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**Creighton School District Governing Board Calls for
Maintenance and Operations Override Renewal Election**

Phoenix, Arizona – June 11, 2010 - In May 2010, the Governing Board of the Creighton School District conducted a survey of the community to gauge support for renewal of the 10% Maintenance and Operations Override. Survey results showed that the community overwhelmingly supports the district renewing the override funding. According to Charlotte Boyle, Creighton Superintendent, “This is a vote of confidence for the district and a clear message that people believe that good schools are important both for student success and to protect their property values.”

As a result of the data from the survey and the critical needs at the schools, on June 1, 2010, the Creighton Governing Board unanimously voted in favor of calling for a renewal of the 10% Maintenance and Operations Override election to be held on November 2, 2010. In 2005, the community voted to approve a 10% Maintenance and Operations (M & O) Budget Override for the district. As a result of the additional funding, students have benefited from lower class sizes, art, music, PE, and vital services including safety programs and classroom instructional supplies and materials. This is the fifth year of the override and the last year of full funding.

If the voters approve the override, the District will be allowed to maintain its 10% budget override continuing in 2011-2012. An override is a way for districts to generate additional revenue with voter approval. The override lasts for seven years. Full funding occurs for the first five years and then decreases by one-third each year unless renewed. CESD is in the 6th year of a 7 year lifespan. If not renewed, the phase out will begin in 2011-2012 with a loss of \$1.4 million. The total amount of the current Maintenance and Operation override is \$3,443,690. Currently, 75% of school districts in Maricopa County operate with voter approved overrides.

Suzanne Schweiger-Nitchals, Governing Board President shared, “This is absolutely the right decision for the District. We are very proud of our track record of having outstanding programs in CESD and being fiscally responsible with our taxpayer’s money. A passing vote on the override is a vote for the students and the education they deserve.”

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Creighton Elementary School District is a diverse, urban district located in Phoenix, Arizona. The district serves approximately 7,224 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade on nine campuses and offers specialty programs including a Traditional Academy and a Spanish Immersion Program. Additional information can be found on the district’s website located at www.creightonschools.org.