



COUNCIL MINUTES

JOINT MEETING WITH MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 26, 2024

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with the Mesa Public Schools Governing Board at The Post, 26 N. Macdonald, on September 26, 2024, at 7:33 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
Jennifer Duff
Mark Freeman
Alicia Goforth
Scott Somers
Julie Spilsbury

STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Scott Butler
Holly Moseley
Jaye O'Donnell
Jim Smith
Sarah Tolar

MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATTENDEES

Courtney Davis
Dr. Andi Fournalis
Marcie Hutchinson
Dr. Joe O'Reilly
Kiana Marie Sears

COUNCIL ABSENT

Francisco Heredia

1. Welcome and introduction of Mesa Public Schools Governing Board and Leadership Team and Mesa City Council and Executive Staff.

Mayor Giles welcomed the City of Mesa (COM) and Mesa Public Schools (MPS) colleagues and Mesa Public School Governing Board President Marcie Hutchinson and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mayor Giles stated that this meeting is a great tradition and collaboration between the City and Mesa Public Schools, but the collaboration is more than one meeting a year. He emphasized that this meeting is one piece of a long and continuing relationship to better serve and educate our community. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 1)

2. Hear presentations, discuss, and provide direction on the following topics impacting the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools:

2-a. Early Literacy and Learning in Mesa: including information about education data, state and local literacy programming and initiatives.

Dr. Matt Strom, Mesa Public Schools Associate Superintendent, explained the importance of early childhood literacy and stressed the positive impact that a comprehensive high quality early learning program has on students. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Dr. Tracy Yslas, Mesa Public Schools Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, provided a high-level overview of the science of reading and explained that the formula tells how to become more proficient in reading and writing. She pointed out that the formula offers information about why some students are struggling with reading which allows teachers to form instruction to help students become better readers. She highlighted the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training program that MPS uses to teach phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension, known as the five components of reading. She provided an overview of the Valley Leadership partnership that focuses on the issues in education across the cities. She explained that many schools are lacking LETRS trained teachers, and this partnership will provide training to certify substitutes. (See Pages 6 and 7 of Attachment 1)

Dr. Strom emphasized the importance of early learning and highlighted some benefits of the early childhood education program which has a 13% return on investment. He stated the number of children enrolled in the programs in Mesa has increased over a four-year period. He provided details about the strategic funding used for the program and reiterated that early intervention is the easiest way to get kids on track with their learning. He presented maps to illustrate the location of preschools run by MPS. He highlighted the Bezos Academy programs and the importance of that partnership, noting that four additional schools would be opening over the next year. He praised the Mesa K-Ready program and explained the benefits received by the students and their families. (See Pages 8 through 11 of Attachment 1)

Workforce Administrator Sarah Tolar identified the programs currently being offered by the COM and supported by MPS. She highlighted the AARP Experience Corps program that has expanded into eight schools, and the growth in the Mesa Public Library Card initiative. (See Pages 12 and 13 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Tolar announced the grand opening of the Mesa Family Resource Center located in the lower level of the Mesa Public Library. She elaborated on the activities at the event and encouraged all to attend. She described the details about the services and resources that the Family Resource Center will provide. (See Pages 14 and 15 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Tolar summarized the importance of increasing access to preschool programs and pointed out that early learning assists in building a strong foundation for students to be kindergarten ready. (See Page 16 of Attachment 1)

Mayor Giles opened the floor for questions and discussion. (See Page 17 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Councilmember Duff, Dr. Strom reported that approximately 3,600 to 4,400 students are enrolled in the MPS preschool program and the total number of students enrolled in all MPS schools is approximately 65,000. Responding to a question from Mayor Giles, Dr. Andi Furlis, MPS Superintendent, explained that an analysis to determine how many students are enrolled in the tuition based preschool programs has not been done, but she would follow up with that information later. She reiterated that there are three new Bezos Academy schools opening next year which will provide full day, year-round school for three- to four-year-old students, and that the operating expenses for the preschool programs are offered at no cost to the families being served.

Dr. Furlis responded to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, stating that as space allows, the preschool classrooms are being integrated into the elementary and junior high schools which assist in transitioning. She reported that the overwhelming success of these programs has led to a waiting list for these locations.

In response to a question from Councilmember Freeman, Dr. Furlis confirmed that MPS is looking into options which would better support the needs of the families in Mesa. She explained that some of the tuition-based schools provide all day classes with after-school care, but they are quite expensive.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Goforth, Dr. Furlis verified that students are screened when they enter preschool and again when they begin kindergarten. She explained that screenings help to determine their literacy and math knowledge which assists with identifying their needs as well as their background.

Dr. Joe O'Reilly, MPS Boardmember, expressed his opinion that the Read On Mesa program is doing well in select neighborhoods and it would benefit the community to focus on the areas that have the greatest needs.

Ms. Hutchinson reiterated the importance of literacy and thanked the COM for the programs being offered such as Read On Mesa. She said that these programs are the first step to continue to support workforce development and acknowledged that literacy is currency, no matter the age.

Mayor Giles stated this is an all-hands-on-deck situation where all available resources need to be utilized. He thanked others for their commitment to make progress.

- 2-b. Student and Youth Safety and Crime Prevention in Mesa: including information about City and district discipline and referral data, collaborative programs and initiatives to support student safety, education and awareness.

Assistant Police Chief Gina Nesbit spoke about the increase in school threats that have occurred in the last month and reiterated that the MPS and Mesa Police Department (MPD) have been working hard to deter the behavior. She pointed out the importance of student and youth safety, which is directly linked to attendance and graduation rates. (See Pages 18 and 19 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Nesbit provided an overview of programs offered in Mesa that were created as an effort to build relationships between law enforcement and the students. She highlighted Sports, Programs & Activities Reuniting Community (SPARC), Youth Leadership Academy, Cadet Program, and Teen Court, and gave a brief explanation of each. She reiterated the importance of the School Resource Officers (SRO) and explained how strong communication with the patrol officers assists with understanding what is happening on and around school campuses. (See Page 20 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Nesbit expanded on Mesa's police response to juvenile crime, pointing out a program called Operation Safe Summer. She explained that the program allowed law enforcement to focus on curfew and noise violations by providing education to children and parents early on with the hope of deterring violent crimes. She pointed out that to stop the behavior, parents will be held accountable and cited for their child's recurring curfew violations. She presented the curfew citation data showing the citations for general, minor, and parent violations. (See Pages 21 and 22 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Nesbit gave an overview of a program used by the MPD called Power BI, explaining that the program creates reports with data about teen violence. She pointed out parameters that may be selected to ensure resources are deployed appropriately. She described a working group that was created to combat teen violence called the Juvenile Violent Crime Committee and commented on their goal to bring a more cohesive response to juvenile violent crimes across the Valley. (See Pages 23 and 24 of Attachment 1)

Al Moore, MPS Director of Safety and Security, reported that there are currently over 3,000 camera views throughout the district and noted the recent Intergovernmental Agreement with the COM which allows the MPD to access the cameras at the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). He explained that the cameras are accessed during emergencies only to better direct the responders to the crisis or event and site maps are available to ensure easy navigation around each school. (See Page 25 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Moore discussed the security measures MPS has adopted, highlighting placement of weapon detectors, additional SROs and extra security officers at all schools. He reported the success of the vape detectors that were installed in the secondary school bathrooms and stressed the positive feedback received from staff and students. (See Page 26 of Attachment 1)

Aimee De La Torre, MPS Director of Federal Grants, shared that she was a co-leader of the attendance task force. She provided data representing chronic absences from the past three years reflecting a consistent decrease in absenteeism. She gave an overview of the strategies that are being utilized at all schools. She acknowledged that these strategies will not work for every student and explained the process for referring students with chronic absences to the Prosecutor's Office. (See Pages 27 and 28 of Attachment 1)

Mayor Giles opened the floor for discussion and questions. (See Page 29 of Attachment 1)

Responding to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Dr. Fourlis reported that threats were received at 24 MPS schools and confirmed that charges have been filed against 12 students. She advised that not all threats are made from local students, mentioning one received at Mesa High School this week came from outside of the United States. She confirmed that MPS has been transparent about the threats and has communicated all details, including the charges that were filed. She emphasized the great work that MPD has done and verified that the protocols and systems in place are working.

Ms. Hutchison reiterated the importance of the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff and acknowledged the impressive reaction and thorough work of the MPD.

