



Fall Convening   20 October 2020 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
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**PARTICIPANTS**

City/Town	Mayor	Team Members
Casa Grande	Craig H. McFarland	
Flagstaff		Charlie Odegaard, Council Member
Gilbert		Valerie Shaffer, Mayor's Aide
Mesa	John Giles	Melissa Randazzo, Chief of Staff Amy Trethaway, Mesa Counts on College and Education Policy Advisor
Miami	Sammy Gonzales	
Phoenix	Kate Gallego	Willa Altman-Kaough, Policy Advisor Valerie Churchwell, Senior Policy Advisor Tim Valencia, Youth and Education Office Manager
Sahuarita	Tom Murphy	Manny Valenzuela, Superintendent
Tempe	Corey Woods	Marie Raymond, Human Services Manager Leslie Totten, Tempe PRE Supervisor
Tolleson	Anna Tovar	
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AZ Department of Education	Kate Wright, Associate Superintendent	
Collaborative Communications	Kris Kurtenbach, Founding Partner Terri Ferinde, Partner	
Helios	Janice Palmer, Vice President – Public Policy and Government Affairs	
WestEd	Sheila Arredondo, Senior Program Associate Paul Koehler, Director of Leadership and Outreach	
<b>SPEAKERS</b>	Marilee Dal Pra, Chief Executive Officer, First Things First Lisa Roy, Director of Program Development, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska	

## NOTES

### COVID-19 Guidance Update

*Kate Wright, Associate Superintendent, Arizona Department of Education*

- Update on the Reopening of Schools – Kate chaired the School Reopening Taskforce (May) which transitioned to the Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce to focus on short- and long-term issues and identify opportunities for innovation
- Successes and Celebrations – Onsite services working well especially for students with additional and unique needs
  - Scottsdale preschool never closed and had no COVID-19 cases
  - Sunnyside Unified School District highlighted in the [Leading with Learning blog](#) from the Center for Innovation in Education regarding systems and structures put in place pre-COVID that have enabled learning during the pandemic
- [COVID-19 Webpage](#) and Resources
  - Tracker – Working with partners to track the type of instruction that is happening around the state, includes all counties, sort by county and alphabetically
  - Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) – links to guidance on ADE website
  - [Guidance](#) for 2020-2021 school year available
  - Funding – robust resource to support schools, CARES Act, ESSER funds, over 70% of LEAs have received ESSER funding, \$20M for Acceleration Academies from GEER fund to 183 schools
- [Roadmap for Reopening Schools](#) consolidated and updated to match current guidance
- Additional resources available on website
- Partnerships with ADHS and local county health – weekly meetings

### SHARING AND UPDATES

City/Town	Responses
<b>Casa Grande</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Promise for the Future – partnership with Central Arizona College that has been in existence for 20 years to send high school graduates to community college; business community has rallied around the program</li><li>▪ Elementary school district began in-person learning yesterday</li><li>▪ High schools reopened Sept 17, two days in person, three days at home (40% staying online, 60% modified in-person learning)</li><li>▪ City Council put together strategic plan two years ago and decided to rally community around education system</li><li>▪ Adopted Achieve60AZ goals</li><li>▪ <a href="#">AARP Foundation Experience Corps</a> – Grade 3 reading program; city invested \$70k; model for Pinal County; 60 volunteer tutors</li><li>▪ CTE programs added that begin in high school and continue into community college, some are aimed at developing a workforce for Lucid Motors</li></ul>

