Education Forward Arizona
Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable
11/22/21
Education Forward Arizona

Brings together and builds upon Achieve60AZ, College Success Arizona & Expect More Arizona

What We’ve Heard from a Robust Community Listening Tour:

• Bold actions are needed now; incrementalism is not enough
• All students must have a fair shot at success
• A stronger connection must be made for the public from education to the workforce, economy and quality of life
• A shared set of priorities is needed for P-20 education
Guiding Principles

Equity

Engagement

Impact

Innovation

Data
To move Arizona forward, we must move education forward.
Mission

To advocate for and act on education improvements that advance the quality of life for all Arizonans
1. Galvanize support for improved outcomes on Education Progress Meter indicators

2. Reach the statewide attainment goal by 2030, starting with early learning and working through an aligned P20 continuum

3. Ensure all students have a fair shot at success

4. Advocate for state-level funding that is allocated more intentionally to those most in need
Achieve60AZ Goal Drives our Work

60% Attainment by 2030

- 1 million more credentials needed
- Our role:
  - Driving policy and funding
  - Collecting/sharing data
  - Achieve60AZ Alliance
  - Providing scholarships and mentoring to students
  - Supporting local action teams
What’s Different

By joining forces, we are:

• Combining our policy and program expertise to solve big challenges impacting student progress
• Scaling up innovative programs across the state that serve primarily low-income students
• Focusing on equity and closing achievement gaps
• Adding capacity to the work in pursuit of the Achieve60AZ goal
Our Work

P-20, statewide

• **VOICE** - Create a shared voice for P-20 education statewide

• **PROGRAMS** - Implement and scale innovative programs to serve students

• **POLICY** - Advance bold policies and funding
Voice for P-20 Education

Our Role:

• Building awareness and support of priority education issues

• Positioning Education Forward Arizona as the state’s trusted source of effective education messaging

• Elevating the connection between education and the economy & quality of life
Innovative Programs

**Students**
- ADVISE AZ
  - Access • Learn • Succeed
- Ask Benji
- Scholarships and Success Services
- ADELANTE SCHOLARS

**Counselors & School Staff**
- COLLEGE KNOWING & GOING
  - A Helios Education Foundation Initiative
- AzCAN
  - College Access Network
  - An Initiative of Education Forward Arizona
- GO Alliance
Policy Priorities

Advancing the Achieve60AZ Attainment Goal, P-20

- P-20 Education Funding
- Teacher & workforce shortages (K-12 and early ed)
- Increase access and opportunity to complete a postsecondary degree or credential
- Increase access to early learning & literacy development
Policy Projects

Priority Projects:

• Creating a shared agenda to drive the Education Progress Meter forward
• Elevating education as a priority with gubernatorial candidates
• Advancing priority policy issues & creating a network of advocates
• Expanding action teams across the state
Issues to Watch in 2022

**State**

- Changes to the Aggregate Expenditure Limit (district LEAs only)
- Expansion of Arizona Promise Program (ABOR)
- Dual enrollment
- P-20 funding – ABOR new economy initiative, CC funding
- Online preschool

**Federal**

- PreK and Pell Grant expansion (happening now with federal budget reconciliation)
Aggregate Expenditure Limit

• Impact of Prop 208 ruling makes Prop 301 funding subject to the limit for the first time
• Schools are projected to hit their spending limit in March 2022
• $1.2B at risk
• Short-and-long-term fixes needed
  • Short-Term: Ability to exceed the limit for one year (requires 2/3 vote)
  • Long-Term: Is a spending limit needed? If so, what’s the appropriate level?
Mayoral Engagement

• Support policies that ensure all students have a fair shot at success & move the needle on the Education Progress Meter goals
  • **Supporting the Aggregate Expenditure Limit solutions**

• Frame your community investments using the Arizona Education Progress Meter

• Invite us to present to others

• Models that work: Achieve Pinal; Mesa Education and Workforce Committee; Yuma Education and Advocacy Council
Thank You!

Rich Nickel, President & CEO
Rich.Nickel@educationforwardarizona.org
602.300.1139

EducationForwardArizona
EdForwardAZ