TUSD, As Had Been Proposed By Multiple Audits, Warning That The Position Could Be “A Sort Of Watchdog”

2015: Grijalva Voted To Kill A Proposal To Create An Internal Auditor Position For TUSD, To Protect Against Theft And Inefficient Practices. According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Despite a stated commitment to improve transparency in Tucson's largest school district, the TUSD Governing Board rejected an initiative to beef up internal checks and balances. TUSD Governing Board President Adelita Grijalva, Clerk Kristel Foster and member Cam Juarez killed a proposal Tuesday to create an internal auditor position to oversee potential organizational risks such as noncompliance, theft, inefficient practices or other unfavorable circumstances. The issue has come before the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board repeatedly, with the district's audit committee and two separate independent audits recommending it over the last six years.” [Arizona Daily Star, 1/22/15]

TUSD’s Audit Committee And Two Different Independent Audits Had All Recommended Hiring An Internal Auditor. According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Despite a stated commitment to improve transparency in Tucson's largest school district, the TUSD Governing Board rejected an initiative to beef up internal checks and balances. TUSD Governing Board President Adelita Grijalva, Clerk Kristel Foster and member Cam Juarez killed a proposal Tuesday to create an internal auditor position to oversee potential organizational risks such as noncompliance, theft, inefficient practices or other unfavorable circumstances. The issue has come before the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board repeatedly, with the district's audit committee and two separate independent audits recommending it over the last six years.” [Arizona Daily Star, 1/22/15]

Grijalva Pointed To State-Mandated Budget Cuts As Reason To Oppose An Internal Auditor Position. According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Despite a stated commitment to improve transparency in Tucson's largest school district, the TUSD Governing Board rejected an initiative to beef up internal checks and balances. TUSD Governing Board President Adelita Grijalva, Clerk Kristel Foster and member Cam Juarez killed a proposal Tuesday to create an internal auditor position to oversee potential organizational risks such as noncompliance, theft, inefficient practices or other unfavorable circumstances. The issue has come before the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board repeatedly, with the district's audit committee and two separate independent audits recommending it over the last six years. [...] Instead, Grijalva pointed to a proposed 5 percent cut to administration by Arizona's new governor, Doug Ducey, saying the internal auditor would be yet another administrator.” [Arizona Daily Star, 1/22/15]

Grijalva: “This Position Could Actually Create A Sort Of Watchdog ... As Opposed To Really Helping To Support The District.” According to an Editorial in the Arizona Daily Star, “TUSD is poised to finally add an internal auditor seven years after the need for the position first was recommended by an outside evaluation of the district's business practices and operations. It's also three months after the TUSD governing board declined to create the job on a 3-2 vote. TUSD Superintendent H.T. Sanchez told us it is one of the languishing issues he has the

power to address, and he did. [...] In January, it appeared the five-member board had reached a compromise on hiring an internal auditor negotiated between Cam Juarez and Mark Stegeman, who are generally seen as members of the board majority and minority, respectively. But when it came up at the board meeting, the compromise suddenly was off. Governing board President Adelita Grijalva then went on a local radio program saying, 'This position could actually create a sort of watchdog ... as opposed to really helping to support the district.'" [Arizona Daily Star, 4/26/15]

In 2016, After A Critic Of Grijalva's Failed To Give His Home Address When Asked To Provide It At A Board Meeting, Grijalva Had Him Removed From The Meeting

2016: After A Critic Of Grijalva's Gave The TUSD Address When Asked To Give His Address When Speaking At A TUSD Board Meeting, Grijalva Had Him Removed From The Meeting. According to a Column by Tim Steller in the Arizona Daily Star, "When DA Morales addressed the TUSD board meeting Tuesday night, he brought a lot of history. Morales has been one of the most persistent critics of Board Chair Adelita Grijalva since the Mexican-American Studies flare-up of 2011. When he tried to speak at the call-to-the-audience portion of the meeting, Grijalva asked for his address, information that the board requires speakers give. He said '1010 E. 10th St.' That's the address of the TUSD offices. When he refused to give a valid address and kept speaking into the microphone, Grijalva had him removed. These are tricky areas in that it is a board policy, not state law, under which speakers are asked to give their address. If applied fairly, the rule doesn't seem offensive." [Arizona Daily Star, Column, [8/11/16](#)]

The Board's Requirement That Speakers Provide An Address Was Board Policy – Not State Law. According to a Column by Tim Steller in the Arizona Daily Star, "When DA Morales addressed the TUSD board meeting Tuesday night, he brought a lot of history. Morales has been one of the most persistent critics of Board Chair Adelita Grijalva since the Mexican-American Studies flare-up of 2011. When he tried to speak at the call-to-the-audience portion of the meeting, Grijalva asked for his address, information that the board requires speakers give. He said '1010 E. 10th St.' That's the address of the TUSD offices. When he refused to give a valid address and kept speaking into the microphone, Grijalva had him removed. These are tricky areas in that it is a board policy, not state law, under which speakers are asked to give their address. If applied fairly, the rule doesn't seem offensive." [Arizona Daily Star, Column, [8/11/16](#)]