Councilmember Spilsbury recommended a collaboration with the COM Parks and Recreation department to start offering a Friday night open gym and explained that other cities provide this to their community as a safe place to gather. She confirmed that the concept has been very popular.

- 2-c. Economic and Workforce Development in Mesa: including information about City industry data, City-wide Workforce Development Plan, district programming and industry partnerships.

Economic Development Deputy Director Maria Laughner discussed the types of industry being recruited to the COM and highlighted the companies that have been operating in Mesa for many years. She detailed the Fiscal Year 2025 industry focus, identifying newer and emerging industries such as electric vehicle battery technology, advanced air mobility, climate technology, medical devices, and retail. (See Pages 30 through 32 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Laughner gave an overview of the jobs with high growth in Mesa related to the targeted industry, which included the annual job openings and growth projection through 2032. She explained the COM workforce development strategy, highlighted the Job Connect Mesa program, and announced the goal to work with 300 employers and 3,200 job seekers by June 30, 2025. (See Pages 33 through 36 of Attachment 1)

Dr. Yslas reiterated that MPS is consistently looking for ways to serve the students' strengths and weaknesses while providing skills to grow through high school. She explained what MPS has done to ensure students have college, career and community readiness beginning in elementary school and extending through high school. She provided details about the academy programs that are offered for grades 10–12 and described that the program will supply work-based learning and offer pathways to career exploration. (See Pages 37 and 38 of Attachment 1)

Marlo Loria, MPS Director of Career and Technical Education & Innovative Partnerships, provided an overview of the College & Career Academies of MPS which is designed to match the workforce in the region, but broad enough to offer various pathways in each. She gave a summary of each academy and reported that MPS has partnered with over 100 employers to provide work-based learning experiences; however, there are still 50 students waiting for internship placement. She emphasized that there are many

collaboration and partnership opportunities and mentioned how these programs help provide real world learning experiences that will strengthen and grow the future workforce in Mesa. (See Pages 39 through 41 of Attachment 1)

Mayor Giles opened the floor for discussion and questions. (See Page 42 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Dr. Fourlis explained that the model makes it difficult for the students to switch programs mid-term.

Ms. Hutchinson shared a story about a student that participated in the Multimedia Academy, even though her career path was directed toward the medical field. She explained that although the skills the student obtained were not in medicine, the academy prepared her for other college programs.

Kiana Maria Sears, MPS Boardmember, commented that this program is a change, but the shift provides the chance to experience real life, and offers students the opportunity to explore while they are still in high school. She suggested promoting the Mesa College Promise and the other scholarship programs to promote additional opportunities for students and their families.

Responding to a comment from Councilmember Duff, Dr. Fourlis confirmed that the scholarship opportunities will be presented to the students that participate in the academy and apply for and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application.

Dr. Fourlis expressed her gratitude for the support from the COM.

City Manager Christopher Brady added that the legacy in Mesa is the unique relationship across the city. He reiterated the desire to foster positive partnerships and to continue to find ways to work together.

3. Mayor and Governing Board President Closing Remarks.

Ms. Hutchinson thanked everyone for making the programs possible and congratulated the staff for their efforts.

Mayor Giles thanked everyone for their commitment. He emphasized that this is our legacy and reiterated that these strong partnerships make great things happen.

4. Adjourn.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting between the Mesa City Council and the Mesa Public Schools Governing Board adjourned at 9:05 a.m.





JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Meeting between the Mesa City Council and Mesa Public Schools Governing Board held on the 26th day of September 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held.



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

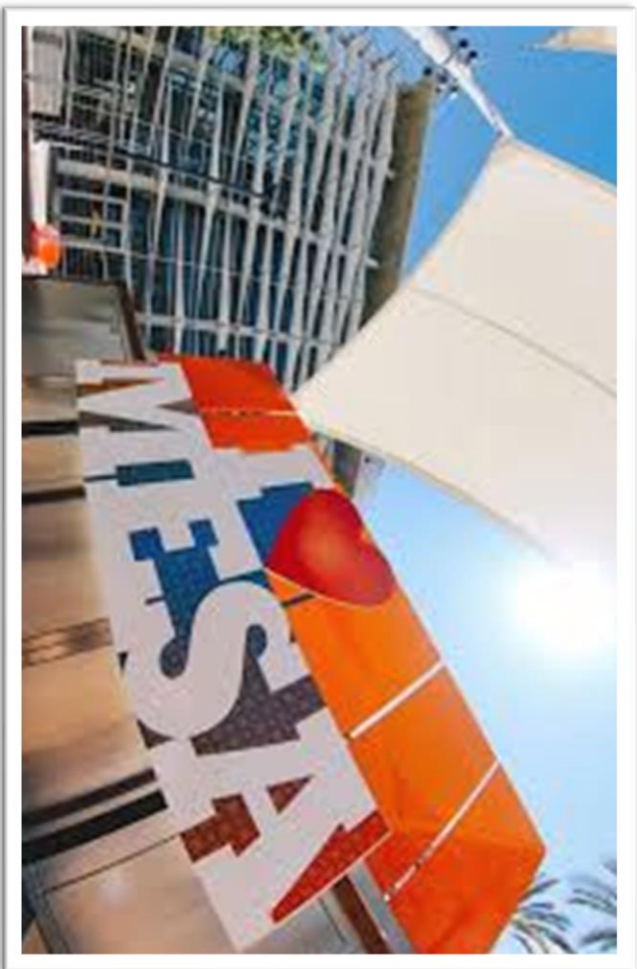
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(Attachments – 1)

Mesa City Council and Mesa Public Schools Governing Board Collaborative Meeting

September 26, 2024



City of Mesa Mayor and Council



Mayor John Giles

Vice Mayor Francisco Heredia: District 3

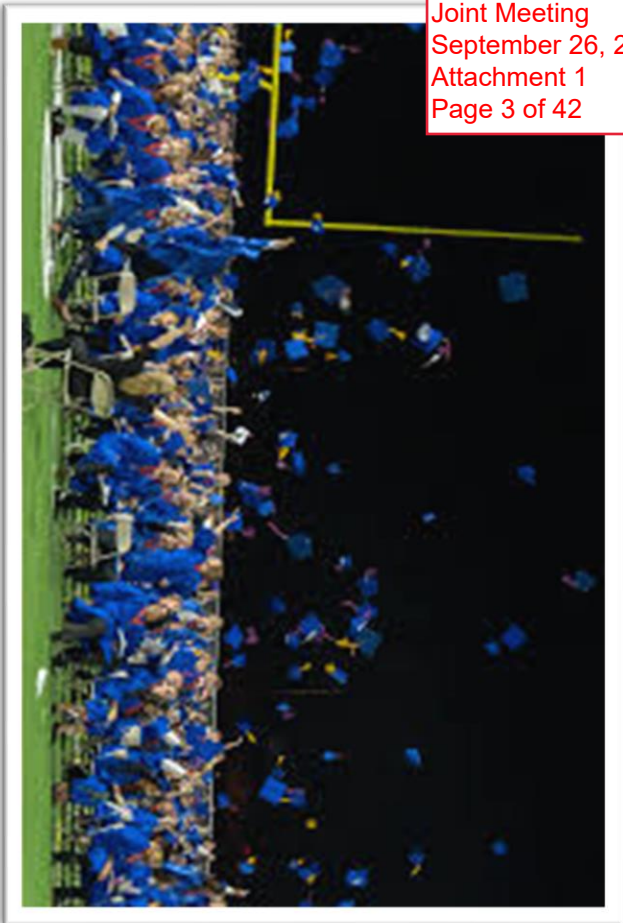
Councilmember Mark Freeman: District 1

Councilmember Julie Spilsbury: District 2

Councilmember Jenn Duff: District 4

Councilmember Alicia Goforth: District 5

Councilmember Scott Somers: District 6



Mesa Public Schools Governing Board

President: Ms. Marcie Hutchinson

Clerk: Dr. Joe O'Reilly

Member: Mrs. Courtney Davis

Member: Ms. Kiana Maria Sears

Member: Mrs. Rachel Walden



Early Literacy and Education in Mesa

Mesa Public Schools

Associate Superintendent:

Dr. Matt Strom

Assistant Superintendent
of Teaching and Learning:

Dr. Tracy Yslas

City of Mesa Education
and Workforce

Administrator:

Sarah Tolar

Early Child Literacy & Preschool

Research indicates that **high-quality early childhood education**, such as **preschool**, has a significant **positive impact** on third-grade **reading proficiency**.
Key findings include:



01 IMPROVED LITERACY SKILLS

Studies show that **children who attend high-quality preschool programs** develop **stronger early literacy skills**, such as **phonemic awareness and vocabulary**, which contribute to **better reading outcomes** in later years. For example, a study published in Early Childhood Research Quarterly found that preschool attendees had **higher reading achievement scores** in elementary school compared to their peers who did not attend preschool.

