Confused about the 'health' of public education and do you wonder about the need for and what is at stake in the budget override election? Here are some links which can help you explore public education today and gain a better understanding about what is happening.

**Nine Action Steps for Public Education Advocacy**

Public education policy is at a critical stage in Arizona. The education of Arizona youth must be a priority for the very economic future of our state relies on a well-educated citizenry. Please invest some time and effort in addressing several of the steps. (Steps not listed in any order of importance; they are all important.)

1. Study the records and platforms of all local school board and legislative candidates plus any local budget override measures and, if an Arizona voter, **VOTE!**

   Find **2014 Dysart Override Factual Information** at the following link: [https://www.dysart.org/Sites/default.aspx?pgid=4356](https://www.dysart.org/Sites/default.aspx?pgid=4356)

   For further **Dysart USD budget information**, see slides 41 through 56 at the following link: [https://www.dysart.org/CMS/Uploads/1/Document/Dysart101Presentation_2014%20%283%29.pdf](https://www.dysart.org/CMS/Uploads/1/Document/Dysart101Presentation_2014%20%283%29.pdf)

2. Review and lead a discussion of information and data from **'Bringing Up Arizona'**, a nonpartisan website, ([www.bringinguparizona.com](http://www.bringinguparizona.com)) headed by journalist, Richard Gilman. Pay special attention to the graphs, independent analysis as well as the "90-10" rule and how it impacts school achievement. The graphs provide statewide and some local information. For **area school performance information** see: [http://bringinguparizona.com/maps/phoenix/](http://bringinguparizona.com/maps/phoenix/) Go to NW & enlarge the map for a good view of the schools in NW Phoenix and the ones you want to check.

3. Read and participate in our League unit meeting book discussion of the 2014 book, **50 Myths and Lies About Public Schools**, by educational psychologist David Berliner, noted researcher Gene Glass and Associates. The book is by two of the most respected voices in education and a team of young scholars. looks at international tests, teachers, school funding, types of schools and a lot more. With hard-hitting information and a touch of comic relief, Berliner, Glass, and their Associates separate fact from fiction in this comprehensive look at modern education reform. The book features short essays on important topics to provide every elected representative, school administrator, school board member, teacher, parent, and concerned citizen with much food for thought, as well as reliable knowledge from authoritative sources.

4. Do some in-depth research of the performance, budget, needs and transparency of your local public schools/district and share your research with others.


6. Write letters to the editor supporting public schools and its funding.

7. Contact your legislators to urge support of public school funding for all Arizona students.

8. Visit or volunteer in a local public school and see first-hand what is happening.

9. If you have not already done so, watch the 2014 West Valley Education Forum video, **"Addressing the Achievement Gap in Arizona Education"**. Our league initiated the forum it and the forum is still available online at [https://video.dysart.org/Videos/Video.aspx?v=467](https://video.dysart.org/Videos/Video.aspx?v=467)

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