City/Town	Responses
<b>Flagstaff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Struggling with spikes in cases connected to NAU</li> <li>▪ Some schools only recently back to in-person learning</li> <li>▪ Education is a priority for Council</li> <li>▪ Funding \$150k for <a href="#">LAUNCH Flagstaff</a> – new preschool program available in August, modeled after Tempe PRE</li> <li>▪ Afterschool programs – \$350k for afterschool programs plus other partnerships</li> <li>▪ Internet access – partnership with Alliance on virtual internet grid to increase access for low-income students/families</li> </ul>
<b>Gilbert</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mayors Advancing Education (AdEd) Group – education board initiated by Mayor Daniels includes three superintendents and private and charter schools that meet quarterly, former Gilbert superintendent Wally Delecki co-chairs the group, focus on teen mental health and other critical issues</li> <li>▪ Leadership changes – interim mayor and council changes; Valerie to provide updates and keep leaders informed</li> </ul>
<b>Mesa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Achieve60AZ – Mesa adopted the goals; city’s responsibility to implement the strategies to achieve the goals; mayors need to own this and set education policies in their communities</li> <li>▪ Mesa Education and Workforce Council – Consolidate multiple, siloed boards into one and offer city resources and staffing; Amy Trethaway to lead this effort</li> <li>▪ Mesa K-Ready – partnership with school districts to increase access to high quality early learning programs</li> <li>▪ National League of Cities (NLC) Regional Early Childhood Program – to be discussed at the next meeting; five cities involved</li> <li>▪ Mesa College Promise Program – two years of postsecondary education and training; city appropriated funding and partnering with the business community; Mesa Promise rolls out this November and will impact the graduating class of 2021</li> <li>▪ Devices – \$7M of COVID funds used to purchase laptops for elementary students in the four districts that serve Mesa</li> </ul>
<b>Miami</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School reopening – Hybrid approach for six weeks and still in hybrid mode, not fully in-person yet, working well so far</li> <li>▪ Prevention – following cleaning and mitigation protocols, no issues or cases at school, only two recent cases in the Town of Miami</li> </ul>

City/Town	Responses
<b>Phoenix</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Personal protective equipment (PPE) – allocated \$2.5M for PPE; distributed more than one million masks, 7,600 units of hand sanitizer, and 38,000 gallons to 29 school districts in partnership with the Mayors Committee on Youth and Education, which includes young people, educators, and professionals</li> <li>▪ Devices – partnered with T-Mobile to distribute 800 tablets with two-years of internet to public housing residents through HUD’s ConnectHomeUSA program (<a href="https://connecthome.hud.gov/">https://connecthome.hud.gov/</a>); Council voted to provide 150 tablets for AARP Experience Corps literacy tutors</li> <li>▪ Funding – last week Council voted for an additional \$2M for PPE and technology for schools to fight digital divide</li> <li>▪ Childcare providers – several deserts need small business aid</li> <li>▪ Grab-n-Go – City of Phoenix library provides books via online order and curbside pickup along with STEM activities</li> <li>▪ Early childhood learning a priority</li> </ul>
<b>Sahuarita</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First Pima County district to move to hybrid model due to low cases</li> <li>▪ Opened K-5 hybrid on September 17 and last week on October 15 opened middle and high school; being flexible and offering as much choice as possible; no cases of in-school transmission given concentrated mitigation strategies</li> <li>▪ Comprehensive virtual online program – allows choice, 20% of families selected this option</li> <li>▪ Common ground – share, build relationships, help one another as standard operating practice</li> <li>▪ Sahuarita Wins – cross-sector partnership</li> <li>▪ Sports – partnering with local community health center (UCHC) to test student athletes to safely bring back sports</li> </ul>
<b>Tempe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Childcare – Working actively to support all of our schools by providing childcare both through Tempe PRE as well as Kids Zone, the afterschool program</li> <li>▪ Tempe PRE – all classrooms open with 100% teacher retention for this year; First Things First is funding an evaluation of Tempe PRE and Helios is funding a research and evaluation study</li> <li>▪ Great programs – City actively supports all three districts</li> <li>▪ Great partners – Glad to have great partnerships in place</li> </ul>

