

**Open Enrollment
Talking Points
Parent Superintendent Council
October 21, 2008**

Background Information:

Arizona law requires school districts to establish Open Enrollment policies and to enroll students who do not live in the attendance boundaries of the district. This is one of a number of laws that provides educational choice for parents. Open Enrollment has provided the Kyrene District with an opportunity to offer quality educational programs to families living within and outside of Kyrene's boundaries. Parents who live outside of the district may choose to send their children to Kyrene schools, and the benefit to all of Kyrene's students is stability of district enrollment. A stable enrollment supports funding in Kyrene which allows us to continue quality Kyrene programs for all students.

Talking Points:

- Kyrene experienced a peak enrollment of over 19,000 students during the 2000-2001 school year, and a gradual decline following that year, due to the maturation of neighborhoods in the district. This is a cycle that was predicted by a demographic study of the district.
- The funding a school district receives is based on student enrollment (Average Daily Membership). A gradual decline in enrollment creates a gap between revenue received and expenses. The decreased revenue that results from gradually declining enrollment is not offset by an equal decrease in expenses.
- Kyrene's Open Enrollment policy provides the opportunity for children who live outside of the district to attend Kyrene schools, provided there is classroom space available and capacity in the programs children need. Class size guidelines are maintained.
- By implementing strategic marketing efforts, Kyrene is working to stabilize the enrollment decline by attracting families to choose to send their children to Kyrene schools.
- Without a strategy for stabilizing enrollment, the result would be a budget shortfall. Budget shortfalls must be addressed and result in making difficult decisions such as increasing class size or changing programs.

- There are currently 3400 students who attend Kyrene from outside of the district.
- All students who attend Kyrene schools are Kyrene students. Students who attend school under Open Enrollment law have the same rights and privileges as students who reside within the district boundaries.
- Even with the addition of students who attend through Open Enrollment, Kyrene's enrollment for 2008-2009 is 165 less students than last school year.
- The revenue generated by Open Enrollment students is approximately \$16.8 million.
- The result is that Kyrene is able to offer a quality education to families living outside of the school district and to benefit all students by maintaining class size guidelines and quality Kyrene educational programs.