

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

September 6, 2023

The Education and Workforce Development Roundtable of the City of Mesa met in The Studios at Mesa City Center, 59 E. 1st St., on September 6, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT	BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Councilmember Spilsbury, Chair	None	Andrea Alicoate
Councilmember Heredia, Vice Chair		Lisa Cartwright-Harris
Dr. Perry Berry		Holly Moseley
Candice Copple	COUNCIL PRESENT	Natalie Lewis
Dr. Andi Fourlis		Lauren Lowe
Sally Harrison	None	Sarah Tolar
Dr. Shane McCord		Erin Romaine
Dr. Dennis Mitchell (Designee for		Jaye O'Donnell
Dr. Tammy Robinson)		Bryan Smith
Rich Nickel		
Dr. Joe O'Reilly		
Sherry Richards		
Jenny Jackson Robinson		
Kelsey Rowe (Designee for Dr.		
Chad Wilson)		
David Williams		
Jo Wilson*		
Vince Yanez		

(*Participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

1. Call meeting to order, welcome announcements and reminders from the Chair.

Chairperson Spilsbury called the meeting to order. She welcomed Kelsey Rowe and Dr. Dennis Mitchell as designees, and Sherry Richards with Higley Unified School District.

2. Take action to approve the Roundtable Meeting Minutes from June 7, 2023.

It was moved by Boardmember Jackson Robinson, seconded by Boardmember Nickel, that the June 7, 2023, Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Spilsbury–Heredia–Berry–Copple–Fourlis–Harrison–McCord–Mitchell–Nickel–O’Reilly–

Richards–Robinson–Rowe–Williams–Wilson–Yanez
NAYS – None
ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

3. Review scheduling of upcoming meetings and take action to approve proposed 2024 meeting dates.

Chairperson Spilsbury announced the schedule of future meetings would be December 6, 2023; and March 6, June 5, September 4, and December 4, 2024. All meetings would be held at The Studios @ Mesa City Center.

4. Update from City, Governor’s Office, and Mesa Public Schools Staff on Governor’s Educator Retention Task Force.

Education and Workforce Administrator Sarah Tolar displayed a PowerPoint presentation and introduced Selianna Chang, Education Policy Advisor to Governor Katie Hobbs; and Justin Wing, Mesa Public Schools Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. **(See Attachment 1)**

Ms. Tolar stated that she and Mr. Wing are representing the East Valley on this Task Force and highlighted their break-out working groups. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Chang explained that the Task Force has been working on a state-wide educator retention survey which went live on July 11, 2023. She reported that 9,906 surveys have been received to date and the results are being compiled, which will help the Governor's Educator Retention Task Force make recommendations to the Governor by October. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Wing provided an overview of the annual Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association (ASPAA) survey data reflecting the results of teacher vacancies in Arizona. He reported there is a downturn of teachers going into education and an upturn of teachers leaving education, followed by an uptick in alternative pathways. He discussed the Institutional Recommendation (IR) to obtain certificates and the program types offered to students interested in joining the field, as well as the content being taught. He explained the Mesa Public Schools (MPS) Path 2 Teach program which includes Arizona approved certification programs. He outlined teacher attrition in Arizona, noting the turnover is especially seen in beginning teachers. He shared the Arizona K-12 Center Comprehensive Induction programs that have assisted with teacher retention. He emphasized that Mesa is working to ensure teachers feel supported. (See Pages 6 through 10 of Attachment 1)

5. Update from City Staff on Read On Mesa Initiative and Job Connect Mesa Platform development and implementation process. Discussion and questions about progress.

Ms. Tolar provided the status of the project and updates for Read On Mesa. (See Page 12 of Attachment 1)

Economic Development Project Manager Bryan Smith reported on the recent job posting data from the last meeting of the Higher Education/Economic Development Convening group and highlighted the current job openings in Arizona. He gave an update on the Job Connect Mesa project and reviewed the stages and timeline for the project. (See Pages 13 through 17 of

Attachment 1)

6. Presentation by Arizona Governor's Office and Helios Education Foundation Staff on Senate Bill 1729 and increasing access to Dual Enrollment classes.

Chairperson Spilsbury stated the Dual Enrollment program provides high school students the opportunity to earn college credits while attending high school.

Ms. Chang outlined the Dual Enrollment program in Arizona high schools. She referenced the data discussed was provided by Helios Education Foundation and the full report is available online or can be obtained through Sarah Tolar. She emphasized the importance of the program to the Governor, outlining that \$15.5 million has been added to the executive budget to cover the fees and costs for low-income students to participate in the program. She illustrated the pre-pandemic participation numbers and student demographics by gender, income status, race/ethnicity, and school geographic area. (See Pages 19 through 23 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Chang discussed the postsecondary success of the program, comparing the likelihood of Dual Enrollment students attending college versus non-Dual Enrollment students. (See Pages 25 through 28 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Chang reviewed Senate Bill 1729 which indicates where the funding will be allocated and its method of distribution. She highlighted the benefits of the Bill. (See Pages 29 through 31 of Attachment 1)

7. Update from City Staff on AZ Mayors Education Roundtable FAFSA Discussion and Resolution.

Ms. Tolar provided an update on the Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable meeting, stating their focus is how best to impact education. She said their goal is to remove the barriers affecting completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). She noted that FAFSA applications are directly tied to higher education enrollment. (See Page 33 and 34 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Tolar reported that currently, 12 states have adopted FAFSA policies. She announced that Arizona ranks 49th in the nation overall for FAFSA completion but is 15th for most improved. She pointed out that adding a FAFSA completion mandate might dramatically improve the state's national ranking. She discussed the opportunities and obstacles implementing the mandate. She said that mayors in the group drafted a resolution in support of FAFSA completion that can be supported as a state. She mentioned a number of cities have drafted their own resolutions in support of FAFSA completion. (See Pages 35 and 36 of Attachment 1)

8. Continue discussion and provide feedback on June's *Billions to Gain* presentation. Discuss opportunities for Roundtable engagement and action steps to collectively impact educational attainment and workforce development.

Ms. Tolar explained that the Everything to Gain campaign includes a wide range of partners and is a great place to get information and share messages. She reviewed the statistics for where Arizona stands today in learning, noting ways to make gains in early childhood, high school, and after high school. She outlined areas where the State and municipalities can consider investing in college access and attainment. (See Pages 37 through 40 of Attachment 1)

9. Discuss and take action on Roundtable's support of City of Mesa FAFSA Proclamation development.

The Roundtable discussed preparing a City of Mesa FAFSA Proclamation that could be presented by the City of Mesa and recommended by the Education and Workforce Development Roundtable.

Ms. Tolar provided possible draft verbiage to use in the resolution.

It was moved by Boardmember Williams, seconded by Boardmember Copple, to move forward with the City of Mesa FAFSA Proclamation development.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Spilsbury–Heredia–Berry–Copple–Fourlis–Harrison–McCord–Mitchell–Nickel–O'Reilly–Richards–Robinson–Rowe–Williams–Wilson–Yanez

NAYS – None

ABSENT – None

Carried unanimously.

10. Roundtable members share out information regarding their involvement in recent and upcoming education or workforce-related events or programs.

David Williams explained the Meta action grant program.

Ms. Tolar said that Northern Arizona University is breaking ground on a Workforce Development Center in East Mesa in November, focused on hospitality, with a goal to have students in chairs next fall. She said the plan is to partner with high schools to offer certifications to students that can be achieved in four full years.

Ms. Tolar reminded the group that the Workforce Center offers resume workshops every Tuesday and the Second Chance Friendly Hiring event is scheduled for September 26, 2023, at the Mesa Convention Center.

11. Call to the public.

There were no public comments.

12. Call for future agenda items.

- Continue the FAFSA resolution conversation.
- ASU Grant and new college programs.

