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Executive Director

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**To:** School District Personnel  
**From:** Arizona School Facilities Board Staff  
**RE:** Advocating for Districts – Building a New School in Benson

The story of the new K-4 school now under construction at the Benson Unified School District is a testimony to collaboration. The Legislature approved \$3.4 Million in SFB funding for the 17,190 square foot elementary school in 2014, but construction costs were soon determined to be greater than estimates and, since rural Benson was unable to contribute other funding, the project stalled for years.

Then in 2018, the SFB and Benson collaborated on a way to create a more engaging learning environment that met the \$3.4 Million budget. The school is being built with flexible learning spaces featuring an indoor multi-purpose area that opens to outdoor learning stairs and a basketball court.

In the end, this new K-4 space is being built with 100% SFB funds and is scheduled to open in early 2020.

#### **About the Arizona School Facilities Board**

Created in 1998, the Arizona School Facilities Board (AZSFB) is a cabinet-level, state-government agency managing \$289 Million in state funding appropriated for K-12 school district facilities. The 10-member board meets monthly to grant funding for new school construction and to renew existing school facilities. AZSFB staff is a partner and advocate for school districts in facilitating successful grant requests.