02 LONG-TERM ACADEMIC BENEFITS

Children who participate in preschool are more likely to **reach reading proficiency by third grade**. Research from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) demonstrates that **early education** can lead to **sustained gains in reading achievement** throughout elementary school.

03 REDUCED ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

Quality **preschool programs** can help **close achievement gaps** by providing all children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a **strong foundation in literacy skills**. According to a study by the RAND Corporation, preschool education **helps mitigate disparities in reading proficiency** related to socioeconomic status.

04 ENHANCED COGNITIVE & SOCIAL SKILLS

Early childhood education supports **cognitive development and social skills** that are critical for **learning to read**. A report from the Harvard Center on the Developing Child underscores that preschool fosters executive **function skills and emotional regulation**, which are essential for **academic success**.

05 REDUCE THE RISK OF MISIDENTIFYING

Research indicates that high-quality preschool programs can significantly **reduce the risk of misidentifying English Language Learners (ELLs)** for special education services by providing early, targeted support that addresses both **language development and learning needs**, thereby improving **accurate assessment** and reducing false diagnoses.

The Science of Reading

The Simple View of Reading

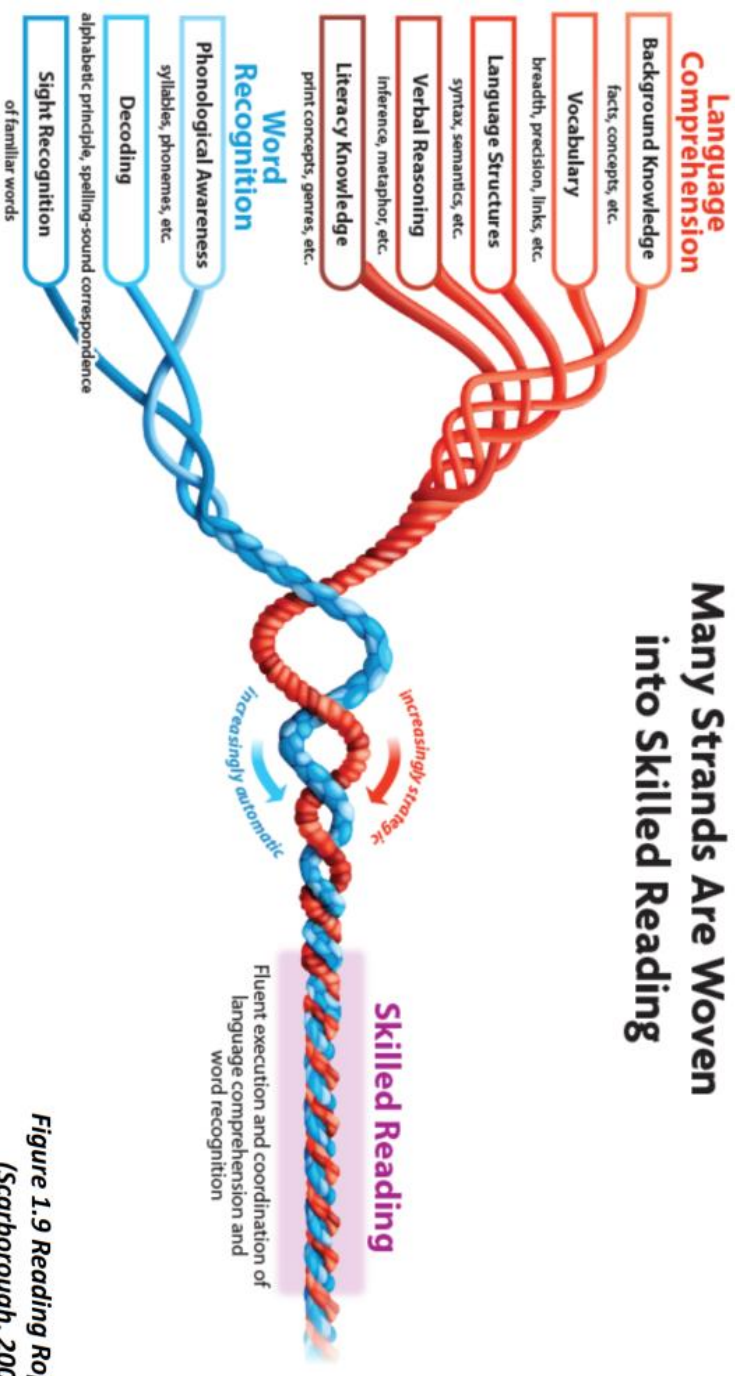


Figure 1.9 Reading Rope
(Scarborough, 2001)

Literacy Professional Learning

- Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)
- Structured Literacy and “The Big 5” core reading resources
- Valley Leadership Partnership