As Supervisor, She Once Again Banned A Constituent From Meetings After They Criticized The Board. A Review Later Found That Grijalva's Action Was Against The Law

In 2023, As Chair Of The Pima County Board Of Supervisors, Grijalva Banned A Woman From Supervisors Meetings After The Woman Criticized Another Supervisor Who Was Involved In A Scandal

2023: As Chair Of The Pima County Board Of Supervisors, Grijalva Banned A Woman From Supervisors Meetings After Criticizing Another Supervisor For Having A Young Man In A Speedo Bathing Suit Walk Behind Him During A Zoom Meeting. According to the Arizona Daily Star, "A woman banned from Pima County Board of Supervisors meetings for remarks made against Supervisor Matt Heinz during the call to the public is allowed to return this week. The board, meanwhile, also voted to review the legality of the ban against Shirley Requard, a retired registered nurse who frequently speaks at the meetings. Heinz fell under scrutiny after a man wearing a Speedo-like swimsuit appeared in the background of his video feed during a January board meeting. The supervisor, who was attending the meeting remotely during a Caribbean cruise, has said that the man in the now-viral video is a 24-year-old friend. [...] Requard used her turn to speak at three separate board meetings in January and February to say she believed the individual in the video feed was not of a 'pubescent' age." [...] As a

result of her continued remarks, Requard received a letter from Brown, under the direction of Grijalva, for the three-month ban from county meetings.” [Arizona Daily Star, 4/16/23]

Grijalva’s Action Was Reversed By Her Fellow Supervisors After An Outside Law Firm Found Her Action Was Unlawful

In Response, Another Pima County Supervisor Hired An Outside Law Firm To Review Grijalva’s Action; It Found That The Ban Was Unlawful. According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Supervisor Steve Christy asked an outside law firm to conduct a legal review into Requard's ban. At the board's April 4th meeting, Christy said his office budget would cover the cost. In a 22-page review, the firm Munger, Chadwick & Denker concluded the ban was unlawful. Christy said at the April meeting that his main concern for seeking the review was to ensure the ban did not put the county in danger of a lawsuit for violating Requard's free speech rights.” [Arizona Daily Star, 4/16/23]

April 2023: The Board Of Supervisors Voted To Reverse Grijalva’s Ban On The Woman. According to the Arizona Daily Star, “A woman banned from Pima County Board of Supervisors meetings for remarks made against Supervisor Matt Heinz during the call to the public is allowed to return this week. The board, meanwhile, also voted to review the legality of the ban against Shirley Requard, a retired registered nurse who frequently speaks at the meetings. [...] The board also voted to allow Requard to return to the meetings starting Tuesday, April 18.” [Arizona Daily Star, 4/16/23]

Pima County Supervisor: “Sad And Disturbing – What It Is Like To Witness Our Greatest National Right Of Free Speech Steadily Under Attack By ... Grijalva.” According to an Op-Ed by Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy in the Arizona Daily Star, “Sad and disturbing – what it is like to witness our greatest national right of free speech steadily under attack by the current leader of Pima County Board of Supervisors, Chair Adelita Grijalva. Her efforts to erode citizens' right to address their elected officials began during the Jan. 24 Board of Supervisors meeting, at the time set aside for attendees to voice their concerns, the ‘Call to the Public.’” [Arizona Daily Star, Op-Ed, 3/31/23]

When Tucson Public Schools Needed More Resources To Get Kids On Track, Grijalva Voted To Close Half A Dozen Schools And Lay Off Hundreds Of Teachers

2006-2012: Grijalva Voted To Close Over Half A Dozen TUSD Schools

2004: Grijalva Suggested The Board Hire Roger Pfeuffer To Be Interim Superintendent Of The TUSD; After It Hired Him, He Proposed Closing Four Schools. According to the Arizona Daily Star, “When officials hired Roger Pfeuffer four years ago to run Tucson's largest school district, they hoped he'd bring a sense of calm to a chaotic situation. The ensuing years turned out to be anything but, as the Tucson Unified School District emerged from its decades-old desegregation order, battled massive budget problems and federal investigations, and weathered a community storm that began after attempts to close four elementary schools. [...] Some parents remain largely cynical of Pfeuffer's work and especially sensitive to the changes he attempted in his final year. The proposal to close four elementary schools, Pfeuffer's swan song, may well prove to be his legacy. [...] Rivera said Pfeuffer was great when he was her fifth-grade teacher at Holladay Intermediate Magnet School. But when Pfeuffer recommended school closures as a cost-savings measure, she felt he never had the answers to parental concerns. [...] When former Superintendent Stan Paz resigned in April 2004, he was one year into a massive, districtwide reorganization that was criticized for a lack of communication and explanation. The changes alienated the public and TUSD employees alike. At the time, Pfeuffer had been retired for two years, but Grijalva said she suggested him as an interim superintendent.” [Arizona Daily Star, 6/22/08]