13. Adjourn.

Without objection, the Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 6th day of September 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

sr
(Attachments-1)

Mesa Education and Workforce Development Roundtable

September 6, 2023

024 Proposed Meeting Dates

- ▶ **March 6, 2024**
- ▶ **June 5, 2024**
- ▶ **September 4, 2024**
- ▶ **December 4, 2024**

Vernor's Educator Retention Task Force date

In February 2023, Governor Hobbs announced an executive order to establish an Education Retention Task Force in an effort to rebuild and reinvest in our public schools.

The task force will make recommendations regarding the education retention crisis in a report due in December 2023. By holding ongoing stakeholder meetings and conducting surveys the group hopes to better understand the wide variety of issues affecting retention including pay and benefits, working conditions and teacher preparation programs.

East Valley Representatives:

Justin Wing - Mesa Public Schools, Asst. Supt. of Human Resources

Sarah Tolar - City of Mesa, Education and Workforce Administrator



Working Groups

- Retention Innovations and Solutions
- Teacher Preparation and Certification
- Compensation and Benefits
- Working Conditions

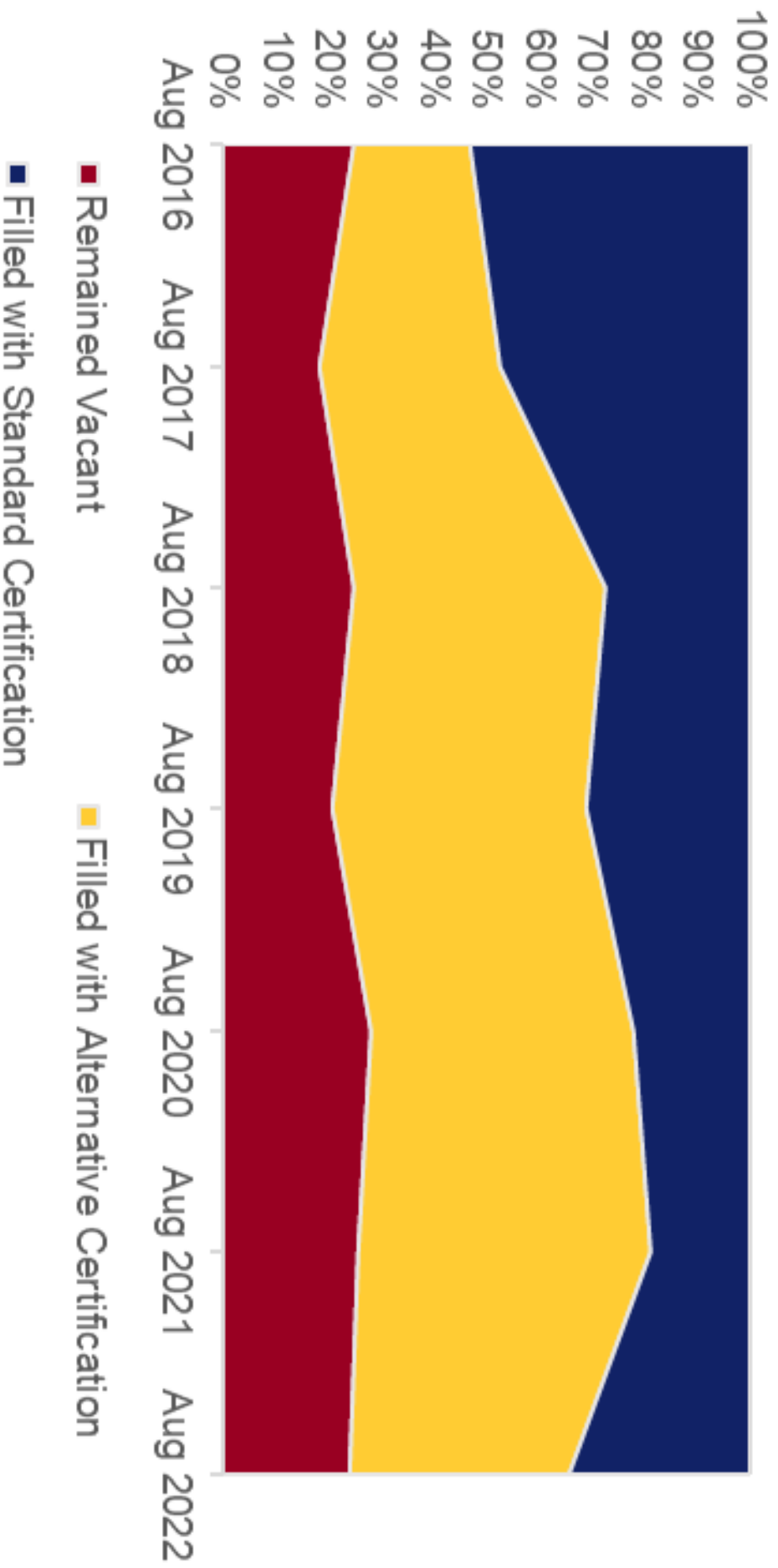
te-wide Educator Retention Survey

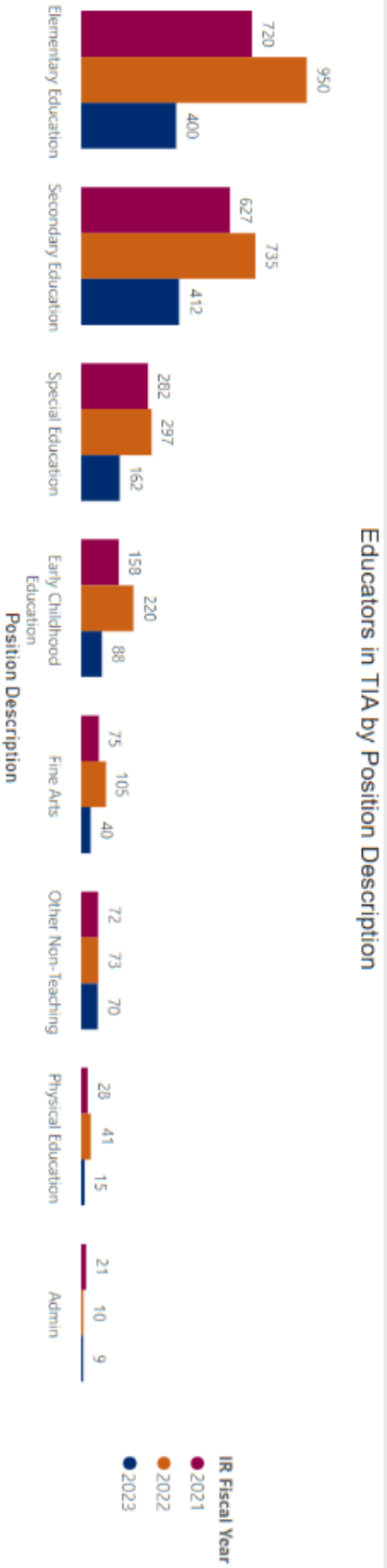
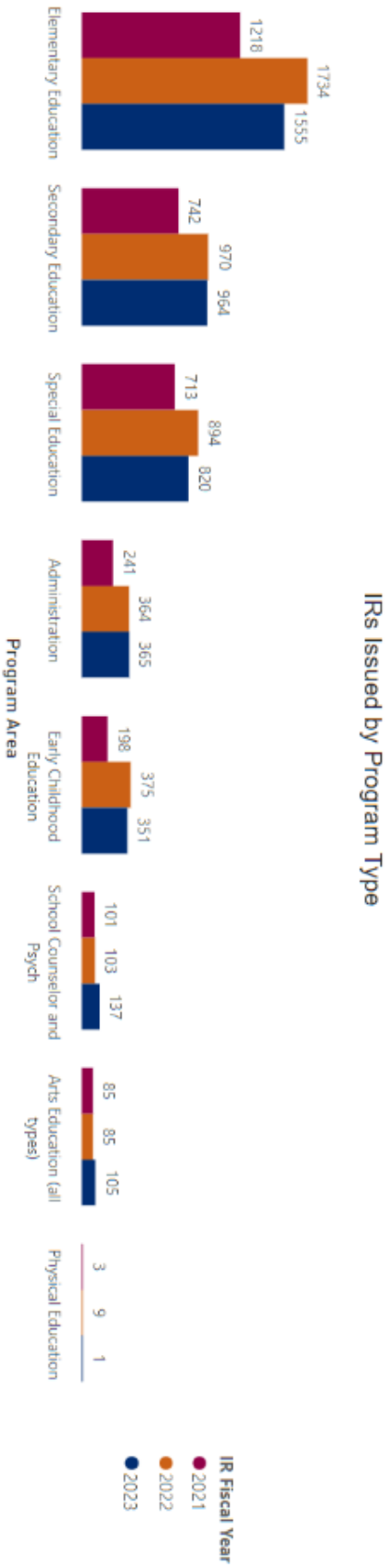
Live July 11, 2023

