





*To move Arizona forward, we must
move education forward. This work
begins with quality early learning.*

Our Mission: To advocate for **and** act on education improvements that advance the quality of life for **all** Arizonans.

We Work in Three Main Areas



Voice



Policy



Programs



***We Need Quality Childcare and Early
Education Options for Arizona Families***

The State of ECE in Arizona

- Prior to pandemic, HALF of Arizona was a “child care desert”
- Half of programs closed in pandemic
- Thousands of jobs lost

(From First Things First Presentation)



Challenges Remain - Provider Perspective



- Thousands of jobs were lost.
- Initially, many workers did not return due to supporting children learning at home; personal or family health concerns; or unemployment paid more than their jobs.
- Now, providers cannot compete with the wages being paid by other industries where the benefits are better and the work is easier.
- (From First Things First Presentation)



Challenges Remain - Family Perspective

- Child care in Arizona is expensive.
- Housing: \$11,948 per year
- **Infant Care: \$10,948**
- College: \$10,557
- **Preschooler Care: \$8,547**
- This is in addition to the rising costs families face for basic necessities such as food, gas, and utilities.



(From First Things First Presentation)



Challenges Remain - Awareness Perspective

In a recent U.S. Chamber Foundation study:

- **77%** of Arizona parents reported missing work in the past 3 months due to child care issues
- **6%** of parents voluntarily left a job due to lack of child care
- This translates into **\$1.7 billion lost** to the Arizona economy, including:
 - Employers lose **\$1.42 billion** annually due to employee absences and turnover.
 - The state loses **\$348 million** annually in tax revenue due to child care issues.



(From First Things First Presentation)





Early Education is a Game Changer

- Early education is one of the best investments we can make
- ROI of 7-10 dollars for every dollar invested
- Today, only 21% of Arizona 3 and 4 year olds are engaged in quality early learning

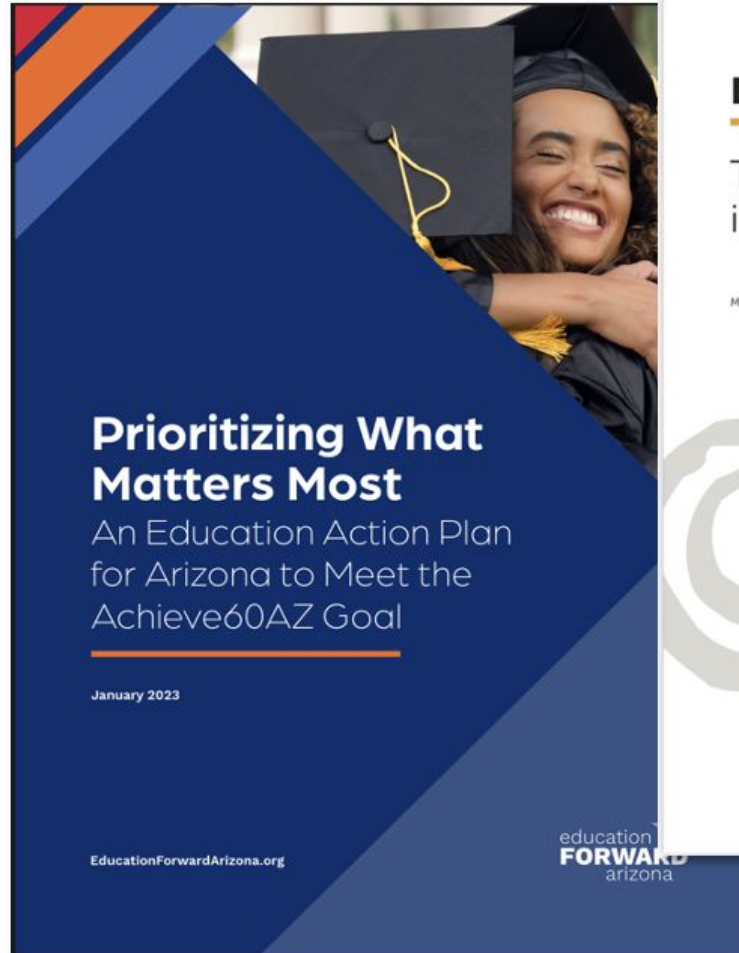




How We're Prioritizing Early Education

- **Advocating & Raising Awareness**
 - Workforce needs
 - Long-term funding solution for quality early learning
 - State budget requests
 - Preschool Development Grant
 - Funding cliff created by COVID recovery dollars





Where We Stand Today



Percent of 3- and 4-year-old children that are in quality early learning settings.



