



Littleton Elementary School District (AZ)



# Smarter Scheduling, Stronger Equity: Protecting Tier 1 Instruction and Expanding SPED Capacity



District Management Group

| Helping Schools and Students Thrive

| [www.dmggroupk12.com](http://www.dmggroupk12.com)

**9** Elementary schools

**5,940**

**Students**

Hispanic / Latino: 77.2%  
Black / African American: 11.4%  
White: 5.6%

**LESD #65 District Boundary & School Locations**

**Littleton Elementary School District #65**  
Leaders in Learning, Caring and Growing  
[www.littletonaz.org](http://www.littletonaz.org)

**Collier Business Academy for Financial Literacy**  
350 S. 118th Avenue, Avondale, AZ 85323  
PH: (623) 478.5900  
Learn about us at - [coes.littletonaz.org](http://coes.littletonaz.org)

**Estrella Vista STEM Academy for Engineering**  
11905 W Cocopah CIR N Avondale, AZ 85323  
PH: (623) 478.6200  
Learn about us at - [eves.littletonaz.org](http://eves.littletonaz.org)

**Littleton STEM Academy for Computer Science**  
1252 S Avondale BLVD Avondale, AZ 85323  
PH: (623) 478.5700  
Learn about us at - [lncs.littletonaz.org](http://lncs.littletonaz.org)

**LESD #65 District Office, Underdown Learning Center & LESD Online Academy**  
1600 S. 107th Avenue Avondale, AZ 85323  
PH: (623) 478.5600  
Learn about us at - [www.littletonaz.org](http://www.littletonaz.org)  
[www.littletonaz.org/LESD-Online](http://www.littletonaz.org/LESD-Online)

**Freeman Fine Arts Academy**  
1700 S 103rd Avenue Tolleson, AZ 85353  
PH: (623) 478.6400  
Learn about us at - [faes.littletonaz.org](http://faes.littletonaz.org)

**Quentin STEM Academy for Health Science**  
11050 W Whyman Avenue Avondale, AZ 85323  
PH: (623) 478.6000  
Learn about us at - [ques.littletonaz.org](http://ques.littletonaz.org)

**Country Place Leadership Academy**  
10207 W Country Place BLVD Tolleson, AZ 85353  
PH: (623) 478.6100  
Learn about us at - [cpls.littletonaz.org](http://cpls.littletonaz.org)

**Lakin Prep Academy**  
12050 W. Broadway Rd. Avondale, AZ 85323  
PH: (623) 478.6500  
Learn about us at - [lps.littletonaz.org](http://lps.littletonaz.org)

**Tres Rios Service Academy**  
5025 S. 103rd Avenue Tolleson, AZ 85353  
PH: (623) 478.6300  
Learn about us at - [tres.littletonaz.org](http://tres.littletonaz.org)

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# The Tier 1 Problem: A Student Access Crisis

Littleton's transformation began when **two schools were placed into Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) status due to low performance of the special education subgroup:**

Students with disabilities...

- Were performing 30-40 percentage points below state expectations
- Proficiency rates were as low as 4.13% in ELA and 4.43% in math

Littleton identified the major root cause; **Students with disabilities were consistently missing Tier 1 instruction due to fragmented scheduling practices.**

## Before DMSchedules:

- **Students were often pulled from core instruction** even when alternative intervention blocks existed
- **Scheduling decisions were siloed and inconsistent** across schools
- **District leaders lacked real-time visibility** into service delivery and compliance
- **Issue was not just compliance, but also instruction access**
- SPED providers scheduled **pull-outs based on provider availability**

A critical question was raised: **Are we scheduling based on what students need... or what is easiest for adults?** This "adult convenience over student needs" theme became a turning point in the district's approach.

## The Solution: DMSchedules as a System, Not a Tool

Littleton adopted DMSchedules districtwide to create a consistent scheduling structure that protects Tier 1 instruction and ensures equitable SPED service delivery.

Rather than relying on manual fixes, leaders implemented a system that made scheduling **transparent, measurable, and collaborative.**

## Protecting Tier 1 instruction:

A major breakthrough came when Littleton redesigned master schedules to include:

- **Protected Tier 1 literacy and math blocks**
- **Clearly defined intervention windows ("WIN" periods)**
- **Shared schedules accessible across teams**

