



## Mesa's Education and Workforce Development Roundtable

Evolving Strategic Framework- Feb. 9, 2022, Overview Summary

Revised and Approved on March 30, 2022

**Collaborative Objective:** We share expertise to coordinate goals, amplify resources, track data and advise the City Council on the highest priorities that will strengthen, streamline and align Mesa's education (early learning through post-secondary) and its workforce needs.

We will accomplish this through the following Strategic Focus Areas:

1. **Early Learning through High School:** Create an equitable and accessible student/family support system for quality early learning and a strong primary/secondary educational experience that links job/career awareness, exploration, and preparation throughout a student's K-12 education.

**Identified Priorities:**

- Provide equitable access to quality early learning for Mesa families.
- Increase graduation rates in all high schools serving Mesa families.
- Ensure all graduating seniors have strong, fundamental education and life skills and have a clear post-secondary career path that aligns passion, professional interest, and workforce needs.
- Teacher recruitment and retention in Mesa.

**Highlighted Performance Metrics (with Demographics):**

- Number of students enrolled in preschool and equitable distribution across programs.
- Diversity and equity of staff within early learning programs.
- Percentage of on-time high school graduation rates.
- Dropout rate for high schools serving Mesa families v. other valley districts.
- Annual averages in Mesa teacher pay/compensation vs. other valley districts.

2. **Post-Secondary:** Ensure 60+ percent of Mesa adults have a post-secondary degree or industry recognized certificate by 2030.

**Identified Priorities:**

- Graduate more workforce-ready students and working adults.
- Increase post-secondary enrollment in Mesa by marketing the variety of post-secondary opportunities.
- Help students/families seek both technical and financial assistance.
- Implement a clear plan and provide support for Mesa's adults to compete for immediate placement into Mesa's skilled and talented workforce.

**Highlighted Performance Metrics (and demographics):**

- Enrollment statistics for Mesa students' post-secondary education in Mesa.
- Percentage of Mesa students enrolled graduate with a post-secondary credential (degree/certificate).

- Mesa College Promise specific data, i.e. number enrolled, number of graduates, trends by semester.
- Citywide percentage of Mesa adults with a post-secondary credential (degree/certificate).

3. **Workforce Development:** Strengthen Mesa’s talent and diverse workforce pipeline through partnerships and service alignment (city, education and business) to help Mesa’s youth and under-employed adults prepare for and connect to rewarding jobs and improved financial health.

**Identified Priorities:**

- Provide affordable and equitable access to upskill, train, and educate Mesa’s residents (students and adults) to respond to the workforce needs of Mesa’s industry now and in the future.
- Improve the link between a student’s education pathway and workforce industry needs.
- Engage Mesa’s students, adults, small businesses, industry, and school service trade staff (custodians, bus drivers, food and nutrition, nurses) to understand workforce and job training needs and expectations (post pandemic) and leverage local partnerships to create awareness, access, and coordination to respond to those needs.

**Highlighted Performance Metrics (with demographics):**

- Number of businesses in Mesa partnering with high-school and post-secondary education to align education with business/industry needs
- Percentage of post-secondary graduate job placement
- Mesa, AZ unemployment rates
- Track job demand in Mesa, i.e. number of open jobs by industry