2006: Grijalva Voted To Close Smith Elementary School. According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Tucson Unified School District Governing Board: Usually meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are

generally held at Morrow Education Center, 1010 E. 10th St. Call 225-6437 to confirm meeting dates, times and locations. At a special meeting Thursday, voted to close Smith Elementary, 5741 E. Ironwood St., at the of the school year. Adelita Grijalva Y Alex Rodriguez N Bruce Burke Y Judy Burns N Joel Ireland Y.” [Arizona Daily Star, 5/21/06]

2012: Grijalva Appeared To Have Voted To Close Over Half A Dozen TUSD Schools. According to the Tucson Weekly, “The Tucson Unified School District's governing board heard pleas from dozens of parents, students and educators on why their school shouldn't be on the proposal list for school closures and consolidations — made public for the first time on Monday evening. The meeting started at 6 p.m. and ended around 11:30 p.m. [...] Hohokum Middle School: Unanimous vote for closure. Carson Middle School: Michael Hicks and Mark Stegeman only no votes. [...] Pueblo Gardens Pre K-8: Tabled for Nov. 27. Adelita Grijalva said she has concerns about what schools the students will attend in the neighborhood. [...] Schumacker Elementary: Hicks only no vote. [...] Ft. Lowell-Townsend K-8: Hicks and Cuevas only no votes. [...] Corbett Elementary: Unanimous yes. [...] Lyons Elementary: Hicks and Stegeman only no votes. [...] Sewell Elementary — Hicks voted no. Howenstine High Magnet School — While a unanimous yes, the board did discuss the school pool, which has become an important part of therapy offered to TUSD special ed students throughout the district.” [Tucson Weekly, 11/22/12]

- **2012: Grijalva Backed Final Closure Orders For Several TUSD Schools.** According to the Arizona Daily Star, “The TUSD Governing Board approved closing 11 schools for the upcoming school year, but saved three others from being shuttered. The closures are part of an effort to bridge a \$17 million budget shortfall. [...] Fellow board member Adelita Grijalva supported a number of the closures, but first apologized to the community for the emotional toll the process has taken.” [Arizona Daily Star, 12/21/12]

2009: Grijalva Voted To Approve Layoffs For 560 Employees, Most Of Whom Were Teachers, Even As Hundreds Of Students And Parents Opposed The Cuts

2009: Grijalva Voted To Approve Layoffs For 560 Employees, Most Of Whom Were Teachers, Conceding “I Know How This Is Going To Affect Families.” According to the Tucson Citizen, “In a vote that brought some members close to tears, the Tucson Unified School District governing board Tuesday night unanimously approved layoff notices for next year for 560 employees - mostly teachers - and 45 administrators. [...] Board member Adelita Grijalva's ‘yes’ vote was hardly audible and showed the strain she was under. ‘I know how this is going to affect families,’ she said.” [Tucson Citizen, 4/8/09]

- **Dozens Of Students And Parents Attended The Board Meeting, Chanting “Don’t Pink Slip Our Future” And “Save Our Teachers.”** According to the Tucson Citizen, “In a vote that brought some members close to tears, the Tucson Unified School District governing board Tuesday night unanimously approved layoff notices for next year for 560 employees - mostly teachers - and 45 administrators. [...] Outside the meeting room an hour earlier, some teachers who got those notices, and students and parents who showed up to support them - about 80 in all - chanted “Don't pink slip our future,” “Call Gov. Brewer today” and “Save our teachers.” [...] Board member Adelita Grijalva's ‘yes’ vote was hardly audible and showed the strain she was under. ‘I know how this is going to affect families,’ she said.” [Tucson Citizen, 4/8/09]

Grijalva: “We Keep Hearing Things Like, ‘My Wife Already Got Laid Off. Now What Are We Going To Do For Insurance?’” According to the Tucson Citizen, “In a vote that brought some members close to tears, the Tucson Unified School District governing board Tuesday night unanimously approved layoff notices for next year for 560 employees - mostly teachers - and 45 administrators. [...] Board member Adelita Grijalva's ‘yes’ vote was hardly audible and showed the strain she was under. ‘I know how this is going to affect families,’ she said. ‘We keep hearing things like, ‘My wife already got laid off. Now what are we going to do for insurance?’” [Tucson Citizen, 4/8/09]

Grijalva: “I Would Have Loved To Have Voted ‘No’ ... But What Could We Do?” According to the Tucson Citizen, “In a vote that brought some members close to tears, the Tucson Unified School District governing board

Tuesday night unanimously approved layoff notices for next year for 560 employees - mostly teachers - and 45 administrators. [...] Board member Adelita Grijalva's 'yes' vote was hardly audible and showed the strain she was under. 'I know how this is going to affect families,' she said. [...] 'I would have loved to have voted 'no,' for all of us to have voted 'no,' but what could we do?' she asked." [Tucson Citizen, 4/8/09]

