Pilar Acosta Ruiz

Tucson Unified School District No. 1



I am a graduate of Catalina High School, parent of two TUSD graduates, and a longtime resident of Tucson. I have been serving youth for more than three decades. I will serve all families and the community with respect and an open mind to ensure that all students have an opportunity for a bright future.

I have been attending and participating in TUSD Governing Board meetings since 2011, giving me historical knowledge that many others do not have. I have witnessed many changes in our public schools, which have not always been positive. I will be working toward making the many exceptional programs we have the norm.

My top priorities are the following:

SAFE SCHOOLS: Changing policies to allow principals and teachers the ability to effectively address disruptive behavior that interferes with learning. Students and staff need to be better protected with more campus safety and school resource officers.

INCREASE INSTRUCTIONAL SPENDING: Reducing K-3 class sizes will help students to achieve grade-level proficiency by 3rd grade. Instructional spending needs to be increased from 51% to at least 54% of the budget. We are well below our peers in this area.

AVOID RECEIVERSHIP: The Arizona Auditor General has placed the district in a high risk category financially. The budget needs to be managed prudently to ensure that the resources are available for the students' academic needs. It is time to cut top-level administration to reflect enrollment declines and redirect funds out of underperforming units, programs, and redundancies as well as return librarians and nurses into the schools.

HOLD ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE: It is time to demand efficiency and transparency, implement audit recommendations, set performance goals, review school enrollment capacities, and improve adherence to district policies.

The quality of our educational institutions and the effective education of our students affects Tucson's economic development, which in turn affects us all. I ask that you join me in investing in our youth.

Please vote for Pilar Acosta Ruiz on November 3rd, 2026. I look forward to serving you as we work together to ensure every child receives a quality education. I can be reached at Pilar4TUSD@gmail or Pilar4TUSD.com