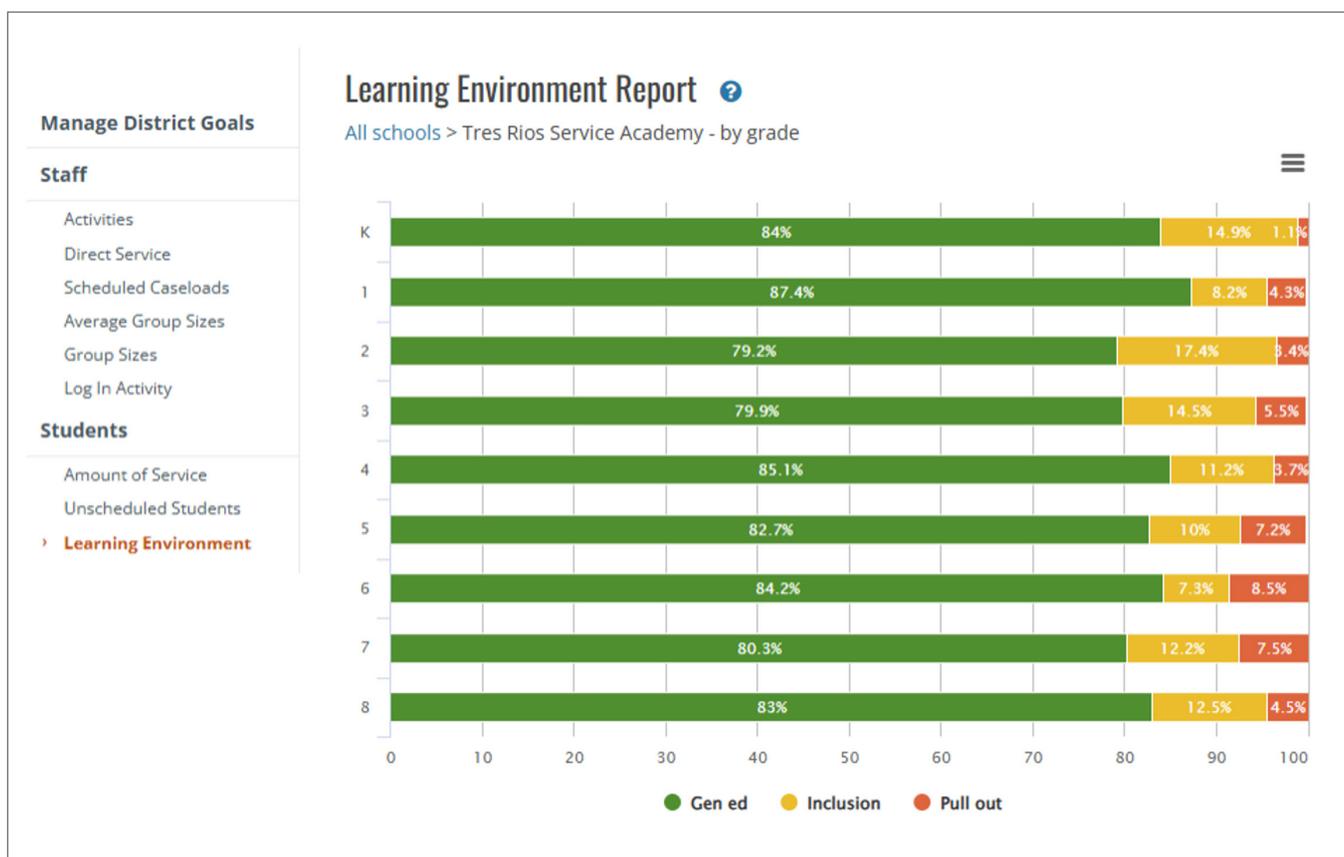
Additionally, Littleton created a **common operating system for scheduling**, helping teams move from reactive scheduling adjustments to proactive planning.

# Operational Efficiency and Resource Savings:

Once scheduling data became visible, the district could finally answer questions that directly impact staffing costs:

- Who has capacity?
- Are providers maximizing group size?
- Are services being delivered efficiently (1:1 vs small group)?
- Do we need more staff - or do we need better scheduling?

**Exhibit 1:** Learning Environment Report outlines how much time students are spending in Gen Ed, Inclusion, and Pull out



**Exhibit 2:** Staff summary report shows each educator’s caseload, % of direct service, and average study group size

Schedule	School	Caseload	Direct Service	Average Group Size
[User Icon]	Littleton STEM Academy	38 38	21% 435	2.7
[User Icon]	PreSchool	49 49	57% 1190	1.3
[User Icon]	Collier Business Academy	16 16	13% 269	3.1
[User Icon]	Collier Business Academy	56 56	40% 840	2.4
[User Icon]	PreSchool Lakin Prep Academy Littleton STEM Academy	66 6 58 2	67% 1405	5.5
[User Icon]	Tres Rios Service Academy	64 64	65% 1371	2.4

This service provider is seeing the most students 1:1

This dashboard highlights the large discrepancy between group sizes among staff

## Impact:

- Leaders could identify underutilized capacity
- Caseload decisions became equity-driven, not just “student count” based
- Contracted services could be used more strategically
- Scheduling became a lever for cost control, not just compliance

## Results:

# Mission Accomplished: Exiting TSI Oversight

**Primary Result:** Successful exit from TSI monitoring at Collier Elementary.



**Increased Access**  
Tier 1 access for SPED students.



**Improved Proficiency**  
Growth on state assessments.



**Consistent Delivery**  
Reduced missed minutes & proactive compliance.

**Operational Win:** Shifted from reactive cleanup to real-time visibility.