Preschool Access

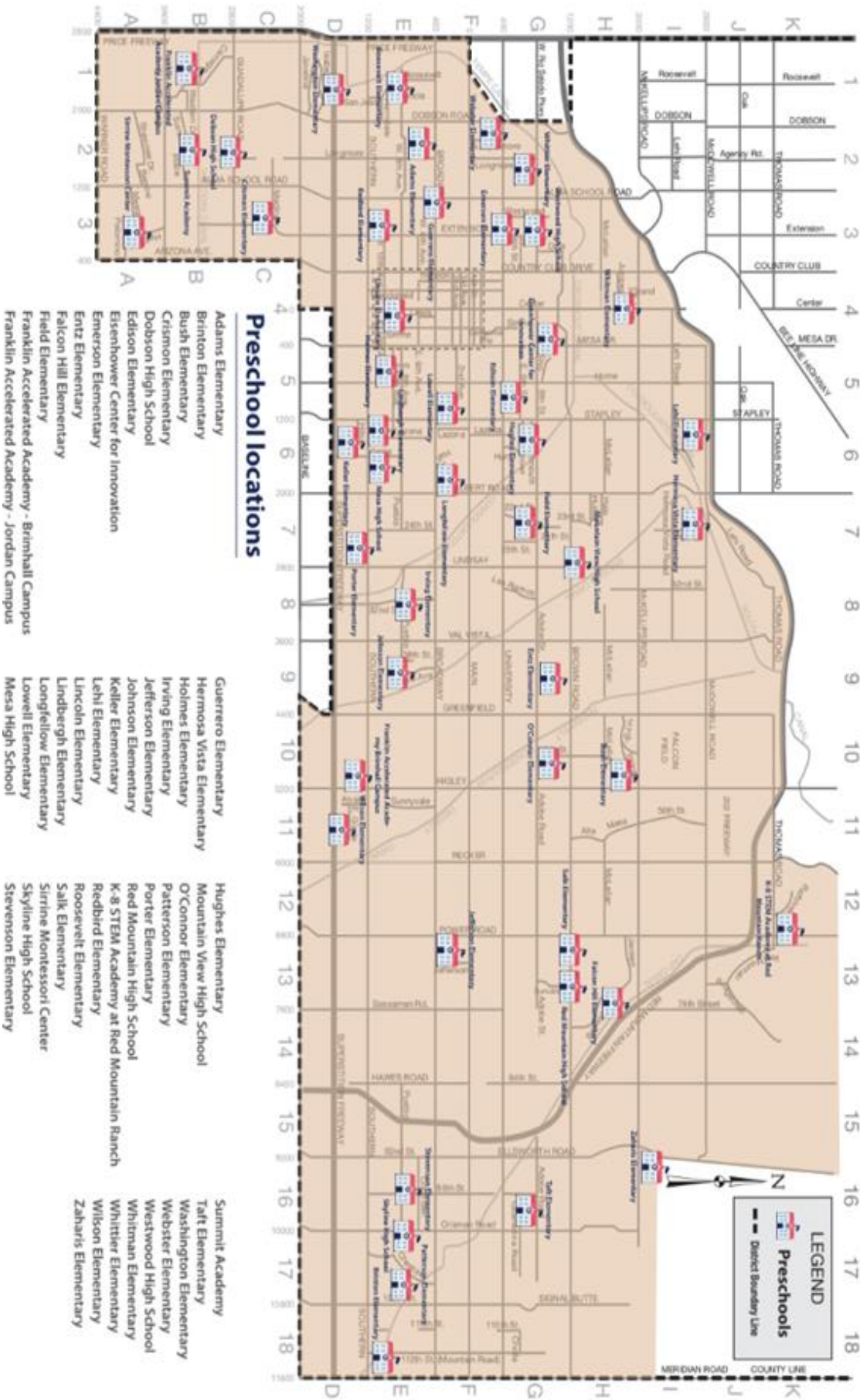


Source: Synergy

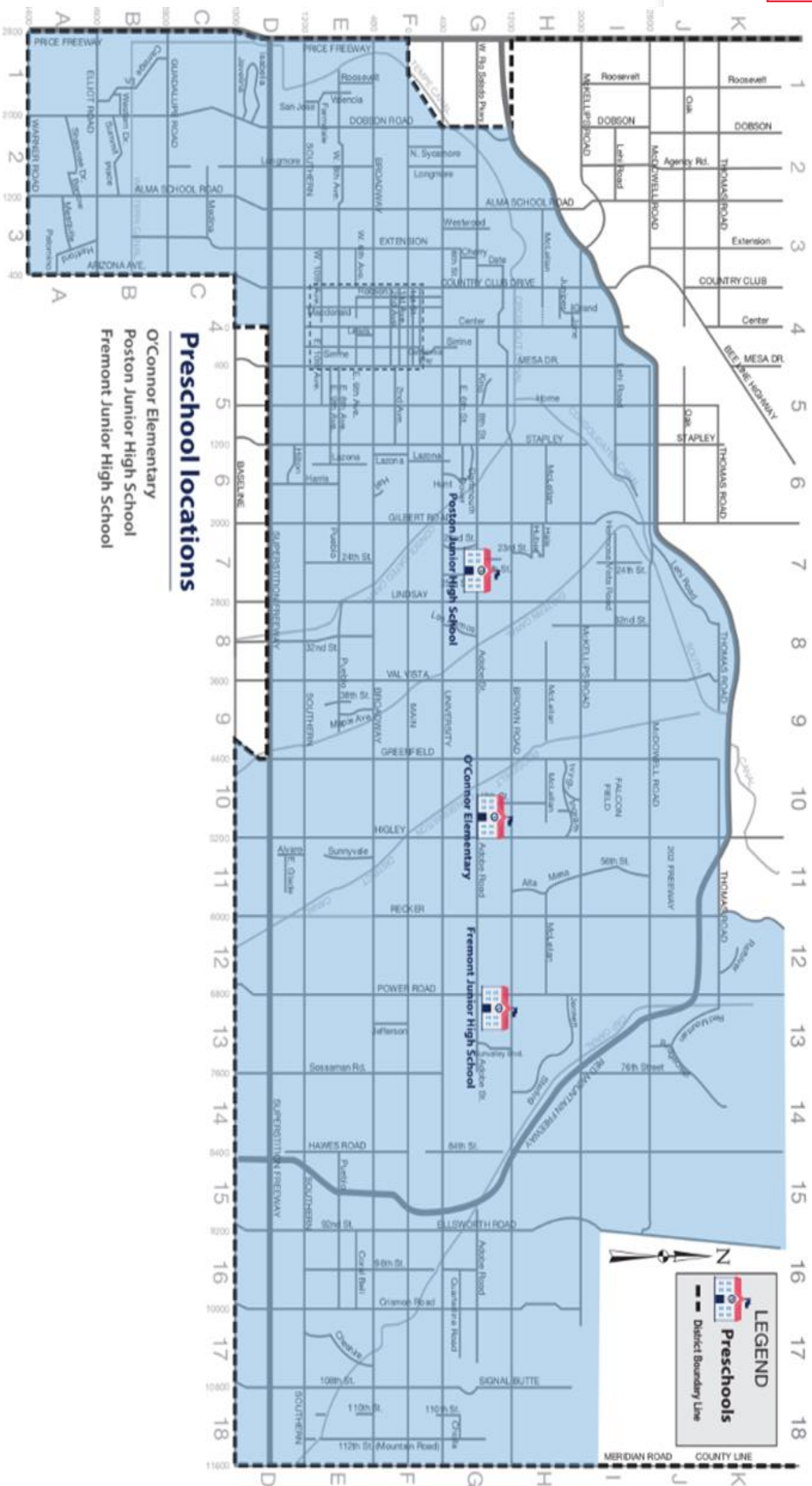


Preschool Access - District Delivered

2024-25 Mesa Public Schools District-Run Preschools



Preschool Access - Partnerships



Preschool Programming

Mesa K-Ready Program and MPS Preschools

Free kindergarten readiness program for 3-4-year-old children and their parents



OBJECTIVES

- Parents **prepare** their children for **kindergarten**
- Supports **social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development**
- Parent Education



TOPICS

- Discussion on topics related to child development, including **nutrition, oral hygiene, the importance of sleep, meal planning, and budgeting.**



RESOURCES

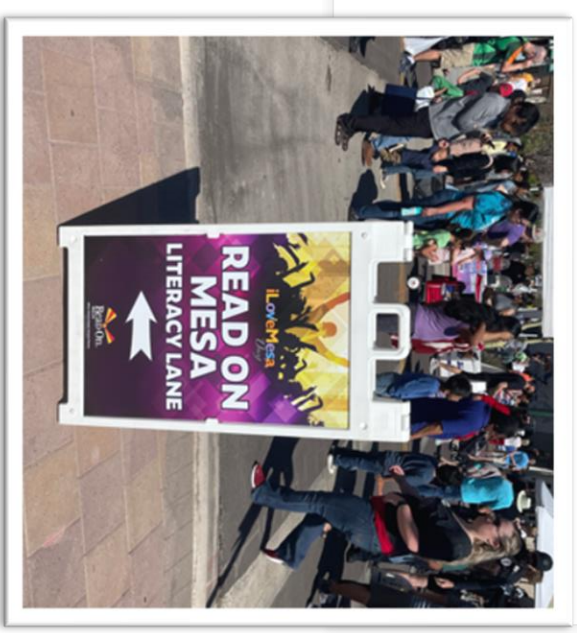
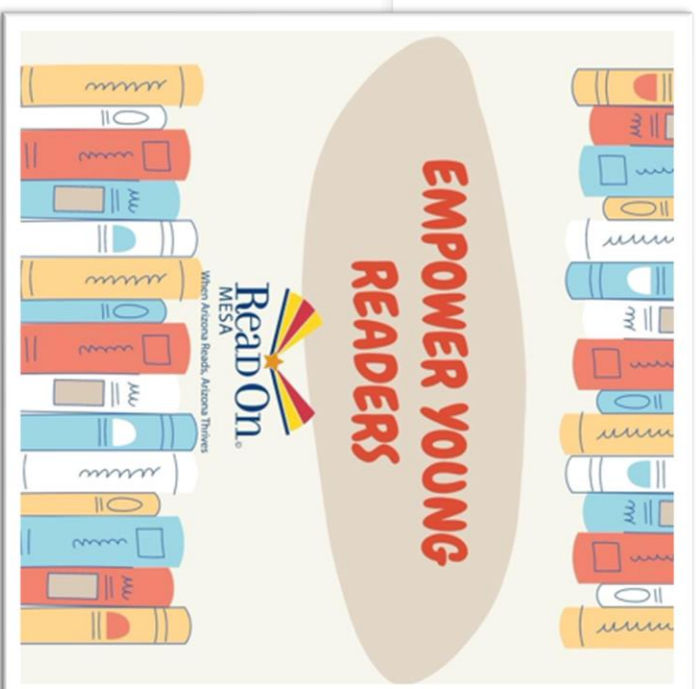
- Kindergarten-**readiness software** program to use as a tool at home with an adult.
- The Mesa K-Ready Program has a **Spanish-language** component
- The program offers resources & referrals for any potential **developmental screenings**



PARTNERSHIPS

This program is in partnership with the **City of Mesa** and the **Mesa Foundation**