Percent of 3rd grade students who scored proficient or highly proficient on the AASA English language arts assessment.



Percent of 8th grade students who are prepared to be successful in high school math.

High School Graduation



Percent of high school students who graduate in four years.

Opportunity Youth



Percent of 16-24 year olds NOT going to school or working.

Post High School Enrollment



Percent of high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary education the semester after graduating high school.

Attainment



Percent of Arizona residents 25-64 years of age who have completed a 2- or 4-year degree or who have an active professional certificate or license.

Last Updated: January 2023

Quality Early Learning

**% of 3 and 4 year olds in
quality settings**

- Quality defined as:
 - FTF 3-5 Star Rating
 - Head Start
 - National Accreditation
 - Preschool Development Grant

Co-Developed by:



Who is Arizona?

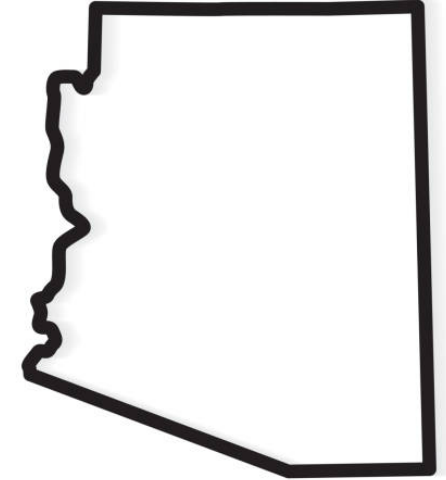
54% - White

32% - Hispanic

5% - Black

4% - Native American

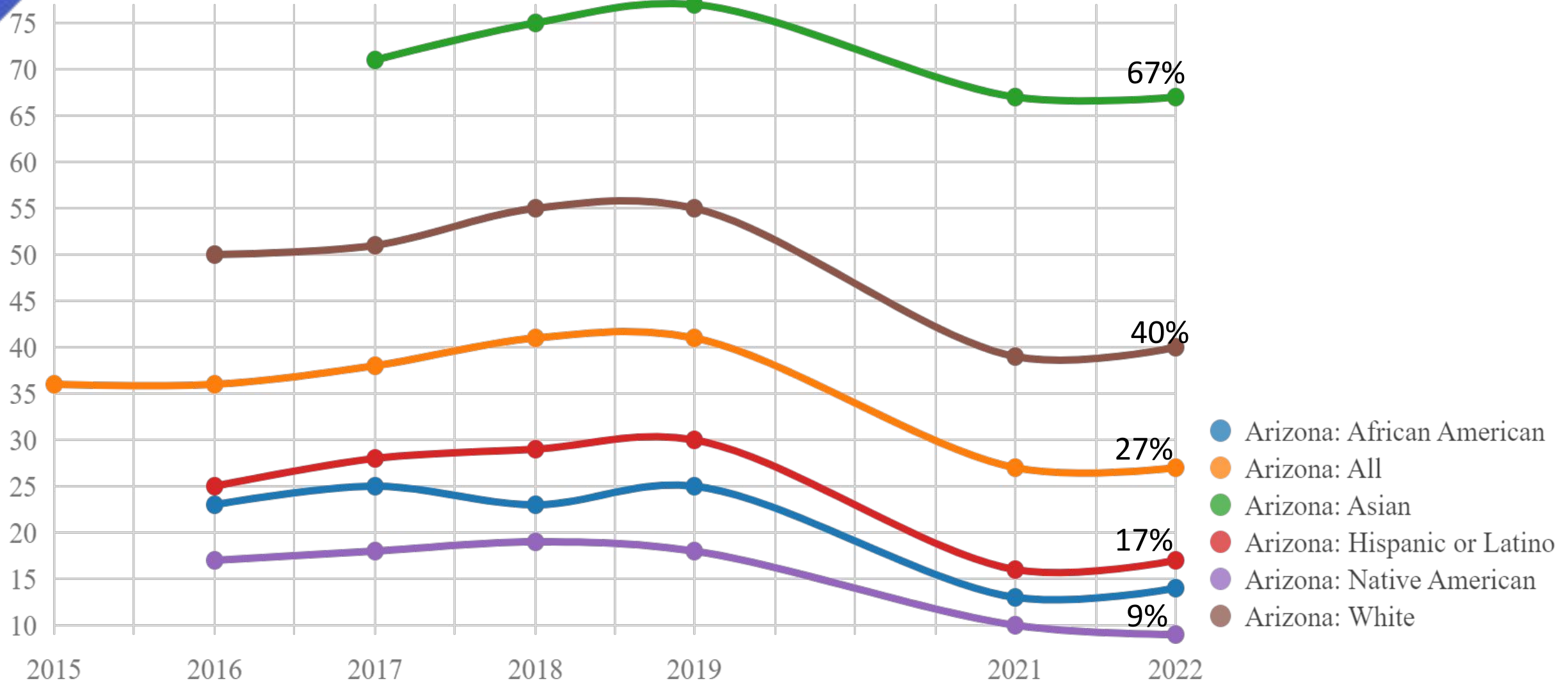
4% - Asian/Pacific Islander



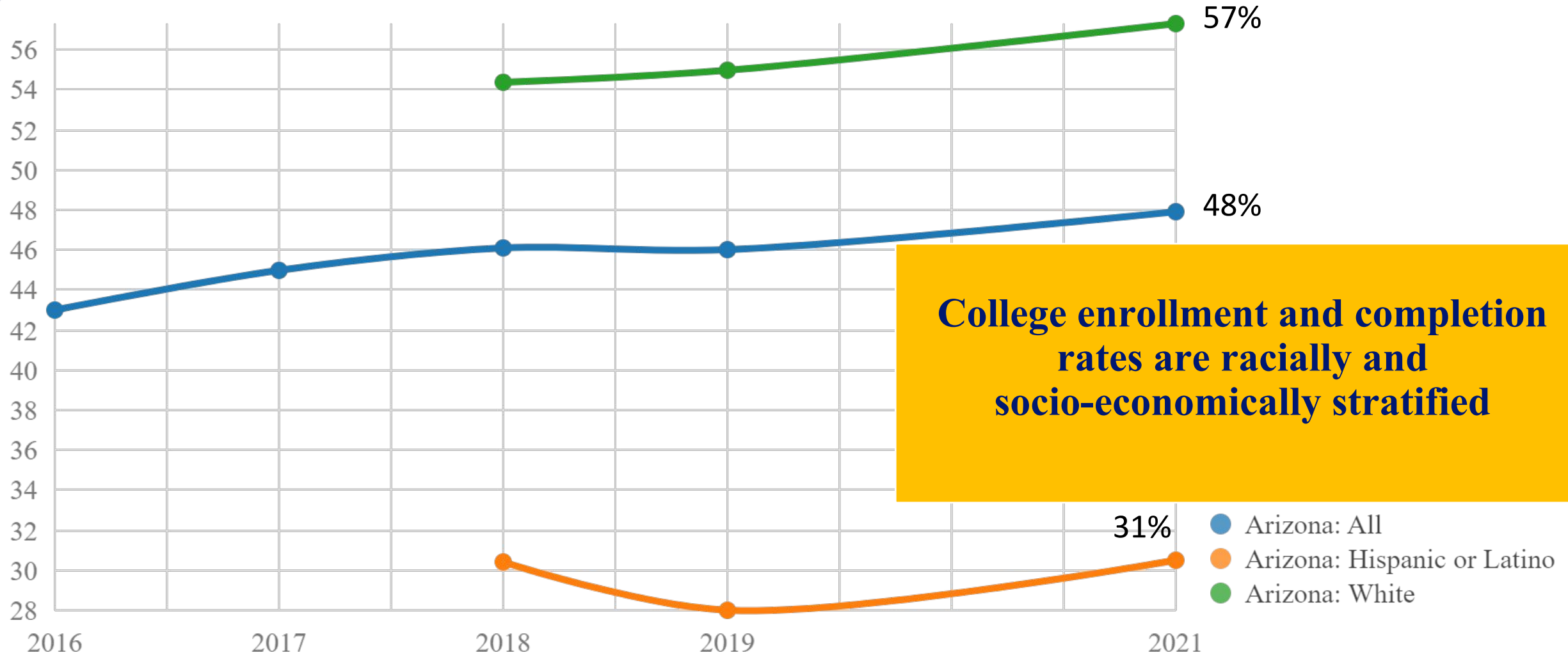
Arizona has the 4th largest Latino population in the United States

Latinos comprise nearly half of Arizona's K12 population

8th Grade Math – 27%



Achieve60AZ – Attainment Rate





Prioritizing What Matters Most

An Education Action Plan
for Arizona to Meet the
Achieve60AZ Goal

January 2023

EducationForwardArizona.org



What do we need to do as a state to reach the **Achieve60AZ** goal and the goals in the **Arizona Education Progress Meter**?

