



# Arizona Pathways to Prosperity



CENTER  
FOR THE FUTURE OF  
ARIZONA

[arizonafuture.org](https://arizonafuture.org)

#arizonafuture #TheArizonaWeWant #azprogressmeters





# Mission

The Center for the Future of Arizona  
brings Arizonans together  
to create a stronger and brighter  
future for our state.





# The Arizona We Want

is a shared vision of  
success around  
what matters  
most to Arizonans  
that expresses their  
highest aspirations  
and hopes for the future.

# Gallup Arizona Survey: Education Findings

84%

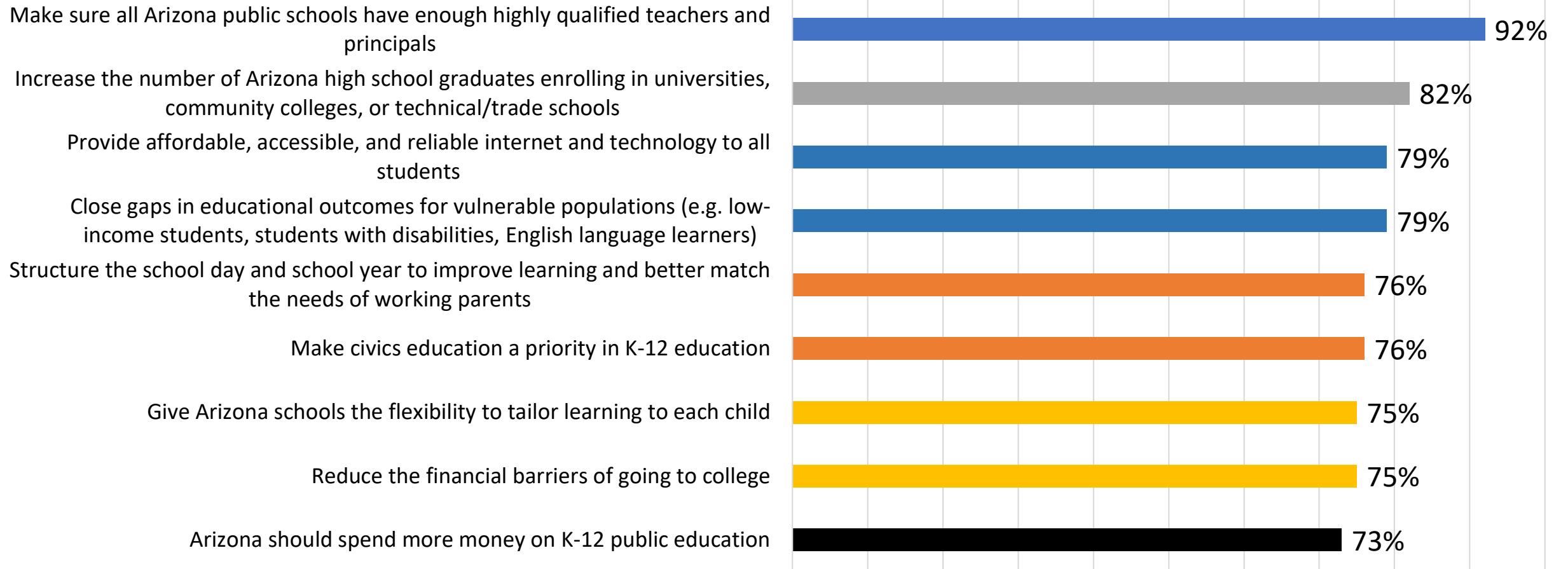
of Arizonans believe that a  
highly educated and  
skilled population is good  
for the state's economy

26%

agree that K-12 public  
education in the state is  
high-quality

# Gallup Arizona Survey Findings: Education Actions Arizonans Want

Arizonans agree on the following actions to improve our state's education system.