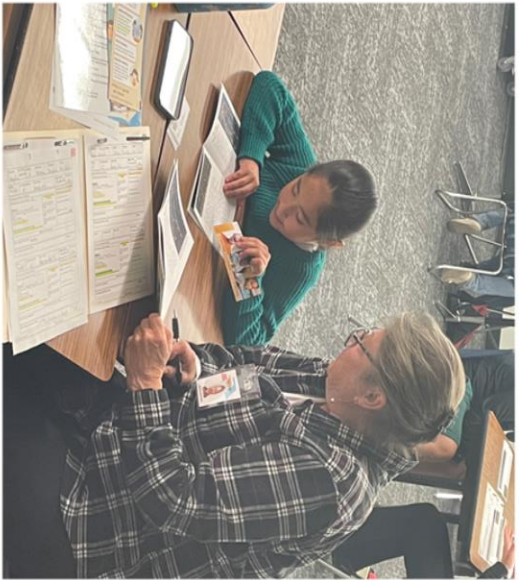




- Mesa Public Library ✦ Southwest Human Development ✦ Mesa Public Schools ✦ Unite for Literacy
- Mesa Public Schools Foundation ✦ National Center for Families Learning ✦ i.d.e.a. Museum
- Mesa Chamber of Commerce ✦ Azura Literacy ✦ First Things First ✦ Read On Arizona ✦ Mesa Arts Center
- Arizona Museum of Natural History ✦ AARP Experience Corps ✦ Child Crisis Arizona ✦ Native Health
- Read Better Be Better ✦ Kids Need to Read ✦ Hands-on Phoenix ✦ Literacy Lab



AARP Foundation Experience Corps is a community-based volunteer program that empowers people over 50 to serve as tutors to help students become better readers by the end of third grade. It is a proven “triple win,” helping students succeed, older adults thrive, and communities grow stronger.





Library Card Initiative

- **MPL & MPS IGA**
 - Gives permission to share data between entities
 - Strengthens collaboration and partnership between MPL and MPS
- Streamlined approach for Library card registration process
- Reach more schools and students
- Expand support and access to resources
- Provide opportunity for all students in Mesa

2023: Opt-in Registration for Kindergarteners launches

2024: Expansion of the program to K-3rd grade

✓ Cards issued up to **April 2024**
(K-3 expansion): 2,338

✓ TOTAL cards issued thru **June 2024:** 3,716

Future goals:

- 2025: Scale program to K-6th
- 2026: Scale program to K-12



Grand Opening Event!

Details:

Thursday, September 26th

Program and Ribbon Cutting: 11:00-11:30 AM

Community event and family activities: 11:30-5:00 PM

Join us to see the Mesa Family Resource Center, participate in activities, raffle drawings and learn about the resources, services and programs that will be provided!

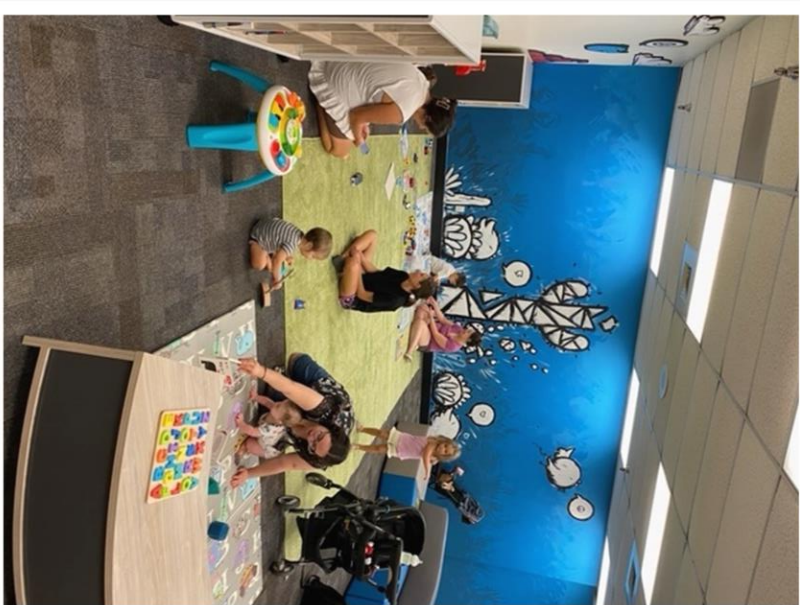
Location:

Mesa Family Resource Center • Main Library – Lower Level

64 East 1st St., Mesa, AZ 85201

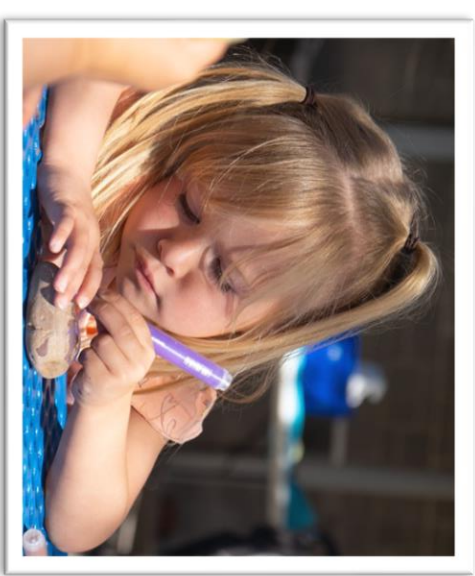
SUPPORTED BY

FIRST THINGS FIRST

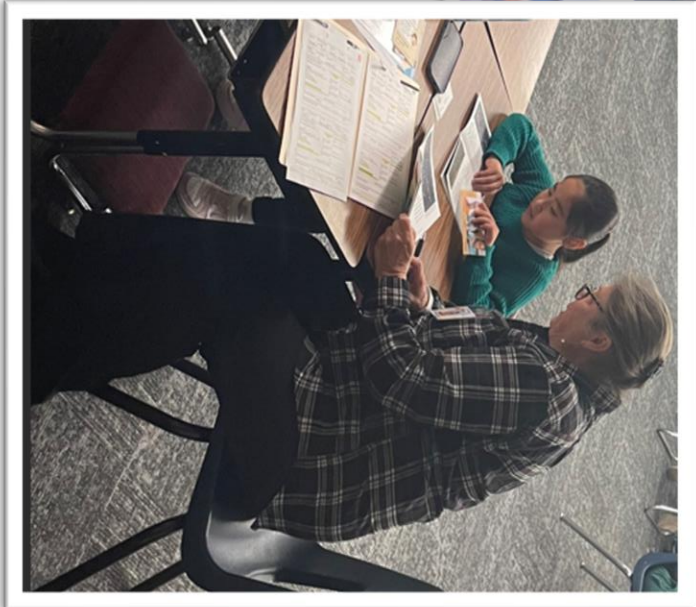


Increasing Access & Engagement

- Increasing available and affordable preschool seat access
- Awareness of resources for early learning and family engagement
- Building a strong foundation for students to be kindergarten-ready



Questions & Discussion



Student and Youth Safety and Crime Prevention

Mesa Assistant Police

Chief:

Gina Nesbit

Mesa Public Schools

Director of School Safety
and Security:

Al Moore

Director of Federal

Grants:

Aimee De La Torre

Importance of Student and Youth Safety and Crime Prevention

- Impacts academic performance and mental well-being
- Essential for students/youth to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially
- Violence affects the overall well-being of our youth
- Create a healthy environment for students and foster healthy relationships with SROs to form positive relations and healthy behaviors

Mesa Police Response to Juvenile Crime

- Increased community engagement with school-aged students to build relationships between police and youth
 - SPARC (Sports, Programs & Activities Reuniting Community)
 - Youth Leadership Academy
 - Cadet Program
 - Teen Court
- Ensure strong communication between SROs and patrol officers
- Commanders' engagement in juvenile-related crime in their respective districts and appropriate deployment of resources
- Review of juvenile curfew and noise violations with patrol officers

Curfew Citation Data

Curfew Citations Issued	2023												2024									Total	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
6-6-1 Curfew Violation - General	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
6-6-1A Curfew Violation - Minor	4	8	7	6	7	6	1	5	4	9	4	2	4	0	13	5	32	25	25	10	6	6	183
6-6-1B Curfew Violation - Parents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total Citations Issued	4	8	7	6	7	6	5	6	4	9	4	2	4	0	13	5	32	26	25	10	6	6	189

Curfew Citation Incidents													Total
Year\Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2023	2	5	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	5	2	1	32
2024	3	0	6	3	15	15	11	8	2				63
Total Incidents	5	5	8	5	18	18	13	11	4	5	2	1	95

