EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING ARIZONA’S POTENTIAL

Investing in students, educators and classrooms will have an enormous return for our state.

A strong P-20 education system will create and support a talent pipeline that attracts diverse businesses to Arizona. A more educated and skilled workforce will also increase business and personal income, grow revenues for the state to invest in other critical needs, and decrease the dependence on social safety nets.

Arizonans know that where a family lives, how much money they make, or their race or ethnicity should not dictate the quality of education that a student receives, but current funding levels simply don’t support an excellent education for every student every step of the way.

Additional investments are needed that: (1) Support the entire education continuum, P-20; (2) Significantly advance outcomes for all students; and (3) Provide predictability, consistency and flexibility.

ROADMAP FOR P-20 EDUCATION FUNDING

Just as the Arizona Education Progress Meter provides a clear picture of where we stand today and outlines broadly supported goals the state aims to meet by 2030, a first-of-its-kind Roadmap for P-20 Education Funding sets a vision for long-term education funding in Arizona from the early years through college and career. Individuals representing more than 80 education, business and community organizations across the state joined together to create the Roadmap, which represents consensus on the major investments needed in education by 2030. Coupled with effective instruction, policy, and strategy implementation, these investments will advance Arizona’s shared education goals and close persistent achievement gaps.
ROADMAP FOR P-20 EDUCATION FUNDING

AS A FIRST STEP, THESE ARE THE SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS NEEDED

- Increase access to quality child care, including pre-K (including increasing state funding for child care, providing budget authority to spend the $56M in additional federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds, and increasing the reimbursement rate to a quality level).

- Double the STEM workforce funding for all community colleges including restoration to Pima and Maricopa Community Colleges.

- Fund effective strategies and interventions to support reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade, as identified by the State Board of Education, including targeted intentional reading supports and technical assistance in the early grades, a comprehensive assessment system, renewing and redirecting Early Literacy Program Funding to areas of greatest need.

- Provide funding for K-12 school building construction and maintenance, beginning with a focus on rural schools.

- Begin scaling up programs that support the success of every student including special education, school counselors, early interventions and screenings, and other wrap around services.

- Increase access to quality child care, including pre-K (including increasing state funding for child care, providing budget authority to spend the $56M in additional federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds, and increasing the reimbursement rate to a quality level).

- Increase funding for Arizona resident students attending a state university.

- Raise teacher pay to the national median and fund professional development, mentoring, and induction.

A LONG-TERM PLAN

The Roadmap presents a long-term plan for education, P-20, that should begin with these short-term investments. These were prioritized based on their ability to stabilize the education system and advance outcomes for all students. To see the mid- and long-term investments needed, visit: ExpectMoreArizona.com/Roadmap