1. Convened hundreds of education / community leaders and students to find an answer, that's owned by the community.
2. Created a shared action plan with concrete steps and clear direction — regarding how **we can improve student outcomes in Arizona**.
3. The Achieve60AZ Action Plan serves as a guide for policymakers, funders, educators, business and community leaders to jointly prioritize and advocate for changes to move education forward.



How do we make gains across Arizona?

Early Childhood

- Offer state-supported full-day Kindergarten and inclusive pre-K
- Recruit and retain a highly-qualified early childhood workforce
- Expand resources and supports for family childcare
- Increase educator pay and retain great teachers

High School

- Increase and sustain professional development and coaching for educators
- Create a math equivalent to Read On Arizona
- Start the Education Career Action Plan (ECAP) in 8th grade
- Increase equitable access to dual and concurrent enrollment
- Expand access to school counselors

After High School

- Make college more affordable and expand scholarship programs
- Strengthen linkages between the PK-12 and postsecondary education systems
- Implement a long-term P20 funding system



Increasing Education Attainment

Personal Pathways to Education Beyond High School



Certification, License,
Educational Credential



Associate Degree
Community College



Bachelor Degree
College, University

Arizona Goal for Education After High School



60% of adults (age 24-65) will hold a industry credential, certificate, or degree by 2030

Today, the state's rate is 48%

- This is a 2% increase from last year
- Each percentage point = 55,000 degrees or certificates



Education Creates Opportunities

- Job and career choices
- Increased earning potential
- Benefits that support better quality of life
- Increased community and civic engagement



Benefits for all of Arizona



Individuals benefit from college attainment primarily in terms of higher lifetime earnings; additional benefits include increased labor force participation and job security.



Social impact shows how college enrollment and completion are good for communities and the state of Arizona as a whole; they lead to increases in gross earnings and health status, as well as reductions in crime and other social consequences influenced by increased attainment.



Fiscal impact reflects the beneficial tax consequences at the federal and state/local levels related to increased enrollment and completion (e.g., higher revenues and lower public expenditures, such as on health and crime).

College is an investment: Pay for college now; reap benefits later



Lifetime Earnings: College-going is associated with enhanced outcomes relative to a high school diploma alone. Earning a degree leads to even better outcomes.



Taxes: Differences in lifetime tax payments per education level are substantial, and individuals with college degrees contribute significantly more.



Health: Individuals with more college education are significantly healthier than high school graduates.



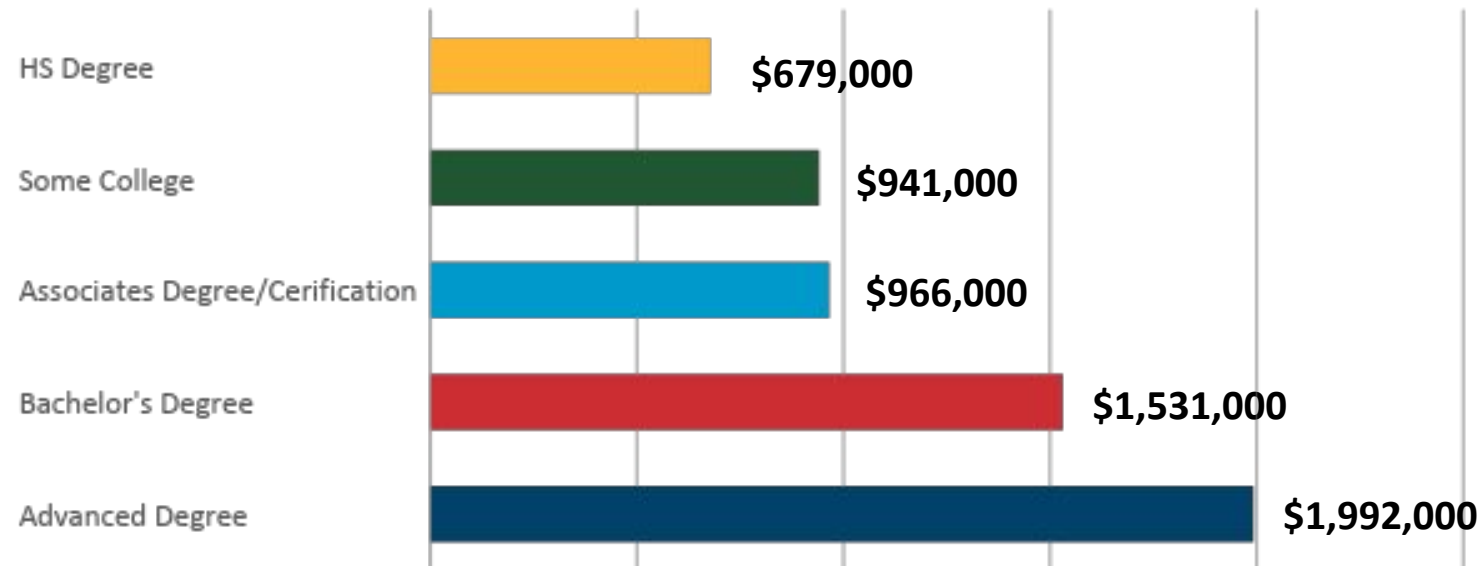
Crime: College-educated individuals are less likely to engage in criminal activity. Less than five percent of the U.S. prison population has ever enrolled in college.