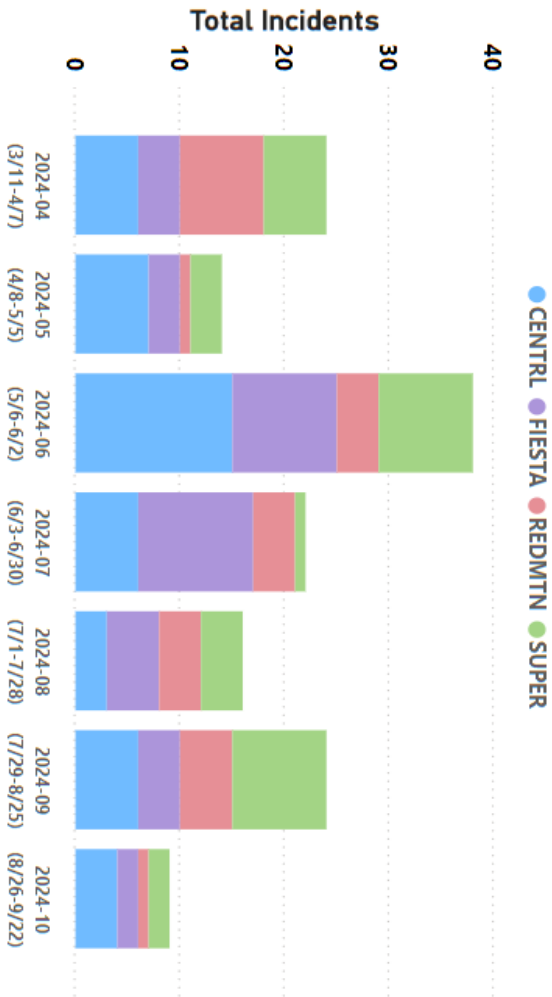


Crimes Involving Teen Violence - Teen Offenses

Crimes involving Teen Violence - Teen Offenders:

- (1) Any aggravated assault, homicide, sexual assault/rape, robbery, simple assault, or weapon violation.
- (2) There is at least one entry labeled as a juvenile suspect or arrestee or investigative lead, or an adult suspect or arrestee or investigative lead of 19 years of age or younger.

CITY by CompStat Cycle



HR RANGE	2024-04 (3/11-4/7)	2024-05 (4/8-5/5)	2024-06 (5/6-6/2)	2024-07 (6/3-6/30)	2024-07 (7/1-7/28)	2024-08 (7/29-8/25)	2024-09 (8/26-9/22)	Total
0200-0559	1		7	2	1			12
0600-0959	1	2	4			4	1	12
1000-1359	6	1	1	3	2	5	1	19
1400-1759	7	4	6	3	3	8	1	32
1800-2159	3	6	12	4	5	3	1	34
2200-0159	6	1	8	10	5	3	5	38
Total	24	14	38	22	16	24	9	147

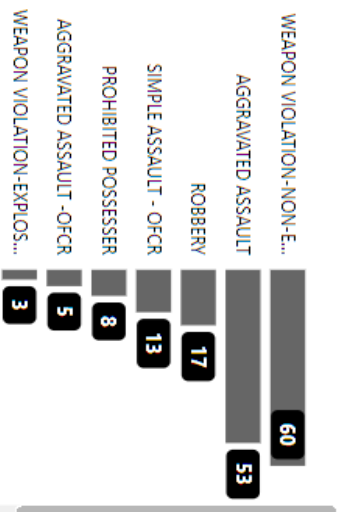
How Received?



Choose District

CENTRL	2024-04 (3/11-4/7)
FIESTA	2024-05 (4/8-5/5)
REDMTN	2024-06 (5/6-6/2)
SUPER	2024-07 (6/3-6/30)
	2024-08 (7/1-7/28)
	2024-09 (7/29-8/25)
	2024-10 (8/26-9/22)

CITY Offenses (Count)



CITY Offenses

- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT -DV
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT -OFCR
- ASSIST - MENTAL CONDITION
- BURGLARY
- CCV-TITLE 6-POLICE REGULATIONS
- CREDIT CARD FRAUD
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE - DV <\$1 000
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE <\$1 000

CITY by Location Type



CITY Case Status

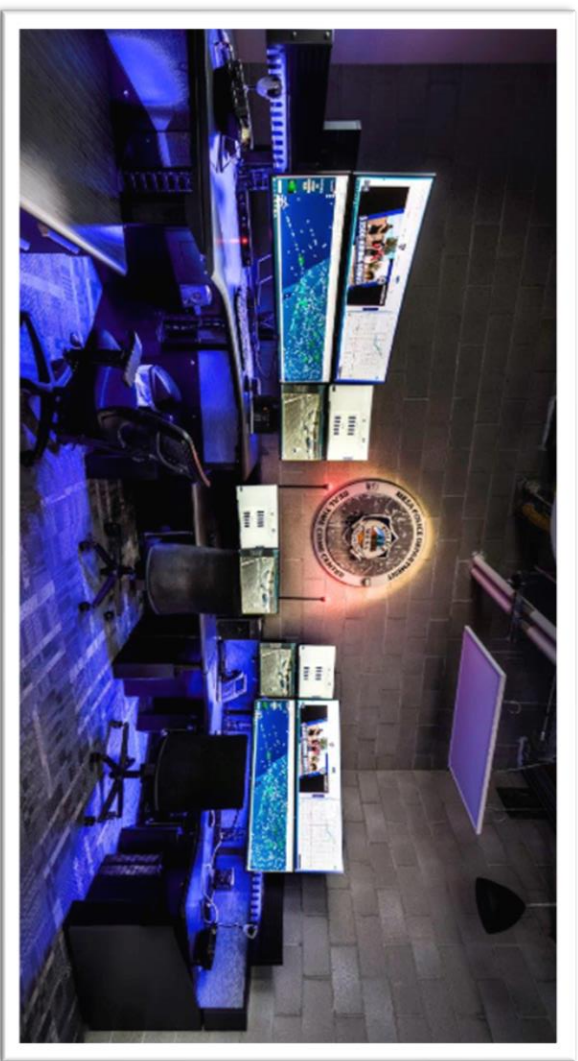
Active/Open	Closed	Inactive
Cleared By Arrest	Furthered	Waiting Lab Results

Juvenile Violent Crime Committee

- Working group to combat teen violence and teen crime
- Collaboration with Mesa Police, Mesa Public Schools, Queen Creek Public Schools, Gilbert Public Schools, Prosecutors (MCAO and Juvenile MCAO), Probation Officers, School Resource Officers, Detectives/Gang Detectives
- Create an understanding of goals of the different entities – educational, rehabilitation, and enforcement role
- Discuss issues facing each area to bring together a more cohesive response
- Increase collaboration with City Prosecutor's Office

Security Camera Intergovernmental Agreement

- Allows Mesa Police Department access in the RTCC (Real Time Crime Center) during emergencies only
- Real-time access
- Site Maps



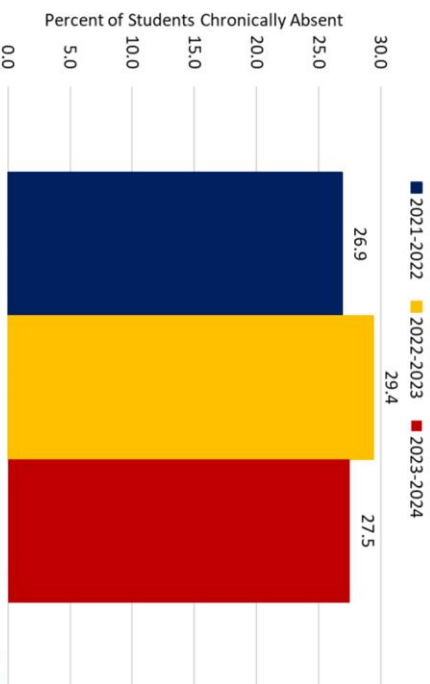
MPS Security Measures

- Weapon Detectors
- Additional SRO Grants
- Extra Security Officers
- Vape Detectors



Data - Chronic Absenteeism

Percent Chronically Absent in Semester 1



Notes

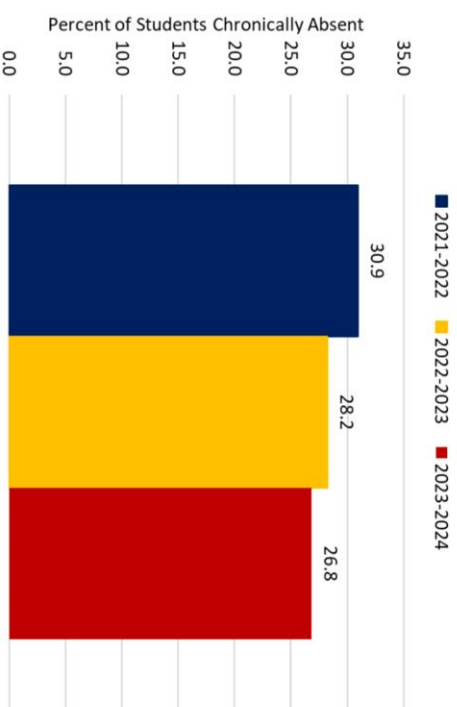
Students included:
 * Includes all K-12 students who are continuously enrolled for 50% of Semester 1 (45 out of 90 days).