- ▶ Remain open until **August 31, 2023**
- ▶ As of 8/15 over 7000 educators have completed the survey
 - ▶ Every AZ county is represented (1/2 from Maricopa County)
 - ▶ 9 focus groups have been held (50 teachers)
 - ▶ 13 former educator interviews
- ▶ **Goal: 10,000 educators**
- ▶ **Needs:**
 - Current Educators: Biggest need is in Greenlee, La Paz, Santa Cruz, Graham and Gila counties
 - Former educators - Need all counties except Maricopa
 - Classified Staff and ESPs - Missing any responses from Santa Cruz county; low responses from all counties outside Maricopa

Annual ASPAA Survey Data

Teacher Vacancy Results in Arizona





Program Types and Content Taught

Mesa Public Schools



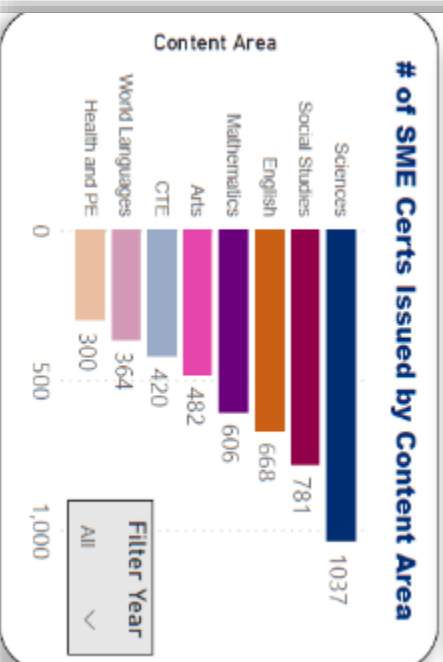
Arizona Approved Certification Programs

Certification Programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elementary Education 2. Secondary Education 3. Early Childhood Special 4. Moderate/Severe Special
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2-year program ✓ Must have a BA degree ✓ Can be a teacher while in the program ✓ Certificate or MA options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66 in 2nd year • 93 in 1st year

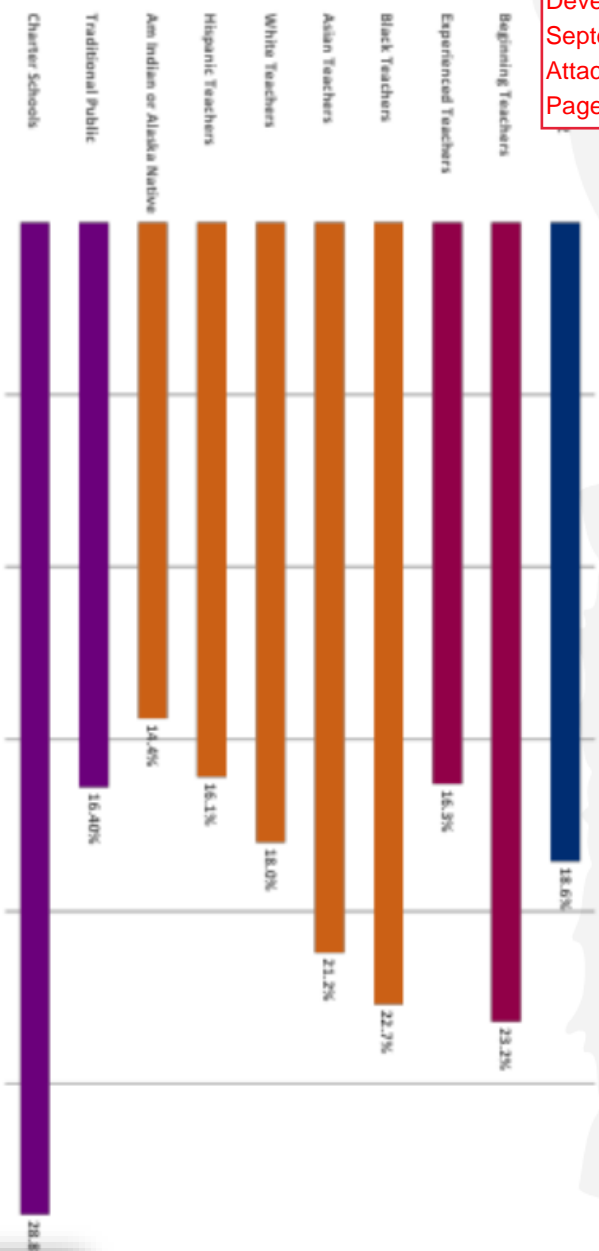
Arizona Subject Matter Expert Certificate

SME Certs Issued

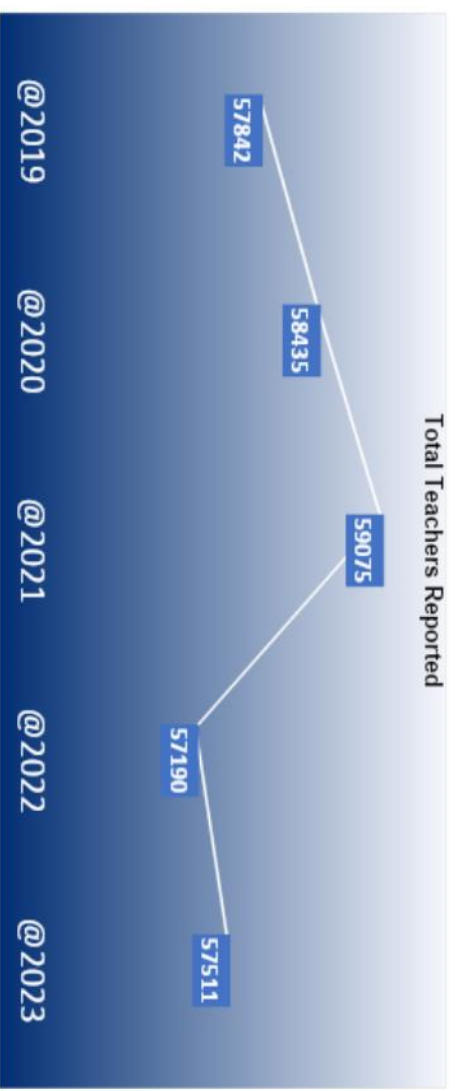
FY_SME	Count of Certs	Count of Educators	Duplicate SME Certs
2018	767	717	51
2019	1092	1003	89
2020	722	673	49
2021	726	657	70
2022	638	584	54
2023	712	663	49
Total	4657	4223	436



Teacher Attrition is High in AZ, Especially Among Beginners (Total Teacher Attrition 2022->2023, by Type of Teacher and School)



AZ Teacher Workforce Fluctuation 2019-2023



VZ K-12 Center

- ▶ Comprehensive Induction Programs:
 - ▶ ESSER funding allowed to expand to support of 26 districts state-wide
 - ▶ MPS & MPS SPED Department

Roundtable ask...