April 2009: The TUSD Governing Voted To Lay Off Over 600 Staff, Drawing Protests From As Many As 500 Students And Frustration From Parents. The Arizona Daily Star reported, "Hundreds of students sat out of class Tuesday to protest anticipated budget cuts within the Tucson Unified School District. At one point, as many as 500 students at Cholla High Magnet School students refused to go to class, instead chanting 'Save our teachers' and holding signs that read, 'Don't pink slip our teachers.' Across town at Van Horne Elementary School, 101 students stayed home in a sick-in. 'People are frustrated and angry,' said Rich Harkins, president of the Van Horne Parent-Teacher Organization. Roughly 25 percent of the school's staff received layoff notices after the Governing Board approved more than 600 pink slips in the face of a budget shortfall that could be as high as \$63 million. 'They feel like they don't have a voice,' Harkins said. Meanwhile, frustration took many forms at the Governing Board meeting Tuesday night, from a rendition of 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' to a Grim Reaper figure who warned that she was the 'voice of TUSD's future' and saw students leaving for charter and private schools. Choir and orchestra students from Rincon/University high schools performed in an effort to showcase their program and highlight what could be lost in the budget battles." [Arizona Daily Star, 4/15/09]

Under Grijalva's Watch, The District Allowed Bigger Class Sizes, Reading And Math Test Scores Were Abysmal, And Student Enrollment Plummeted

Under Grijalva, TUSD Raised The Cap On Kindergarten Class Sizes

February 2005: \$6 Million In Budget Cuts For TUSD Meant That Class Sizes Would Be Increased, And Art And Music Classes Would Be Cut To Address Budget Shortfalls. The Arizona Daily Star reported, "Parents and educators in the Tucson Unified School District are preparing for the effects of \$6 million in classroom-targeted budget cuts and are keeping their fingers crossed that \$11 million left to trim won't jeopardize student achievement. [...] By raising the maximum class size in all grade levels by one student, 80 teaching positions will be eliminated. That's a savings of \$4.2 million. Deputy Superintendent Patti Lopez said the district doesn't plan to fire or layoff anyone. Instead, the savings will come by not filling open positions and transferring some teachers to other schools. [...] Blenman, at 1695 N. Country Club Road, receives more than \$20,000 for teacher aides, tutors and art and music activities. Cutting that in half, which the board approved to save \$1.5 million, means something will have to give. 'It will cut our programs for kids,' Blenman Principal Bobbe Woods said. 'For some families, they're going to look at other schools where class sizes are smaller.' Parent and certified teachers aide Julia Hillman doesn't plan to take her kids out of the district, but she might leave. She recently was certified and is working toward a teaching degree. If her paycheck is cut, she can't afford to volunteer. 'I'll be here for the rest of the year, but I do need to get paid,' she said. There's no telling how many tutors and teacher aides the district will lose, because the funds the school board cut are handed to schools to spend as they like in the kindergarten through third grades" [Arizona Daily Star, 2/24/05]

In 2007, TUSD Kindergarten Class Sizes Were Capped At 18 Students, But By 2014 They Were Capped At 24 Students. According to an Editorial in the Arizona Daily Star, "Reducing class size. TUSD is spending \$4.4 million to reduce class sizes this year, capping them at 27 students in grades 2-12 and 24 students in kindergarten and first grade. However, as far back as 2007 kindergarten classes were capped at 18, a strategy that resulted in significantly higher numbers of students reading at grade level. Getting back to that number in kindergarten and first grade should be the target." [Arizona Daily Star, Editorial, 10/11/14]

2022: TUSD Capped Kindergarten Class Sizes At 25. The Tucson Sentinel reported, "The Tucson Education Association, the local teacher's union, has an agreement with TUSD saying that teachers are entitled to extra pay if their class size is above a negotiated capacity, which varies by grade level. [...] The agreed capacity for TUSD kindergarten class is 25." [Tucson Sentinel, [7/21/22](#)]

2022: TUSD Was Forced To “Likely Need To Increase Class Sizes Across Several Schools” In The Face Of Staffing Shortages. The Arizona Daily Star reported, “With about two weeks until students’ first day back to school, Tucson Unified School District faces significant staffing shortages in some departments. Superintendent Gabriel Trujillo said the deepest shortages are among middle and high school math educators, special education teachers and bus drivers. [...] Overall, Trujillo said, the district has a workforce of about 2,750 teachers and is facing 126 teacher vacancies. [...] The district will also likely need to increase class sizes across several schools and programs, including exceptional education. Trujillo said it will try to maintain the class sizes it negotiated with Tucson Education Association, the TUSD teachers’ union.” [Arizona Daily Star, [7/21/22](#)]

The Arizona Daily Star Editorial Board Opposed Grijalva In The 2014 And 2018 Elections, Writing That “The District Has Not Improved Substantially During Her Tenure” And That Grijalva’s “Long Tenure Has Not Produced Commensurate Meaningful Results”