# Arizona Pathways to Prosperity

**Systems of career pathways** that span grades 7-14+, enabling students to transition smoothly through high school, into higher education, and onto **family-supporting careers**—particularly in **high-demand sectors** like information technology, energy, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing



# Arizona Pathways to Prosperity



60+ industry partners and 40+ education partners engaged in Phoenix Metro, Southern AZ, and Yuma

## Why does it matter?

Supports **economic development** and Arizona reaching the statewide attainment goal of 60% by 2030

## Why it's important to AZ's future?

Critical need for businesses and education to **collaboratively design college and career pathway** that equips Arizona's young talent to meet the **needs of industry**

## How does it transform?

Enables more young people to earn degrees and credentials with **labor market value** who can propel innovation and **economic growth**

# Arizona Pathways to Prosperity

## Industry Driven Pathways – Our Approach

- **Work with industry to identify the jobs**, knowledge and skills, and degrees/credentials that business needs to grow and thrive
- **Maximize representation and minimize asks** of industry through industry sector partnerships
- **Partner with higher education and K-12 to design and implement pathways** responsive to industry needs
- **Focus on strategic alignment and bolstering of existing pathways** and talent pipeline efforts



# High Impact Elements



- Most young people **get little advice** about education pathways to careers, and career possibilities
- Few families understand the **future labor market**—or even the current one
- Teachers typically have **little experience of contemporary high-growth industries** and know little about labor market data and shifts in education and workforce

# Career Exploration



Gain awareness of and exposure to a wide array of careers



Increase self-awareness and begin to form their potential occupational identity



Develop employability skills



Develop foundational technical skills as appropriate



Be positioned to make more informed educational choices



Transition to high school or post-secondary with an actionable plan for next steps



# **POSSIBLE FUTURES- Career Literacy Curriculum MODULES**

## **SKILLS FOR SUCCESS**



## **STEM- PLORATION**



## **LENSES ON THE FUTURE**



# Possible Futures

## Curriculum module

### STEMPLORATION



12 Lessons in each of 6 units

Students assume role of a “young professional”

Problem solving to address contemporary, career-based challenges

Content-expertise not required

Integrate career exploration and academic content





# Programs of Study

- Carefully structured — **coherent, not random** collections of courses
- Geared toward certificate, degree, and transfer pathways that give students an **early start on choosing and completing** a program of study
- Strengthened by **student supports and work-based learning** experiences
- Driven by strong **partnerships among colleges, high schools, and other community institutions** — and a commitment to strengthen these relationships over time



# Career Connected Pathways

A USDOE Education Innovation Research Project

*The Career Connected Pathways (CCP) project focuses on increasing high-need student enrollment, persistence and educational attainment in dual credit courses prepared to launch careers in STEM and Computer Science/Cybersecurity (CS/Cy).*



# Programs of Study

## Career Connected Pathways Project

**5** years, **15** high school and  
**4** Community College systems located  
in Phoenix Metro, Southern AZ and  
Yuma

### Career Literacy and Guidance Continuum

- Seamless relevant pathways
- Student Driven Decisions
- Supported by educators and industry

### Career Connected Toolkit (Grade 10)

- Targeted Resources
- Aimed at students and parents
- Supports Informed Decision-making

### Co-Advising Framework (Grades 11 & 12)

- Framework for high school and postsecondary shared advising
- Near Peer Mentor Support



# Work-Based Learning



How we think about industry engagement matters  
**AND**  
How we think about coordinating WBL matters

# Work-Based Learning

- **Student Internships-** Supporting students to **gain applied experience, build skills and make connections**
- **Apprenticeships-** Implementing a high school **apprenticeship in cybersecurity** providing students the opportunity earn **paid experience and related technical instruction**
- **Virtual Educator Externships-** Supported **200+ educators to connect to industry** and tie curriculum to **real-world applications**
- **Virtual Student Internships-** **Supported over 150 students in connecting to industry.**







# Thank You

For more information about becoming a Pathways to  
Prosperity Partner

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