- Encourage survey response
- Share out Task Force information and awareness
- Provide feedback

ject Status and Updates: Read On Mesa

City of Mesa - Read On Mesa Early Literacy Workshop

- Sept. 19th
- Provided through Wellness Department - employees will receive 50 Wellness Program incentive points

• Mesa Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Vitality Council

- Presentation at Aug. 8th meeting

• AARP Experience Corps Program Implementation

- January 2024
- 6 Title 1 MPS Elementary Schools

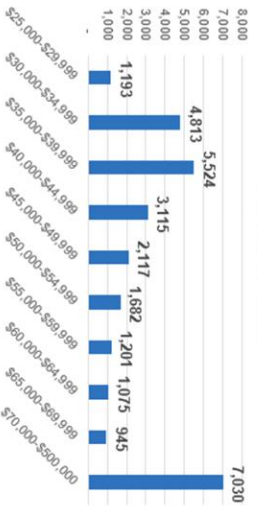


Higher Ed/Economic Development Convening

Participants: Mesa Economic Development, ASU, Maricopa County Community College District, Ben U, MPS, NAU Mesa Workforce Development Center, EVIT

JOB POSTING DATA

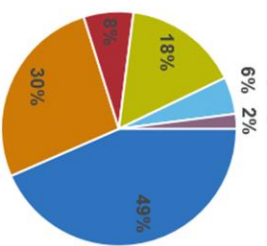
66,418 Unique Postings
 421,592 Total Postings
 6 : 1 Posting Intensity
 31 days Median Posting Duration
 7,363 Total Employers
 Job Postings by Education Level



There are 28,695 advertised salary observations (43% of the 66,418 matching postings).
 Median Advertised Salary: \$44,672



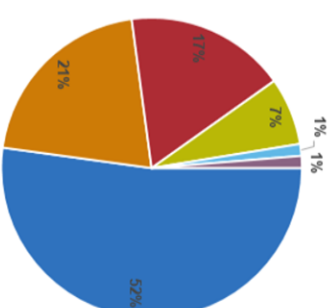
Source: Lightcast Job Posting Analytics,
 All Postings, City of Mesa, Last 12 months as of 8/21/2023



JOB POSTING DATA

Total Postings Unique Postings Median Posting Duration
 (August 1, 2022 - (August 1, 2022 - (August 1, 2023 - (August 1, 2023)

Company	Total Postings (July 31, 2022)	Unique Postings (July 31, 2023)	Median Posting Duration (July 31, 2022)	Median Posting Duration (July 31, 2023)
Banner Health	13,162	2,575	35 days	35 days
Boeing	3,632	801	29 days	29 days
Mesa Public Schools	2,420	630	29 days	29 days
Community Bridges	2,280	498	33 days	33 days
City of Mesa	1,193	454	31 days	31 days
Dexcom	1,625	430	35 days	35 days
SmithMed	1,138	416	22 days	22 days
Asu	666	337	35 days	35 days
Healthcare Employment Network	1,435	330	40 days	40 days
Empire Call	1,132	302	39 days	39 days
Aston Carter	668	298	35 days	35 days
Md Helicopters	965	282	25 days	25 days
Steward Health Care System	534	280	30 days	30 days
Aerotek	512	272	22 days	22 days
American Leadership Academy	2,180	250	29 days	29 days
Commercial Metals	745	236	41 days	41 days
A New Leaf	1,217	231	35 days	35 days
Bass Pro Shops	534	223	30 days	30 days
Allied Universal	1,206	222	35 days	35 days
Fujifilm	748	221	39 days	39 days



Source: Lightcast Job Posting Analytics,
 All Postings, City of Mesa, Last 12 months as of 8/21/2023



Discussion topics:

- ▶ City of Mesa Economic Development landscape and data
- ▶ Employer/industry engagement in education (K-12 and higher ed)
 - ▶ Job shadowing, internships, etc.
 - ▶ Job posting language, required experience, required education
- ▶ Messaging and awareness around the benefit of ‘higher ed’ (degrees, certifications, licenses, etc.)

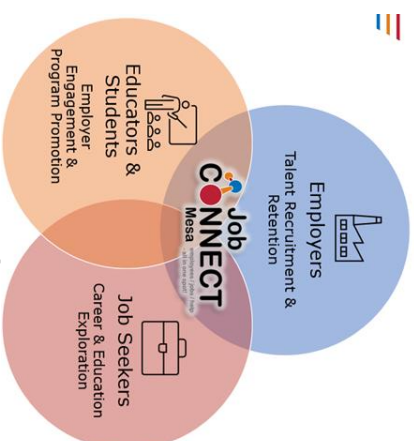


Project Status and Updates: Job Connect Mesa Platform



▶ The City of Mesa Offices of Economic Development and Education & Workforce are beginning the much-anticipated process of developing, in partnership with Pipeline AZ, a holistic workforce development system to improve connection between Mesa's employers, educators, students, non-profit partners, and job-seekers.

▶ Translation: *making it easier for Mesa's students and job-seekers to find targeted, quality education, training and employment opportunities and for employers to find and hire quality employees.*

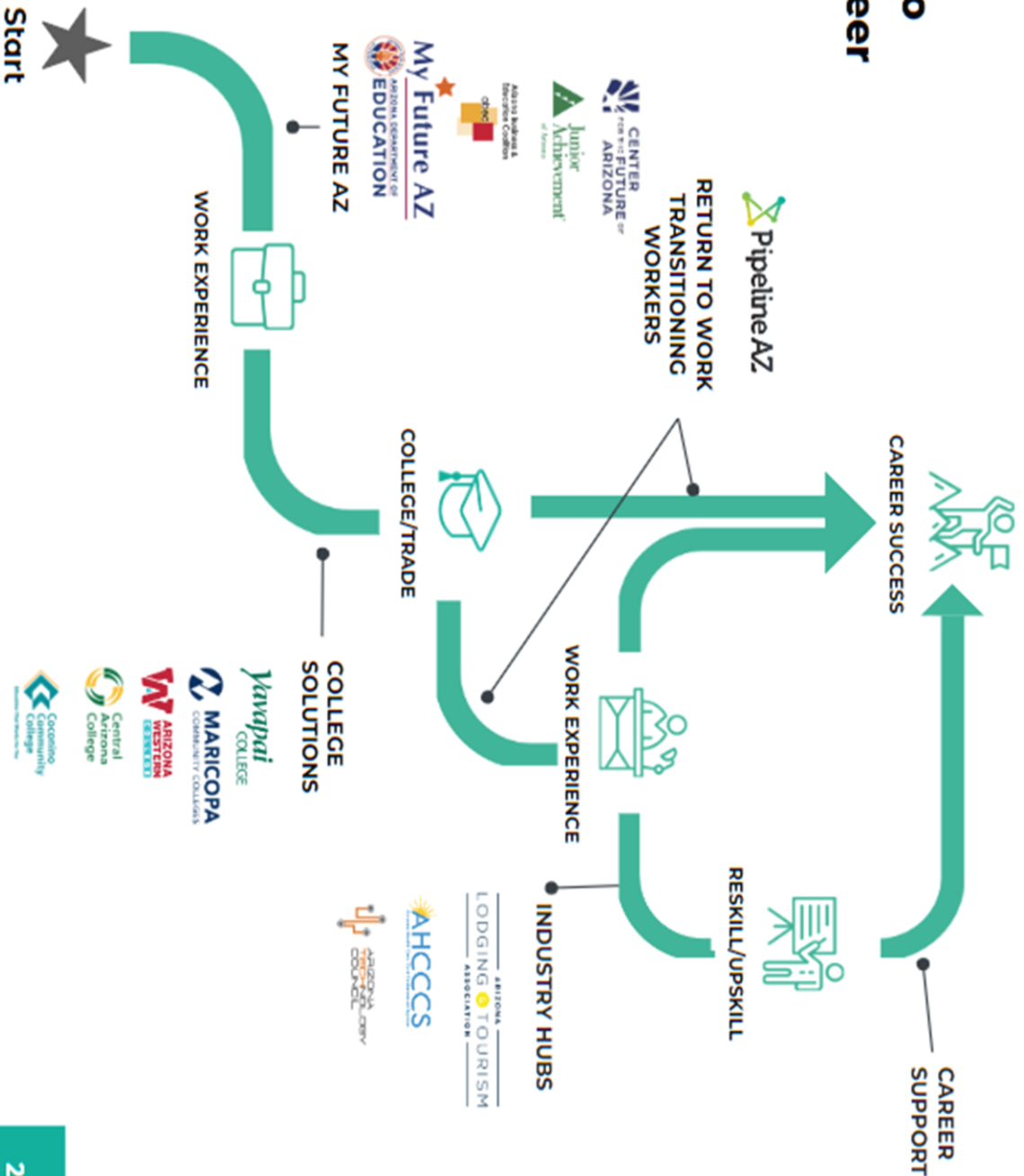


PIPELINE AZ - CONNECTING ARIZONA

Pipeline AZ is Integrated into Critical Steps of the P20 Career Journey

The path from high school, to college, to career in Arizona it is now CONNECTED!