2010: Arizona Daily Star Editorial Board: Grijalva “Knows There Are Problems” In The TUSD “But After Two Terms On The Board, She Seems Unwilling To Admit Their Depth.” According to the Arizona Daily Star Editorial Board, “Grijalva, the incumbent, says she first ran for the board in 2002 because through her job at a diversion program for juvenile offenders, she met teens who were unable to write a letter. She knows there are problems, but after two terms on the board, she seems unwilling to admit their depth. Yes, she says, students have left TUSD, but many eventually return. Whatever the churn, the plain fact is that enrollment is down 10 percent in 10 years.” [Arizona Daily Star, Editorial, 10/20/10]

- **Arizona Daily Star Editorial: “Yes [Grijalva] Says, Students Have Left TUSD, But Many Eventually Return. Whatever The Churn, The Plain Fact Is That Enrollment Is Down 10 Percent In 10 Years.”** According to the Arizona Daily Star Editorial Board, “Grijalva, the incumbent, says she first ran for the board in 2002 because through her job at a diversion program for juvenile offenders, she met teens who were unable to write a letter. She knows there are problems, but after two terms on the board, she seems unwilling to admit their depth. Yes, she says, students have left TUSD, but many eventually return. Whatever the churn, the plain fact is that enrollment is down 10 percent in 10 years.” [Arizona Daily Star, Editorial, 10/20/10]

2014 Arizona Daily Star Editorial: “Grijalva Has Served 12 Years ... And As We’ve Indicated, The District Has Not Improved Substantially During Her Tenure ... We Believe It’s Time For Someone With New Ideas.” According to an Editorial in the Arizona Daily Star, “Grijalva has served 12 years -- nearly long enough for a kindergartener to complete high school. And, as we’ve indicated, the district has not improved substantially during her tenure. She has been a strong advocate for minority students and a positive supporter of the district, but we believe it’s time for someone with new ideas.” [Arizona Daily Star, Editorial, 10/11/14]

2018 Arizona Daily Star Editorial Endorsing Grijalva’s Opponents Over Her: Grijalva’s “Long Tenure Has Not Produced Commensurate Meaningful Results.” According to an Editorial in the Arizona Daily Star, “The Arizona Daily Star endorses Leila Counts and Adam Ragan for the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board. They are running against Doug Robson, who owns a real estate management firm, and incumbents Adelita Grijalva and Michael Hicks. [...] During their time, the incumbents have presided over a mass exodus from a district that has shown only moderate improvement and seems adrift in need of ideas. Grijalva — who has been on the board for 16 years — is highly knowledgeable and has always been a strong advocate for students, but her long tenure has not produced commensurate meaningful results.” [Arizona Daily Star, 10/24/18]

In Spring 2004 Standardized Tests, Over 40% Of TUSD Sophomores Failed The Reading Test While Over 60% Failed Math

According To Spring 2004 Test Scores, 43 Percent Of TUSD Sophomores Failed The Reading Portion Of The AIMS State Test, 36 Percent Failed Writing And 62 Percent Failed The Math Portion. The Arizona Daily Star reported, “At least one new person - and possibly two others - will be elected to the TUSD Governing Board in November and will join a board that is facing major decisions: hiring a new superintendent, overseeing a bond issue and a budget override if they pass in November, and deciding how to handle the potential closing of the federal desegregation court case. [...] Most of the candidates also cite getting students to pass the AIMS test, which becomes a high school graduation requirement in 2006, as a major priority. According to spring 2004 test scores, 43 percent of TUSD sophomores failed the reading portion of the test, 36 percent failed writing and 62 percent failed the math portion.” [Arizona Daily Star, 10/9/04]

A Decade Later, Fewer Than 30% Of TUSD Students Passed The Language Arts Or Math Portions Of Arizona’s Standardized Test, Putting Them “Far Below The Statewide Average”

As Of 2014, In The Last Decade, TUSD’s District-Wide “Performance Has Improved Only Slight ... And The Students Who Need Quality Schools The Most Are Largely Being Poorly Served.” According to an Editorial in the Arizona Daily Star, “Those are clear signs that major change is needed. The trajectory of the district's performance has improved only slightly for the last decade, and the students who need quality schools the most are largely being poorly served. The state Legislature certainly shares blame for failing to adequately fund public schools, but the TUSD board also has failed. It has not vigorously and publicly debated the district's weaknesses or set a clear agenda for success.” [Arizona Daily Star, Editorial, 10/11/14]

As Of 2017, Less Than 30% Of TUSD Passed Either The Language Arts Or Math Portions Of Arizona’s Standardized Test – “Far Below The Statewide Average.” According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Tucson Unified School District students continue to score far below the statewide average on the AzMERIT test, with less than 30 percent of TUSD students passing either the language arts or math portions of the test. [...] AzMERIT, which tests students from third grade up on English language arts and math, is said to be more difficult and rigorous than the AIMS test it replaced, and the majority of Arizona students have not tested proficient in any subject at any grade level over the last three years it has been administered.” [Arizona Daily Star, 8/4/17]