How it's calculated:
 * This metric is calculated as the percent of students who are absent for 10% or more of respective enrollment.
 * For schools with period attendance, a daily absence is considered two or more periods missed in a day.



Board Goal: Increase Proficiency in ELA
Board Goal: Increase Proficiency in Math
Board Goal: Increase Graduation Rate

Percent Chronically Absent YTD through Q3



Notes

Students included:
 * Includes all K-12 students who are continuously enrolled for 50% of Quarter 3 (68 out of 137 days).

How it's calculated:
 * This metric is calculated as the percent of students who are absent for 10% or more of respective enrollment.
 * For schools with period attendance, a daily absence is considered two or more periods missed in a day.

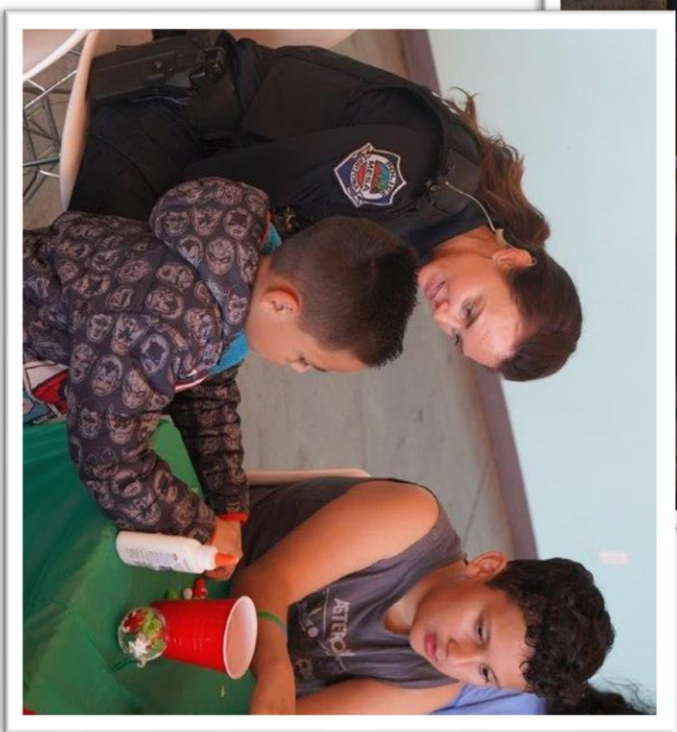


Board Goal: Increase Proficiency in ELA
Board Goal: Increase Proficiency in Math
Board Goal: Increase Graduation Rate

Addressing Absenteeism: Prosecutor's Office and MPS Truancy Office Collaboration

- Chronic absenteeism and the impact on student learning as well as the Mesa community
- Proactive approaches and documentation at the school and district level
- Training and communication for all MPS staff and City Court staff
- Intended for the most intensive absenteeism concerns
- Includes opportunity for support and recognition of improved attendance where fines and/ or charges may be reduced or dropped

Questions & Discussion



Economic and Workforce Development in Mesa

City of Mesa Economic
Development Deputy
Director:
Maria Laughner

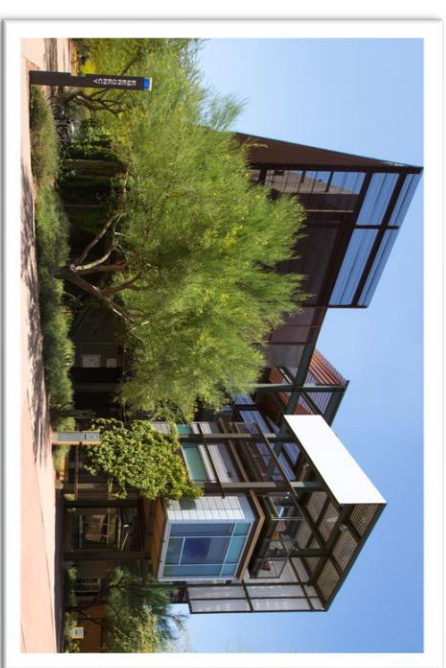
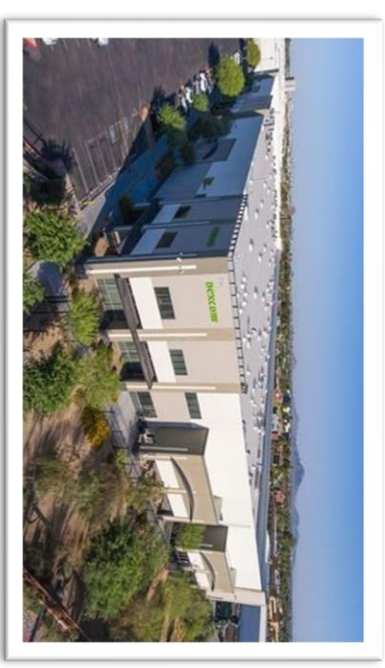
Mesa Public Schools
Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning:
Dr. Tracy Yslas

Director of CTE & Innovative
Partnerships:
Marlo Loria

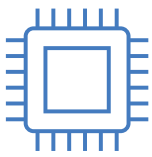
Legacy Industries

ESTABLISHED COMPANIES & SECTORS

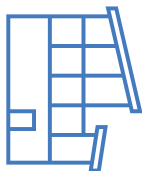
- Healthcare / Biotechnology / Medical Devices
- Aerospace / Aviation / Defense
- Technology
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Warehouse / Distribution
- Tourism



FY25 Industry Focus



Semiconductor
(Supply Chain)



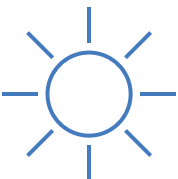
Manufacturing
(Advanced / Standard)



Electric Vehicles,
Battery Tech



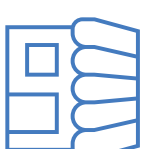
Advanced Air
Mobility



Climate Tech



Healthcare,
Bioscience,
Medical Device



Retail

High Growth Jobs

Occupation	Annual Openings	Growth Projection 2032
Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, home health aides, medical assistants	18,000+	38%
Software developers	3,151	38%
Truck drivers (heavy and light)	6,844	29%
Laborers and freight, stock, material movers	9,974	25%
Retail, restaurant, hospitality	38,205	17%
Professional (managers, CSRs, analysts, sales and marketing)	24,059	14%

Respond. Support. Adapt.

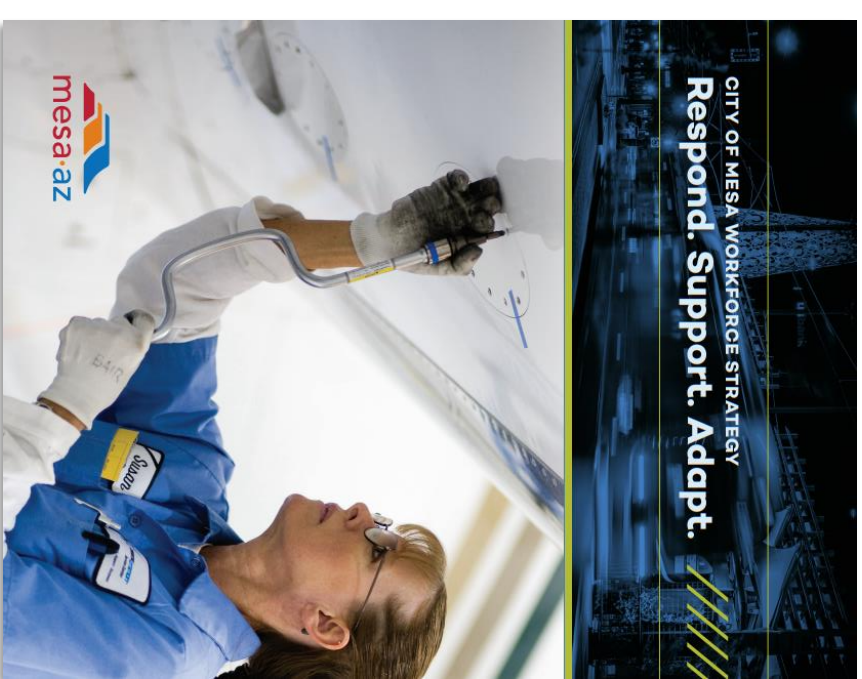
CITY OF MESA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