Our goal is to be the key link between education, employment, and career improvement opportunities across Arizona.





▶ Development and Implementation Process

▶ Education and Business Stakeholder Sessions

▶ Development Phases

▶ Implementation:

- Scope of work
- Branding Employer Vetting Process
- Resource library development
- Program Support Services Strategy and Planning

▶ Launch Support:

- Onboarding
- Communication Support
- Marketing Support
- Post-Launch Monitoring

▶ Ongoing support:

- Tech + programmatic support
- Case Management & Employer Support
- Industry Engagement

▶ Timeline - in development

CONTACT US



Need a job or employees?
How about training for your employees or career guidance for you?
Job Connect Mesa is your one-stop portal to find the help you need, fast.

FOR EMPLOYERS  FIND EMPLOYEES	FOR EMPLOYERS  TRAINING RESOURCES	FOR JOB SEEKERS  JOBS / GUIDANCE	BASIC NEEDS  GET HELP
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Dual Enrollment in Arizona High Schools

Mesa Education & Workforce Development Roundtable

- **Selianna Chang**, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs
Policy Advisor, K-12 Education
- **Janice Palmer**, Helios Education Foundation
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs and Public Policy

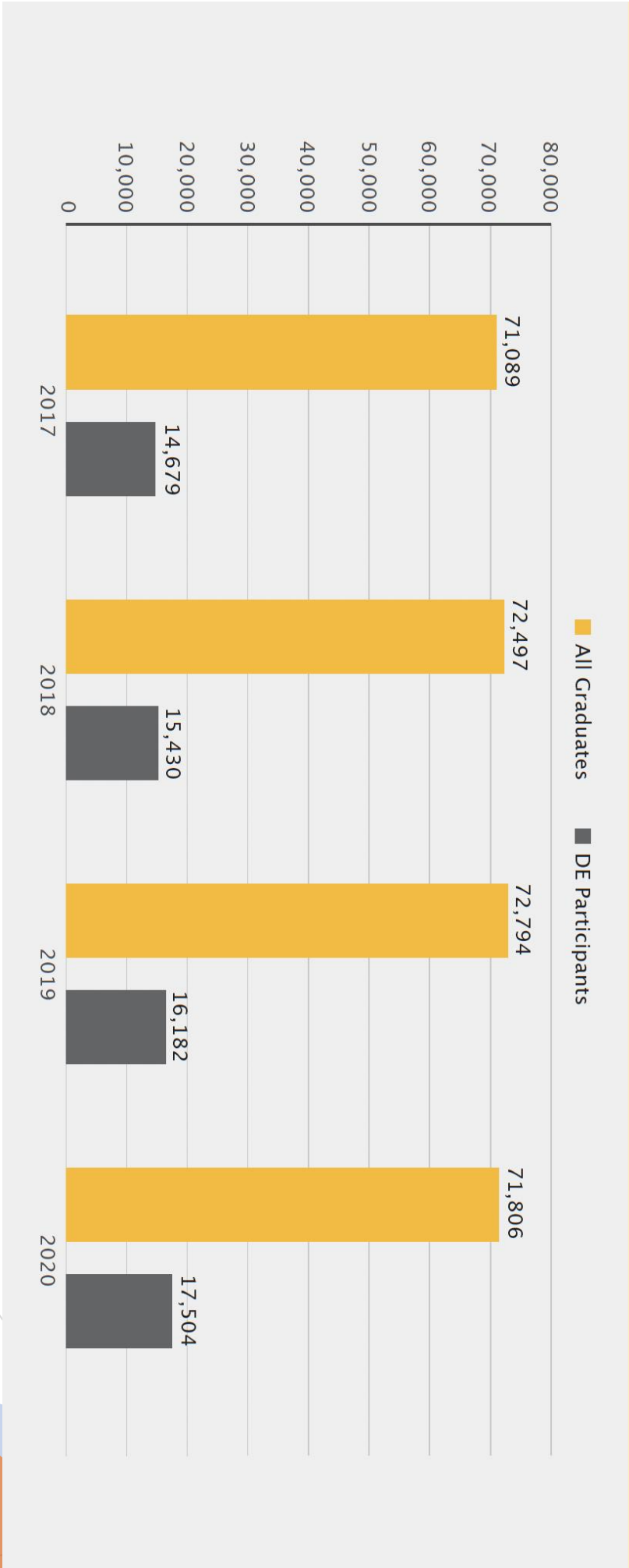
September 6, 2023

Why Dual Enrollment Matters



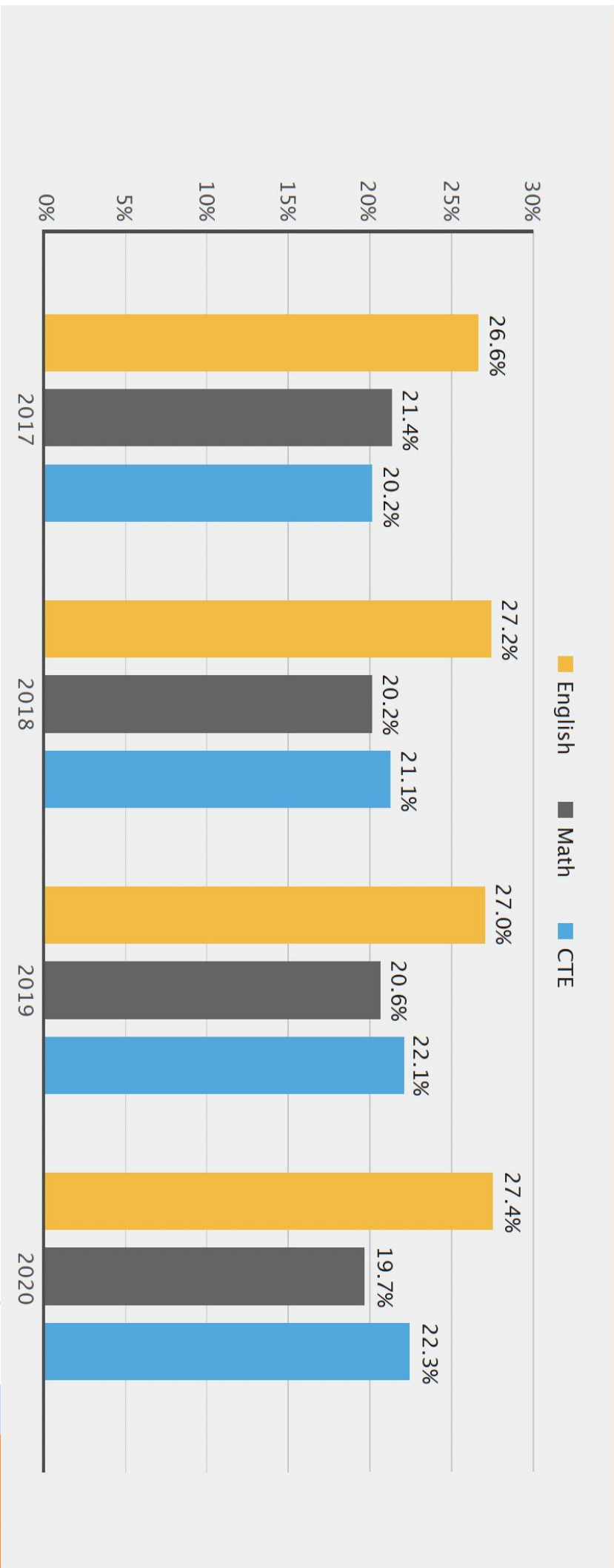
Enrollment Participation in AZ

Dual Enrollment Participation Among All AZ Public High School Graduates, 2017-20



Enrollment Participation in AZ

Percentage of Dual Enrollment Participants Enrolled in an English, Math, or Career and Technical Education Course, 2017-2020



