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E-NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2022

It Takes A Village: Helping Students Navigate the Path to College

8 college-going resources making a difference for Arizona students

A college education can change the entire trajectory of a student's life—including average lifetime earnings of \$1 million more for those with a bachelor's degree compared to those with a high school diploma. However, the path to earning a degree can seem impossible for many students.

We often hear the saying, "it takes a village" and Education Forward Arizona is part of the village of support helping students to prepare for and succeed in college.

Through our programs and services, we're addressing the three major barriers that many students face: access to college preparation services, paying for school and support while in college.

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Taking Action

We've been hard at work engaging in this year's legislative session advocating for our [top priorities](#) to move education forward.

Our most pressing priority is asking the legislature to allow K-12 schools to exceed the aggregate expenditure limit (AEL), which puts \$1.1 billion of existing school funding in jeopardy if not addressed by March 1. Earlier this week, we activated more than **195** business and community leaders statewide to [send a joint letter](#) asking the legislature to immediately address the AEL.



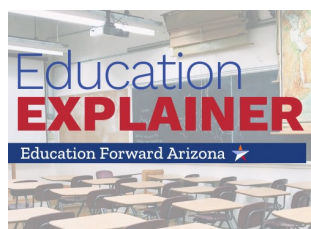
A resolution to address the limit was passed by the House yesterday, however, the Senate has not yet acted on the AEL.

[TAKE ACTION BY EMAILING YOUR SENATORS TODAY!](#)

We've also been active in testifying to uphold equity in our high school [graduation requirements](#), ensuring our classrooms have a supply of quality teachers and [substitutes](#), supporting early literacy, and key legislation that will advance postsecondary attainment.

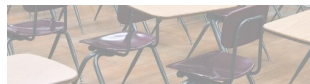
To make sure your voice is heard at the capitol, join our new Education Forward Advocates Network! By joining you will be part of the solution by taking action and speaking up about Arizona's most pressing education issues. Our staff will provide Education Forward Advocates with timely education updates, opportunities to learn new ways to use your voice, and of course, countless easy ways to take action and make a difference for Arizona students.

[JOIN THE ADVOCATES NETWORK](#)



New: Education Explainer Series

Education Forward Arizona has launched a new series called the Education Explainer to help Arizonans understand key education issues, with our students and educators at the center of the conversation. We're also sharing our perspective and how these issues will impact



education attainment and drive progress towards the Arizona Education Progress Meter goals. [Read our most recent Education Explainers.](#)

New Strategies Helping Nogales High School Boost College Enrollment

This year, Nogales High School is maximizing its resources, especially regarding the College Knowing & Going Ambassador Program, which mobilizes influential students to inspire their peers to pursue higher education and help with the logistics of doing so.

"I like being able to help my peers," said CKG Student Ambassador Diego Medina. "Especially with applying for college and figuring out their future careers."

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Celebrating Arizona's Black Education Leaders and Milestones

In honor of Black History Month, we celebrate the Black leaders and milestones that have had an impact on education in Arizona. Learn more about some of the key events and Black leaders that shaped our state.

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Copper Corridor Students Step Up for FAFSA Completion

As part of the [Arizona FAFSA Challenge](#), the [College Knowing & Going](#) College Readiness Team for **Globe High School** recently held their annual FAFSA Fiesta. Representatives from Eastern Arizona College, Resolution Copper and Education Forward Arizona attended to help students complete their FAFSA, explore scholarship opportunities and learn more about the college-going process.



This week, Education Forward Arizona and Resolution Copper also joined **Miami High School** for its first FAFSA Night, which helped several students complete the FAFSA. "It's a great model for intensive assistance that we can work to replicate," said Principal Glen Lineberry.



Donor Highlight: State Farm

Last October, State Farm announced a \$20,000 grant to support Ask Benji, Education Forward Arizona's Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot that supports high school seniors with the FAFSA..

Thanks to the generous support of State Farm and the Arizona Department of Education, Ask Benji programs support 113 high school and have reached more than 24,000 students this academic year.

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Preschool Matters: Expanding Access to Preschool is the Game Changer Arizona Needs

When children have access to quality preschool, it not only prepares them to be ready to learn in



kindergarten and read on grade level by 3rd grade but pays off in the long run too; children who participate in preschool are more likely to graduate from high school and go to college.



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Education Forward Arizona In the News

At Education Forward Arizona, we believe that education is the fundamental driver of a more robust workforce and economy, as well as our best lever for improving quality of life for all Arizonans—that's why we are working to advocate for and raise awareness of important education issues across Arizona.

In this recent [Arizona's Family story](#), reporter Brittni Thomason shares an Education Forward Arizona scholar's story and importance of Arizona students applying for the FAFSA.

Here are a few additional [news stories](#) we've been a part of recently.

EDUCATION FORWARD ARIZONA

Our mission is to advocate for and act on education improvements that advance the quality of life for all Arizonans.



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4747 N. 32nd Street, Suite 150, Phoenix, AZ, Arizona, 85018 United States

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