Arizona economy: College-educated workforce boosts productivity, investment and business growth.



Benefits of Attainment for Individuals

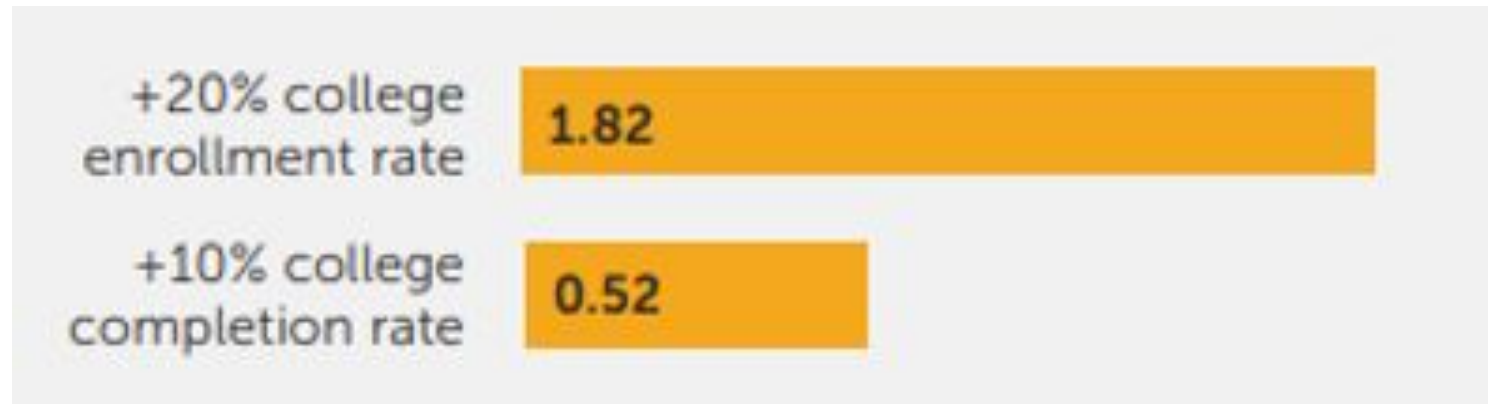


Individuals with some college will earn about **\$300,000** more than high school graduates and those with bachelor's degrees will earn about **three times** what high school graduates earn.



Fiscal Value of Education After College

Statewide Fiscal Impacts of Increased Enrollment and Completion, Per Cohort (\$ billions)



The fiscal gains from increasing college enrollment by 20 percent would be equivalent to 15 percent of Arizona's 2022 General Fund budget

Racial Parity = Tremendous Opportunity

If all Arizona students enrolled in college at equal rates, aggregate economic gains would be substantial.

If all Arizona students completed college at equal rates, aggregate economic gains would be very substantial.

With Latino residents becoming a greater proportion of the population, racial parity in college enrollment/completion is becoming even more important.

Opportunities for Economic Growth: The Power of Parity



Increasing education
after high school for
underrepresented
groups could lead
to **\$8.69 billion**
in economic
gains in Arizona.



Investing in College Access and Attainment



Areas where the state and municipalities can consider investing include:

- 1** Enhancing college readiness and strengthening the linkages between the K-12 and postsecondary education systems.
- 2** Reducing non-academic barriers to college-going and college completion.
- 3** Making college more affordable for all students.
- 4** Programs and initiatives, including public-private partnerships, that incentivize more students to pursue college degrees in high-value sectors.

Arizona has everything to gain –
in our economy, in our workforce, in
our communities and as individuals
- when students continue their
education after high school.





Arizona has 7 years to add

500k

more degrees & certificates
to hit the state's attainment goal.

EducationForwardArizona.org



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key education issues



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Thank You!

Donna Davis

**Senior Community Engagement
Manager**

ddavis@educationforwardarizona.org

623-882-6446



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