Enrollment Participation in AZ

Participation by Student Demographics, 2017-20 (Percent Growth)

Gender

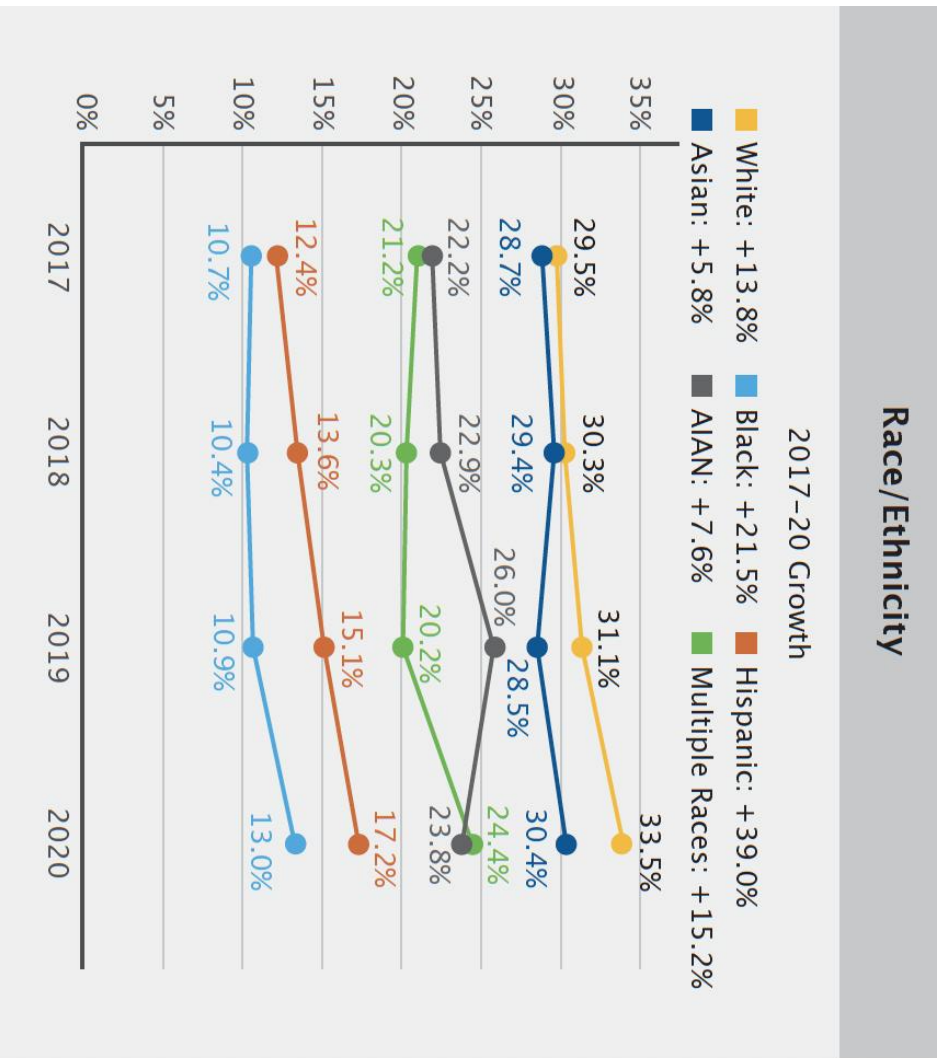


Income Status



Enrollment Participation in AZ

Participation by Student Demographics, 2017-20 (Percent Growth)



Dual Enrollment and Postsecondary Success





What Ways Does Dual Enrollment Success Influence College-Going for High School Graduates?

- Dual enrollment students were more likely to go to college than their non-dual enrollment peers.
- This increased likelihood was greatest for students who are male, Hispanic/Latino, low-income, and special education students who have an IEP.

Enrollment and Postsecondary Success

Dual Enrollment Students' Likelihood of Attending College (Compared to Non-Dual Enrollment)

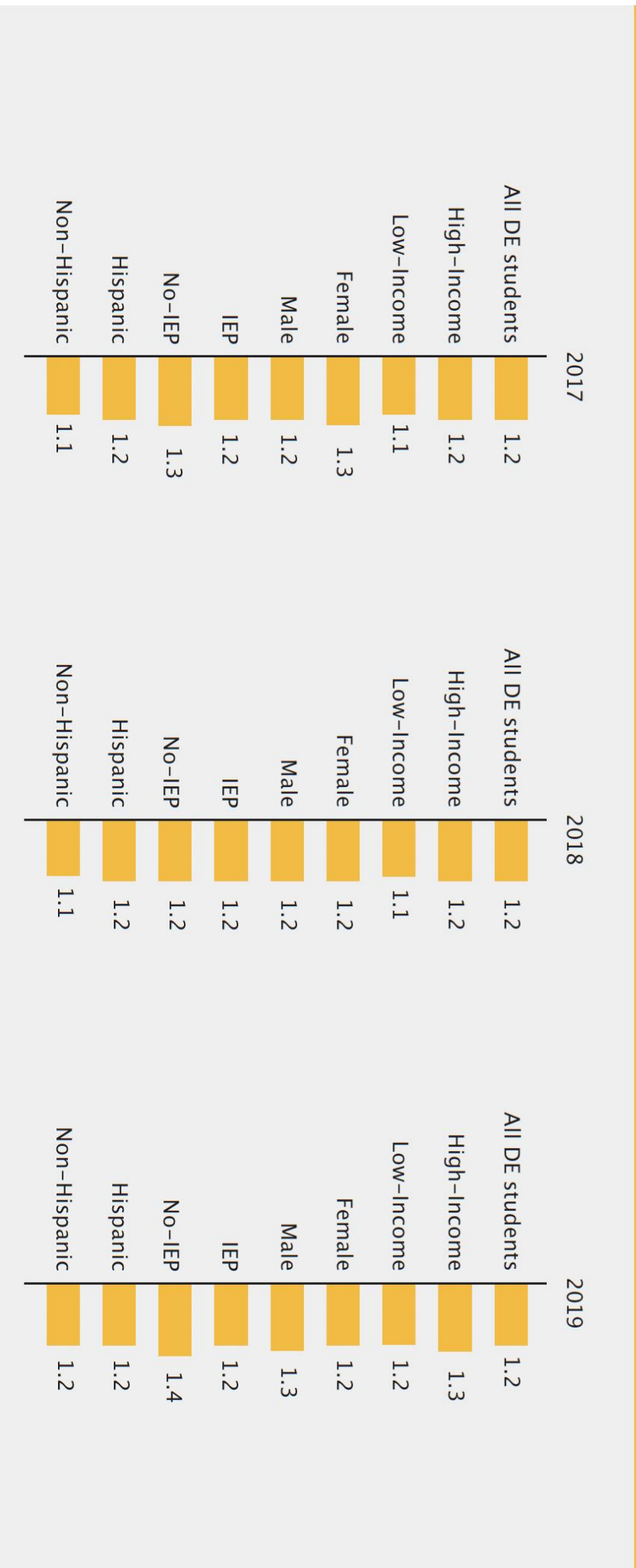


What Ways Does Dual Enrollment Success Influence College Persistence for High School Graduates?