Results From The Statewide Tests Showed That TUSD Students “Tested Far Behind The Statewide Average In Every Subject And In Every Grade Level.” According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Tucson Unified School District students continue to score far below the statewide average on the AzMERIT test, with less than 30 percent of TUSD students passing either the language arts or math portions of the test. [...] AzMERIT, which tests students from third grade up on English language arts and math, is said to be more difficult and rigorous than the AIMS test it replaced, and the majority of Arizona students have not tested proficient in any subject at any grade level over the last three years it has been administered. Unofficial results from the spring 2016 test show TUSD students fared even worse and tested far behind the statewide average in every subject and in every grade level.” [Arizona Daily Star, 8/4/17]

- **September 2017: TUSD Performed Well Below The State Average On The AzMERIT Test, With Only 28 Percent Of Students Passing Math And 29 Percent Passing English, Significantly Dragging Down Pima County’s Overall Results On The State Test.** The Arizona Daily Star reported, “Pima County students overall are scoring higher than many of their rural peers on the AzMERIT test, according to official test results released by the Department of Education Wednesday, but Southern Arizona’s largest school district is dragging down the county’s results. Students in the Tucson Unified School District performed well below the state average on the standardized test and were also outperformed by students in eight of Pima County’s nine major school districts. AzMERIT, which tests students from third grade up on English language arts and math, was designed to be more difficult and rigorous than the AIMS test it replaced, and the majority of Arizona students have not tested proficient in any subject at any grade level over the last three years it has been administered. [...] Southern Arizona’s largest school district, TUSD, fell way below those numbers. Only 28 and 29 percent of TUSD students passed the math and English portions of the test, respectively. TUSD Superintendent Gabriel Trujillo couldn’t be immediately reached

for comment, but said in August, after the district saw its unofficial scores, that the results were disappointing.” [Arizona Daily Star, 9/7/17]

- **As Of 2017, 41% Of Arizona Sixth-Graders Scored Proficient In Math, While Only 21% Of Similar TUSD Students Were Proficient.** According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Tucson Unified School District students continue to score far below the statewide average on the AzMERIT test, with less than 30 percent of TUSD students passing either the language arts or math portions of the test. [...] Statewide, 41 percent of Arizona sixth-graders scored proficient on the math portion of the test. For TUSD students, that number is only 21 percent. In eighth-grade math, only 13 percent of TUSD students scored proficient, while statewide, 29 percent were proficient.” [Arizona Daily Star, 8/4/17]
- **As Of 2017, 29% Of Arizona Eighth-Graders Scored Proficient In Math, While Only 13% Of Similar TUSD Students Were Proficient.** According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Tucson Unified School District students continue to score far below the statewide average on the AzMERIT test, with less than 30 percent of TUSD students passing either the language arts or math portions of the test. [...] Statewide, 41 percent of Arizona sixth-graders scored proficient on the math portion of the test. For TUSD students, that number is only 21 percent. In eighth-grade math, only 13 percent of TUSD students scored proficient, while statewide, 29 percent were proficient.” [Arizona Daily Star, 8/4/17]

As Of 2017, Over The Past Three Years, Math Scores For TUSD Eighth-Graders Had Dropped From 23% Proficient To 13% Proficient. According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Tucson Unified School District students continue to score far below the statewide average on the AzMERIT test, with less than 30 percent of TUSD students passing either the language arts or math portions of the test. [...] That upward trend, however, is not across the board. Math scores for TUSD's eighth-graders plummeted over the past three years, dropping to just 13 percent proficient from 23 percent.” [Arizona Daily Star, 8/4/17]

2016: Student Achievement Continued To Lag Far Below The Statewide Average

Arizona Daily Star: TUSD “Students Continue To Score Far Below The Statewide Average On The AzMERIT Test, With Less Than 30 Percent Of TUSD Students Passing Either The Language Arts Or Math Portions Of The Test.” The Arizona Daily Star reported, “Tucson Unified School District students continue to score far below the statewide average on the AzMERIT test, with less than 30 percent of TUSD students passing either the language arts or math portions of the test. [...] Unofficial results from the spring 2016 test show TUSD students fared even worse and tested far behind the statewide average in every subject and in every grade level.” [Arizona Daily Star, [7/29/17](#)]