City/Town	Challenges & Responses
Tolleson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School reopening – High school district, with six schools, will continue virtually until January; elementary district operating under a hybrid model as of yesterday with 60% in-person and 40% online</li> <li>▪ Summer – provided a reading program and To-Go lunches</li> <li>▪ PreK-Grade 3 – still offer curbside services in collaboration with elementary libraries in regard to curriculum; purchasing e-book subscriptions for elementary schools as well as paper books; continued Mayors Virtual Book Club with preschool; will give away preschool books curbside on Halloween</li> <li>▪ Preschool – Council passed \$425k grant to elementary district to continue with full preschool</li> <li>▪ Jobs for Arizona Graduates (JAG) – in every middle and high school and now JAG coordinator at parks and recreation center</li> <li>▪ PPE – helped with gowns, clear masks</li> <li>▪ Library – ended late fees</li> <li>▪ Wi-Fi – worked with schools to solve issues; provided hot spots</li> <li>▪ Devices – staff cleaned and cleared laptops to prepare for this school year</li> <li>▪ Library Book Mobile collaboration in the works</li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Promotora Program</a> – soft rollout this week where community health workers go door to door to assess family needs and curb the spread of the virus</li> <li>▪ Bond issues – Supporting high and elementary school bonds and overrides</li> </ul>

## PRESENTATIONS

### Public-Private Partnerships in Early Education

*Lisa Roy, Director of Program Development, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska*

- Introduction to the [Buffett Early Childhood Institute](#) – vision, mission, activities, long-term outcomes, units and initiatives
  - [Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan](#)
  - [Report and Recommendations of the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission](#)
- Denver Preschool Program
  - History – John Hickenlooper and the Mayor's Early Childhood Leadership Team, lessons learned from failed 2000 and 2001 ballot initiatives
  - Preschool Matters Campaign – messages that resonated
  - Tax of 12 cents on \$100 purchase
  - Components – four-year-old children only, tiered funding based on income, parent choice, quality improvement, evaluation, low overhead (six staff)
  - Impact – 66 children in 2007 and 4,417 now; almost \$3M in quality enhancement to providers; Denver Public Schools went from 500 full-day prekindergarten slots to 3,500; reauthorized in 2014 at 15 cents on \$100 purchase with 55% support
  - Contact: [Elsa I. Holguin](#), President and CEO, Denver Preschool Program

- Other municipal early childhood initiatives and how they are funded
  - Philadelphia – sugary drinks (lacks long-term stability)
  - San Antonio – sales tax in 2017, renewal this year
  - Seattle – seven-year initiative, levy
  - Transylvania County, NC – get set program with 22 county organizations to address childcare deserts
  - Tulare, CA – mixed funding model with state PreK, improvement funds, migrant, etc.

## **Early Childhood Learning in Arizona**

*Marilee Dal Pra, Chief Executive Officer, First Things First*

- First Things First
  - History – created by a citizen’s initiative in November 2006, funded by tobacco taxes, expand and enhance early childhood programs
  - Funding – state general fund support plummeted after great recession; now FTF is the only stable funding source for early childhood programs; 90% of dollars go to program fund
  - Shared governance structure – nine-member board, regional councils, 19 tribal communities participate
  - Six priorities – quality, access, preventive care, family support, professional development, coordination
  - Studies – state and regional needs and assets studies conducted alternate years, data available by city and county
- Quality Early Learning
  - Solid investment – increased graduation, college matriculation, personal income, \$8-16 return per \$1 invested
  - Cost of quality
  - 79% of quality first programs are rated 3-5 stars (25% in June 2013)
  - 61,000 children impacted through Quality First enrollment
  - 8,043 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from low-income families accessed quality early learning with a scholarship
  - 145,000 young children from under resources families lack access to early learning
- Arizona Education Progress Meter – eight indicators from Center for the Future of Arizona and Expect More Arizona; 2030 quality early learning goal is 45%, currently at 22%
- Public-Private Partnerships – Family resource centers, Phoenix, Mesa K-Ready, Flagstaff, Tempe PRE; communities understand and support early childhood education

## **Next Convening**

Winter 2021 – WestEd to reach out to members in November to identify a winter date.

Topics – National League of Cities Early Childhood Community of Practice, College Promise Programs, FAFSA completion

Initiatives and Speakers – California College Promise Project, Dr. Mary Rauner, Director, WestEd; *Increasing FAFSA Completion in Arizona: A Playbook for Success*, Helios College Knowing & Going Initiative, Paul Perrault, Helios Education Foundation

# **Thank You!**