- The analysis found that the greatest effects were for male, Hispanic/Latino, non-low-income, and non-IEP dual enrollment students.
- Overall, the effects on persistence were not as strong as those for college enrollment.

Enrollment and Postsecondary Success

Dual Enrollment Students' Likelihood of Persisting in College (Compared to Non-Dual Enrollment)





SB 1729

- ▶ Budget includes \$15.5 million in support of dual enrollment; policy implementation language included in SB 1729. Effective Date Oct. 29th.
- ▶ \$15 million is dedicated to help defray the cost to students.
 - ▶ Priority given to low-income students.
 - ▶ Students in Grades 9 and 10 – \$300/per year (6 credit hours).
 - ▶ Students in Grades 11 and 12 – \$600/per year (12 credit hours).
 - ▶ Must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher; earn a passing grade of A, B, or C.
 - ▶ Must fulfill a lower division general education credit or is a CTE course that results in a certificate, credential, or license.

- ▶ State Board of Education plans to adopt the ADE recommendation at the September Board Meeting
- ▶ \$500,000 is dedicated to honor teachers who skill up by earning their dual enrollment certification.
- ▶ One-time \$1,000 incentive bonus.
- ▶ Must be a new teacher earning dual enrollment certification and provide instruction in at least one course.

Questions?



Mayors Education Roundtable

- ▶ The Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable is a unique nonpartisan collaborative action group, established in 2012 and committed to achieving the statewide post-secondary attainment goal of 60 percent by 2030.
- ▶ Roundtable efforts focus on three key areas:
 1. **Elevating the Mayoral Role in Education**
 2. **Championing Local Initiatives**
 3. **Producing Research and Reports**

FSA Research, Discussion and Resolution

- ▶ There appears to be universal support for promoting FAFSA completion and assisting students with the form, but concerns about making it a graduation requirement.
 - ▶ FAFSA completion is listed as one of several metrics that schools may include in the College and Career Ready Indicator, worth 20% of a grade 9-12 school's A-F letter grade in the state accountability system.
 - ▶ Stronger action is needed if Arizona is to significantly increase postsecondary enrollment and attainment.
- ▶ 12 states have now adopted universal FAFSA policy: Connecticut, Indiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, *California*, Texas, *Colorado*, Illinois, Alabama, Missouri, New Hampshire, Louisiana, Kansas, *Maryland*

Opportunities:

- Arizona ranks **49th in the nation for overall FAFSA completion**, however, the state also ranks **15th for most improved**. Adding a mandate might dramatically improve the state’s national ranking.
- Promise Programs require applicants to submit a complete FAFSA.
- ADE is planning to provide **district-level PD** for site and district staff on the “Power of FAFSA.” A fall pilot program with Agua Fria, Tolleson, and Tempe districts to provide tangible resources to help improve FAFSA completion rates.
- The Arizona FAFSA Coalition offers statewide professional learning opportunities, technical assistance for districts, and virtual/phone FAFSA assistance for students and families. Uptake of these resources along with state funding could increase buy-in and reduce burden on the field.

Obstacles:

- **Buy-in and onboarding of counselors** statewide. Ensuring that counselors understand the importance of FAFSA is essential to successful implementation.
- **Time to collaborate** with school and district leaders. Design of **opt-out process**.
- **Submission versus completion**. The state’s College and Career Ready Indicator only requires students to submit a FAFSA.
- Another **unfunded mandate**. Arizona has the highest student to counselor ratio in the nation. While a mandate may raise awareness and increase the pressure on schools to help students with the FAFSA, it will stress already overextended counselors.



Resolution Regarding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) 8 August 2023

The Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable is a unique, nonpartisan, collaborative action group committed to achieving the statewide postsecondary attainment goal of 60 percent by 2030. According to the National College Attainment Network,ⁱ one of the best predictors of postsecondary enrollment is completion of the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). High school seniors completing the FAFSA are 84% more likely to enroll immediately in postsecondary education, and low-income FAFSA completers are 127% more likely to enroll immediately. Submitting the FAFSA — often the first step in the financial aid process — provides students with opportunities to access federal and often state and/or institutional resources to pay for college and career training programs. Arizona ranks 49th in the nation for the percentage of high school seniors completing the FAFSA. As of July 21, 40.7% of twelfth grade students have completed a FAFSA.ⁱⁱ

More than two dozen states have adopted or introduced universal FAFSA completion policies that expand access to financial aid and help make college more affordable for students. These policies tend to provide support and options for students; include waivers, opt-out, and no-harm provisions; and obligate local education agencies to oversee implementation.ⁱⁱⁱ Twelve states — Louisiana (effective for the class of 2018); Illinois (2021); Alabama and Texas (2022); California and Maryland (2023); Connecticut and New Hampshire (2024); Indiana, Nebraska, and Oklahoma (2025); and Kansas (2028) — have adopted FAFSA completion, or a suitable alternative, as a requirement for high school graduation.

The year after the state mandated financial aid planning for high school graduation, Louisiana's FAFSA completion rate increased 26%.^{iv} High school graduation and postsecondary enrollment rates have also increased, and the state ranks first in the nation for FAFSA completions.^v

Given the evidence and growing trend to require FAFSA completion for high school seniors, the Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable resolves to:

- a. Raise awareness about the significance of FAFSA completion and discuss FAFSA data with councils and local education leaders;
- b. Promote the Arizona Promise Program, local promise initiatives, and statewide FAFSA completion resources (e.g., Ask Benji Chatbot, FAFSA Campaign, FAFSA Challenge, FAFSA Dashboard, and FAFSA Hotline);
- c. Establish FAFSA completion as an expectation for twelfth grade students, and support FAFSA completion events and workshops in their communities; and
- d. Explore approaches for incentivizing FAFSA completion and the potential of making FAFSA completion a high school graduation requirement in accordance with recommendations from the National College Attainment Network.

ⁱ Retrieved from <https://www.ncan.org/page/NationalFAFSACompletionRatesforHighSchoolSeniorsandGraduates#:~:text=Completion%20of%20the%20Free%20Application,immediately%20enroll%20in%20postsecondary%20education>