A CITY-WIDE EFFORT:
BUILDING A THRIVING
WORKFORCE

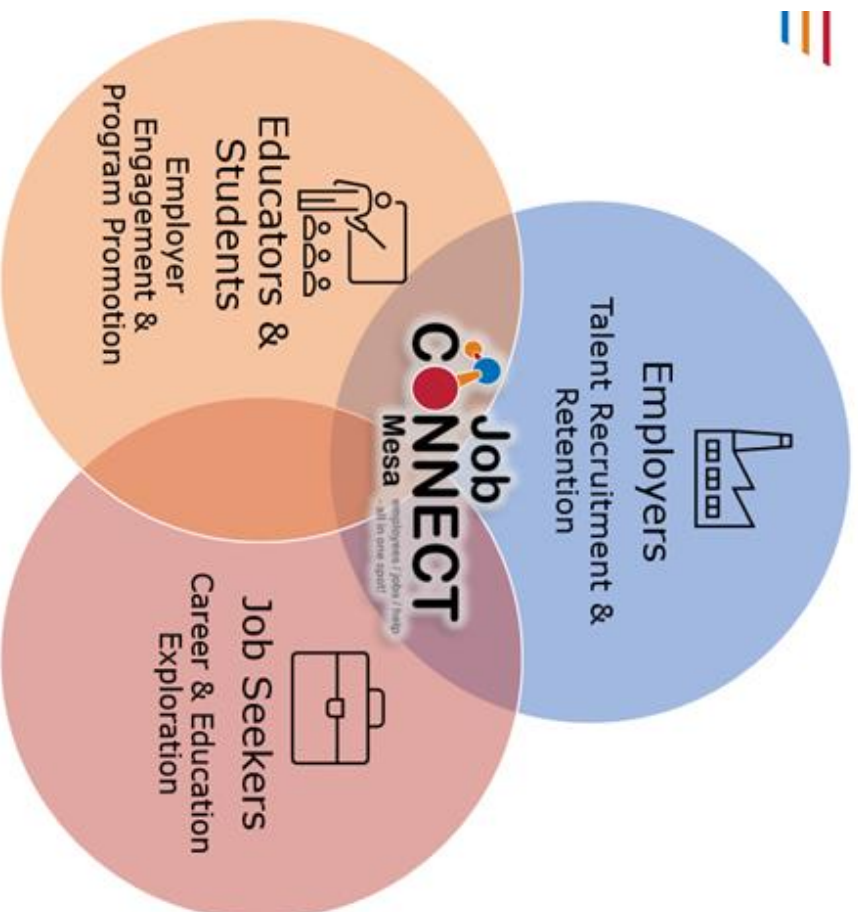
Services to Business -
Office of Economic Development

Services to Community -
*Education & Workforce Office /
Workforce Center @ Mesa*



Job Connect Mesa

CITY OF MESA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



- Bring employers and job seekers together.
- Provide training, guidance, and help tools.
- Very easy to use, all in one spot.
- No other jobsite connects jobseekers to local resources and employers or allows employers to connect with workforce suppliers and jobseekers.

Job Connect Mesa

CITY OF MESA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Launched on June 20, 2024 at special event with workforce consultant and keynote Mark Perna
- Goal = 300 employers and 3,200 job seekers by 6/30/25



College, Career, & Community Readiness Framework



Academic competency

Work-based learning

Portrait of a Graduate



Preschool → Graduation Plus

Ensuring College, Career, and Community Readiness

Elementary

- Development of foundational academic skills
- Career awareness

Junior High

- Development of strong academic and social skills
- Identification of aptitudes and interests
- Career exploration

9th Grade Academy

- Small cohorts of learners
- Freshman Seminar course focused on career exploration & life skills
- Intentional focus on workplace skills
- Interdisciplinary project-based learning

High School

Grades 10-12 Academies

- **ACADEMY A PATHWAY**
- **ACADEMY B PATHWAY**
- **ACADEMY C PATHWAY**

- Small cohorts of learners
- Interdisciplinary project-based learning connected to academy career theme
- Embedded work based learning

Graduation Plus

Academic competency

Work-based learning

Portrait of a Graduate

College & Career Academies of MPS

Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing	Emphasizes innovation, collaboration, and design thinking. Learning linked to multiple sectors, including aerospace, engineering, and advanced production technologies, while also fostering essential employability and leadership competencies.
Healthcare	Provides students with an immersive educational experience, offering a deep dive into various healthcare fields, including patient care, medical technology, and health sciences. Fosters technical proficiency and compassionate care, while emphasizing critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership in the dynamic and ever-evolving healthcare industry.
Business & Entrepreneurship	Equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the competitive world of business, finance, and entrepreneurship. Exposes students to corporate environments, small businesses, or their own entrepreneurial ventures, fostering creativity, problem-solving, and strategic thinking.
Multimedia	Immerses students in the dynamic world of digital media, communications, and creative arts, offering hands-on experiences in areas such as graphic design, video production, animation, and web development. Academy fosters innovation, storytelling, and visual communication expertise.
Public Service	Exposes students to impactful careers in public safety, human services, and civic engagement, fostering a sense of duty, problem-solving abilities, and a commitment to making a positive difference in society.

Business Partnerships



MPS is working with over 100 employers to provide work based learning experiences for students.

As the largest employer in Mesa, we have hired over 75 interns to work with district departments, such as IT, HR, communications, ect.

We currently have 50 students still looking internship placement.

Collaboration Opportunities

- Hire CTE interns
 - HS seniors
 - CTE program participant
 - minimum 10 hr/wk
- WBL opportunities
- Mesa Youth Creative Agency (MYCA)
- MPS business co-location exploration



PARTNER WITH MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Help provide real world learning experiences to qualified high school students

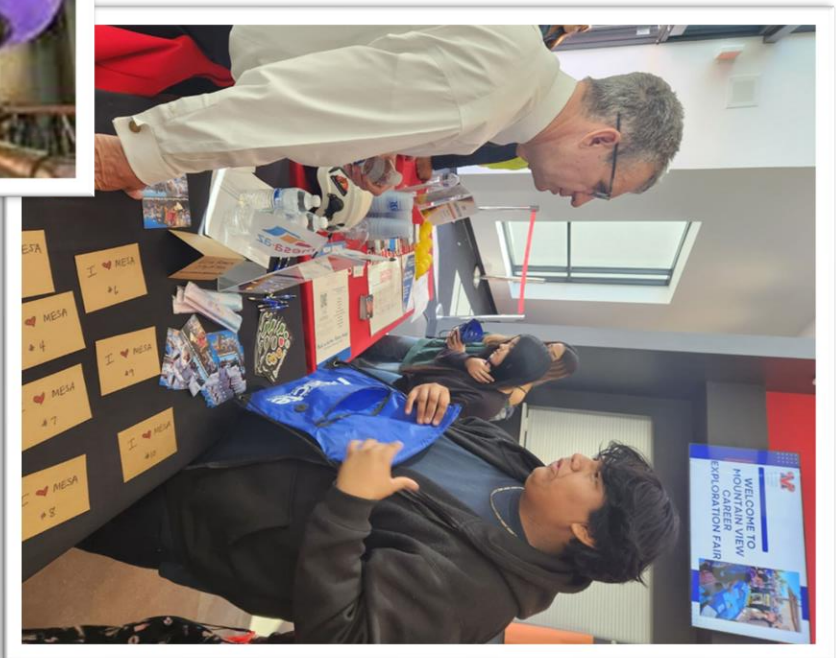
Partnership Opportunities

- ✔ Join a Business Community Council
- ✔ Grow your workforce by providing part-time internships and job shadows
- ✔ Engage with 1000+ students by participating in Career Fairs
- ✔ Share business expertise as a guest speaker

Scan here to join us:



Questions & Discussion



Mesa City Council and Mesa Public Schools Governing Board Collaborative Meeting

Closing Remarks

