



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS**  
Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

**Balsz School District**  
Phoenix, Arizona  
[www.balsz.org](http://www.balsz.org)

## BALSZ SCHOOL DISTRICT IN BRIEF

School buildings: 4

Grades: PreK-8

Students: Approximately 2,600 in district, 480 at Crockett Elementary School

Free and reduced price meal eligibility (K-8): Over 90%

## WSCC VIDEO SPEAKERS

**Jeffrey Smith**, EdD, Superintendent

Dr. Smith is All Arizona Superintendent of the Year (2012–2013).

**Sean Hannafin**, School Principal, Crockett Elementary School

**Josh Meibos**, MEd, NBCT, Physical Education Teacher, Crockett Elementary School

Mr. Meibos is 2018 Arizona Teacher of the Year.

**Victoria Laureano**, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Crockett Elementary School

**Claude Chatelain**, Director of Nutritional Services

Mr. Chatelain is featured in district footage.

## BALSZ SCHOOL DISTRICT – BACKGROUND AND EXAMPLES OF WSCC IN ACTION

1) Balsz School District (Balsz) is an urban district in Phoenix, Arizona of approximately 2,600 PreK–8 students. There are four elementary schools and one early learning center.

2) Over 90% of Balsz students are eligible for free and reduced priced meals. Every student receives free breakfast and lunch at school.

3) Balsz represents an ethnically diverse community. There are 17 different languages spoken among the 480 students at Crockett Elementary School.

4) Homelessness affects about one in 10 students who attend Crockett Elementary School.

5) Balsz has worked to create and sustain a culture of good health through its policies and practices.

6) The district's approach is called HEAL – Healthy Eating Active Living. There is a focus on the nutrition environment and services, physical education and activity, and community involvement components of the WSCC model.

7) Students have access to daily breakfast and a healthy snack in the classroom.

8) The district uses fun, creative strategies to encourage students to try healthy foods, such as monthly cultural theme days, A to Z buffet featuring different fruits and vegetables, and future chef cooking contests.

9) Balsz participates in the WeekEnd Hunger Backpack program, a partnership with the Valley of the Sun United Way, to provide meals to some students and their families over the weekend.

10) Balsz promotes physical activity during and after the school day with the support of many community partners, such as Playworks, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Phoenix, and Skate After School.

11) Crockett Elementary School implements a daily mindfulness initiative. It has helped improve student attention in class and reduce disciplinary referrals.