- **Only 21% Of TUSD 11th Graders Were Proficient On The English Language Section Of The Test.** The Arizona Daily Star reported, “Only 21 percent of TUSD 11th-graders scored proficient on the English language arts section of the test.” [Arizona Daily Star, [7/29/17](#)]
- **Only 21% Of TUSD 6th Graders Were Proficient On The Math Portion Of The Test, Dramatically Below The 41% Of Their Peers Statewide.** The Arizona Daily Star reported, “Statewide, 41 percent of Arizona sixth-graders scored proficient on the math portion of the test. For TUSD students, that number is only 21 percent.” [Arizona Daily Star, [7/29/17](#)]
- **Only 13% Of TUSD 8th Graders Were Proficient On The Math Portion Of The Test, Less Than Half Of The Statewide Average.** The Arizona Daily Star reported, “In eighth-grade math, only 13 percent of TUSD students scored proficient, while statewide, 29 percent were proficient. [...] Math scores for TUSD's eighth-graders plummeted over the past three years, dropping to just 13 percent proficient from 23 percent.” [Arizona Daily Star, [7/29/17](#)]

- **White TUSD Students Scored “Much Higher” Than Their Minority Peers, Highlighting “A Sharp Disparity” Based On Race Within The District.** The Arizona Daily Star reported, “The data also show a sharp disparity between white, Asian-American and multi-racial students and Hispanic, Native American and African-American students. The former group continued to score much higher on both the math and English language arts portions of the test, outperforming the latter group of students by a wide margin.” [Arizona Daily Star, [7/29/17](#)]

In Her Final Year On The Board, Student Achievement Remained Low With Only 20% Of Students Receiving Passing Scores In Math & 28% Receiving Pass Scores In English Language

Only 20% Of TUSD Students Received “A Passing Score” In Math On Arizona’s 2022 Standardized Tests. KOLD 13 News reported, “Those numbers are reflected in Arizona’s 2022 standardized test scores. The main struggle for TUSD is math, with only 20 percent of students receiving a passing score.” [KOLD 13 News, [8/10/23](#)]

- **TUSD Math Scores Were “12 Percent Lower Than The Statewide Average.”** KOLD 13 News reported, “That is 12 percent lower than the statewide average for all school districts.” [KOLD 13 News, [8/10/23](#)]

Only 28% Of TUSD Students Received “A Passing Score” In English Language On Arizona’s 2022 Standardized Tests. KOLD 13 News reported, “Those numbers are reflected in Arizona’s 2022 standardized test scores. [...] English Language Arts was not much better, with only 28 percent of students passing, compared to 38 percent passing statewide.” [KOLD 13 News, [8/10/23](#)]

- **TUSD English Language Scores Were 10 Points Lower Than The State Average.** KOLD 13 News reported, “Those numbers are reflected in Arizona’s 2022 standardized test scores. [...] English Language Arts was not much better, with only 28 percent of students passing, compared to 38 percent passing statewide.” [KOLD 13 News, [8/10/23](#)]

While The Entire District Struggled Academically, Hispanic And Black Students Substantially Lagged Their White Counterparts

State Testing Data Showed “A Sharp Disparity [In The TUSD] Between White, Asian-American, And Multi-Racial Students And Hispanic, Native American And African-American Students.” According to the Arizona Daily Star, “Tucson Unified School District students continue to score far below the statewide average on the AzMERIT test, with less than 30 percent of TUSD students passing either the language arts or math portions of the test. [...] The data also show a sharp disparity between white, Asian-American and multi-racial students and Hispanic, Native American and African-American students.” [Arizona Daily Star, 8/4/17]

November 2003: According To TUSD Data, Out Of TUSD’s 11 High Schools, Only Nine Black Students Were Taking AP Math Classes In 2003 Compared To A Total Black High School Student Population Of 1,000 Black Students Enrolled In TUSD High Schools. The Arizona Daily Star reported, “Minority high school students are taking college prep courses in disproportionately low numbers - a trend TUSD is trying to reverse by making high school courses consistent from campus to campus. In some areas of study the number of minority students participating in Advanced Placement classes is in the single digits, according to Tucson Unified School District data. Advanced Placement classes are rigorous national courses where students can pass a test for college credits. ‘We don’t have just an achievement gap: We have an opportunity gap,’ said Kelly Langford, senior academic officer for student services. ‘Children of color often aren’t encouraged to take those classes,’ Langford said. ‘We have kids with 4.0 grade point averages who have never taken an AP or honors class and they tell us, ‘I didn’t know I could take those classes.’” Out of TUSD’s 11 high schools, only nine black students are taking AP math classes this school year, according to district numbers. There are more than 1,000 black students enrolled in TUSD high schools. The trend holds true for Hispanic students as well. For example, 43 percent of high school students are Hispanic, but only 22 percent of them are in AP English.” [Arizona Daily Star, 11/24/03]