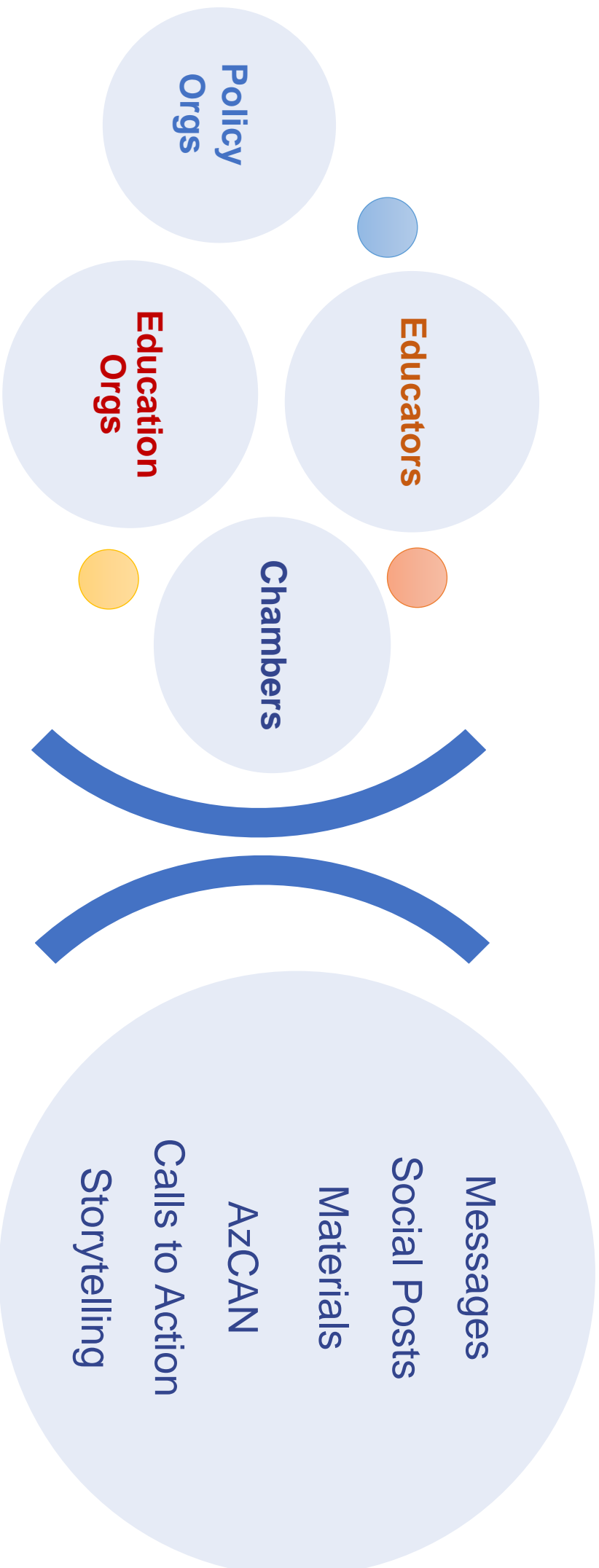
ⁱⁱ Retrieved from <https://formyourfuture.org/fafsa-tracker/> and https://national.fafsa-tracker.com/currentRates?selectedSchoolSelectModel=3&sortBy=applications_complete_count

ⁱⁱⁱ Retrieved from <https://www.ncan.org/page/UniversalFAFSA>

^{iv} Porter, Jack. (February 7, 2019). "Texas, Indiana Considering Mandatory FAFSA Filing for High School Students." Retrieved from <https://www.ncan.org/news/456054/Texas-Indiana-Considering-Mandatory-FAFSA-Filing-for-High-School-Students.htm>

^v AlQaisi, Raymond. (February 24, 2020). "A Number of States Are Now Considering 'Mandatory FAFSA' Policies." Retrieved from <https://www.ncan.org/news/490569/Several-States-Are-Considering-Mandatory-FAFSA-Policies.htm>

EVERYTHING TO **GA**IN



Wide range of partners

Shared messages

Where We Stand Today

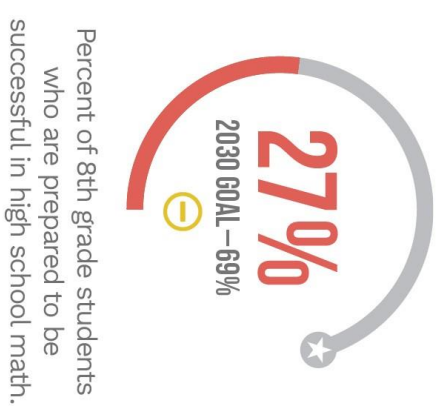
Quality Early Learning



3rd Grade Reading



8th Grade Math



High School Graduation



Opportunity Youth



Post High School Enrollment



Attainment



How do we make gains across Arizona?

Early Childhood

- Offer state-supported full-day Kindergarten and inclusive pre-K
- Recruit and retain a highly-qualified early childhood workforce
- Strengthen free and reduced lunch and after school programs
- Increase educator pay and retain great teachers

High School

- Increase and sustain professional development and coaching for educators
- Create a math equivalent to Read On Arizona
- Start the Education Career Action Plan (ECAP) in 8th grade
- Increase equitable access to dual and concurrent enrollment
- Expand access to school counselors

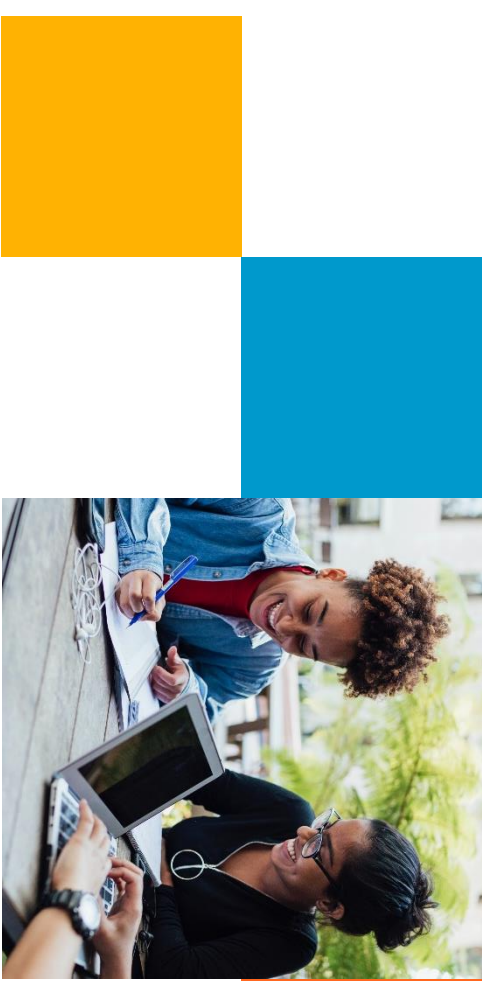
After High School

- Make college more affordable and expansion scholarship programs
- Strengthen linkages between the PK-12 and postsecondary education systems
- Implement a long-term P20 funding system

Investing in College Access and Attainment

Areas where the state and municipalities can consider investing include:

- 1** Enhancing college readiness and strengthening the linkages between the K-12 and postsecondary education systems.
- 2** Reducing non-academic barriers to college-going and college completion.
- 3** Making college more affordable for all students.
- 4** Programs and initiatives, including public-private partnerships, that incentivize more students to pursue college degrees in high-value sectors.



Roundtable Engagement/Action Steps

- Development of City of Mesa FAFSA proclamation, supported by Mesa Education and Workforce Development Roundtable
- Strengthening infrastructure/communication: **Mesa Job Connect Platform**

Information DRAFT verbiage:

WHEREAS, Obtaining a postsecondary degree is linked to increased employment opportunities, higher income, better health, increased community involvement and contributes to a prospering local economy,

WHEREAS, The Mesa Education and Workforce Development Roundtable serves as a centralizing body reporting to City Council to streamline and coordinate efforts to advance Mesa's education and workforce development goals, including achieving higher educational attainment, including increased attainment of professional certifications and licenses and post-secondary degrees.

WHEREAS, One of the best predictors of postsecondary enrollment and persistence is the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The first step in providing students with opportunities to access federal and possibly state and/or institutional resources to pay for college and career training programs;

WHEREAS, Arizona currently ranks 49th in FAFSA completion. Nationally, the high school class of 2022 left an estimated \$3.58 billion on the table in the form of unclaimed Pell Grant funds.

WHEREAS, More than a dozen states have either adopted or are considering universal FAFSA policies that expand access to financial aid and help make college more affordable for students. These policies aim to provide support and options for students; include waivers, opt-out and no-harm provisions; and obligate local education agencies to oversee implementation;

WHEREAS, Students who complete the FAFSA are more likely to attend and afford college.

WHEREAS, The City of Mesa is committed to supporting FAFSA awareness and completion in partnership with our local school districts to improve economic mobility and better health outcomes by promoting the Mesa College Promise Program, Arizona Promise Program, and statewide FAFSA completion resources, including, Ask Benji Chatbot, FAFSA Campaign, FAFSA Challenge, FAFSA Dashboard, and FAFSA Hotline.

Roundtable Share-outs:

- Meta Community Action Grant
- NAU's Mesa Workforce Development Center
- Workforce Center @ Mesa Events
 - Resume Workshops - Every Tuesday
 - 2nd Chance Friendly Hiring Event, Sept. 26th at the Mesa Convention Center