- November 2003: According To TUSD Data, 43 Percent Of TUSD High School Students Were Hispanic, But Only 22 Percent Of Them Were Enrolled In An AP English Class.** The Arizona Daily Star reported, “Minority high school students are taking college prep courses in disproportionately low numbers - a trend TUSD is trying to reverse by making high school courses consistent from campus to campus. In some areas of study the number of minority students participating in Advanced Placement classes is in the single digits, according to Tucson Unified School District data. Advanced Placement classes are rigorous national courses where students can pass a test for college credits. ‘We don’t have just an achievement gap: We have an opportunity gap,’ said Kelly Langford, senior academic officer for student services. “Children of color often aren’t encouraged to take those classes,” Langford said. ‘We have kids with 4.0 grade point averages who have never taken an AP or honors class and they tell us, “I didn’t know I could take those classes.”’ Out of TUSD’s 11 high schools, only nine black students are taking AP math classes this school year, according to district numbers. There are more than 1,000 black students enrolled in TUSD high schools. The trend holds true for Hispanic students as well. For example, 43 percent of high school students are Hispanic, but only 22 percent of them are in AP English.” [Arizona Daily Star, 11/24/03]

November 2005: The Independent Citizens Committee, A Court-Ordered Citizens Group, Released A 120-Page Report Criticizing TUSD For “A Pattern Of Disparity” For Ethnic And Racial Minorities In Gifted-Student Programs, Advanced Placement Classes And Special Education, As Well As Gaps In Suspension Rates And Academic Achievement. The Arizona Daily Star reported, “Tucson’s largest school district has a pattern of denying minority students opportunities and not doing enough to integrate them into schools, a new report released by a court-ordered citizens group says. In a 120-plus page document requested by the Tucson Unified School District’s Governing Board, the Independent Citizens Committee criticizes the 60,000-student district for what it calls ‘a pattern of disparity’ for ethnic and racial minorities in gifted-student programs, Advanced Placement classes and special education, as well as gaps in suspension rates and academic achievement. But the assessment falls short of citing any intentional segregation or discrimination by the district. The committee also scolds the district for not handing over requested information that would have made the assessment more thorough. The report, delivered to the board Monday, comes as TUSD seeks to have a nearly 30-year desegregation order lifted, arguing that its efforts to integrate schools since the 1970s make it eligible for so-called ‘unitary status.’” [Arizona Daily Star, 11/17/05]

- The Independent Citizens Committee Report Highlighted That, 17 Percent Of Non-Hispanic White High School Sophomores Failed The AIMS State Math Test, Compared With 29 Percent Of Black Students And 35 Percent Of Hispanic Students.** The Arizona Daily Star reported, “Tucson’s largest school district has a pattern of denying minority students opportunities and not doing enough to integrate them into schools, a new report released by a court-ordered citizens group says. In a 120-plus page document requested by the Tucson Unified School District’s Governing Board, the Independent Citizens Committee criticizes the 60,000-student district for what it calls ‘a pattern of disparity’ for ethnic and racial minorities in gifted-student programs, Advanced Placement classes and special education, as well as gaps in suspension rates and academic achievement. But the assessment falls short of citing any intentional segregation or discrimination by the district. The committee also scolds the district for not handing over requested information that would have made the assessment more thorough. The report, delivered to the board Monday, comes as TUSD seeks to have a nearly 30-year desegregation order lifted, arguing that its efforts to integrate schools since the 1970s make it eligible for so-called ‘unitary status.’ [...] The committee report also focuses on an achievement gap between minority and nonminority students. For example, 17 percent of non-Hispanic white high school sophomores failed the AIMS math test, compared with 29 percent of blacks and 35 percent of Hispanics.” [Arizona Daily Star, 11/17/05]

During Grijalva’s Tenure, TUSD’s Enrollment Dropped By Over 10,000 Students, Costing The District Tens Of Millions Of Dollars In State Funding

Between 2003 And 2013, Grijalva Said That TUSD's Enrollment Dropped By 10,000, From 59,000 Students To 49,000. According to the Arizona Daily Star, "The TUSD Governing Board will consider spending more than \$32,000 on a study to assess and project student enrollment in the district for the next decade. [...] While Sanchez has said the numbers are not cause for panic -- especially considering the external factors, TUSD Governing Board President Adelita Grijalva, who has served since 2003, has argued there is a need for change from within. 'I've been on this board for long enough to see when we were at (59,000 students), and the first year we went down, to this point,' Grijalva said, referring to this year's enrollment of about 49,000 students." [Arizona Daily Star, 9/21/13]

January 2010: Over The Prior Five Years, TUSD Lost 8,300 To Charter Schools, Costing The District An Estimated \$36 Million In State Funding. The Arizona Daily Star reported, "Nearly 900 eighth-graders have left the Sunnyside Unified School District since 2006 to attend private or charter schools - costing the district about \$3 million in state funding. And the Tucson Unified School District - the largest in the city - has lost about 8,300 students to charters over five years - some 3 percent of its enrollment. Such losses would have cost the district an estimated \$36 million in state funding, although officials say some of the students have returned. TUSD has tried for years to find ways to stop the hemorrhaging - bulking up its niche programs, studying who's leaving for where, and advertising its extracurriculars to parents and students. Last year, the district budgeted almost \$420,000 for school-choice exploration. The initiative encourages schools to transform, offering a special focus or learning model that would draw in and retain students." [Arizona Daily Star, 1/24/10]