



EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DAVE HOWELL, *WELLS FARGO BANK, CHAIR*

MISSION

The Education and Workforce Development Committee believes a well-designed P-20 education system serves individual students, supports development of strong communities, delivers a talented workforce prepared for the jobs of the future, and promotes ongoing education needed to succeed in today's rapidly changing world. The Committee supports an education system that is aligned to employer needs, designed for and accountable to students and families, transparent, and results focused. Arizona's education system should encourage innovation, measure outcomes, reward success, and easily allow stakeholders and parents to identify quality schools to make the best choice for their child's education.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SUPPORT POLICIES TO MITIGATE PANDEMIC-INDUCED LEARNING LOSS AND DISRUPTIVE LEARNING: Prioritize the needs of students in post-pandemic education policy and dedicate resources for the individualized needs of students including prioritizing the allocation of American Rescue Plan funding. Ensure districts and charters can continue delivery of quality education to all students regardless of format and environment.

PROMOTE THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHING, LEARNING AND ADMINISTRATION: Support the utilization of technology and innovation to improve classroom instruction, assist with remediation, provide access to educational opportunities, and encourage rapid response intervention, accountability, and productivity, with a focus on rural and underserved communities.

SUPPORT AND EXPAND EDUCATIONAL CHOICE AND QUALITY ACCESS FOR FAMILIES: Advocate for policies and funding that expand school choice and encourage replication and expansion of high-quality schools. Support a variety of school models that enhance educational choice options for students and neighborhoods across Arizona, with a focus on access to high quality choices in underserved and rural communities. Remove regulatory barriers that impede or delay parents'





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ability to place students in schools of choice. Protect schools from mandates that prevent or impede serving students.

SUPPORT A WORKFORCE SYSTEM THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO EMPLOYER NEEDS: Support alignment of Arizona's P-20 education and workforce development systems to employer needs to produce a competitive workforce and serve as an engine for further economic growth. Ensure the state's workforce development expenditures, incentives, and governance systems reward results from providers. Support statewide attainment goals that address the state's workforce shortages and ensure the attainment pipeline addresses a broad range of in-demand academic and workplace skills. Expand options for students to choose work-ready pathways and dual enrollment courses in high school and present all students with post-secondary options to earn degrees and credentials that hold value in the workplace.

REDESIGN THE SCHOOL FINANCE SYSTEM: Design a school funding system to responsibly provide the resources necessary to deliver excellent, equitable results for students. Support a holistic view of education funding that accounts for federal, state, local, and voter-approved resources including the impacts of federal funding on per-pupil education spending and the availability of federal funds when appropriating state monies and imposing additional taxes for schools. Support a funding model that funds students, recognizes performance at the school level, is sustainable, provides equitable learning opportunities, is transparent, promotes improvement at all levels, closes the achievement gap, and links strategies to

outcomes. Ensure state appropriations balance sound budgeting and tax policies with formula-driven performance rewards and incentives to drive innovation and student success. Support reforms to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, reduce differences in district and charter funding models, and reduce inequities created by local property taxing options.

SUPPORT A RIGOROUS ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM THAT PRIORITIZES ACADEMIC RESULTS: Support meaningful accountability measures that work for parents and measure effectiveness against a rigorous set of standards and expectations for work and college preparation. Ensure that the accountability system recognizes the impact a school has on student learning during the time that they have each student in their school. Support Results Based Funding and additional dollars for low-income schools producing outstanding academic results.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO FACILITIES FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS - CHARTER AND DISTRICT - AND REFORM THE PROCESS FOR FUNDING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE: Improve facility funding fairness for all public schools, taxpayers, and public education. Prioritize funding for maintaining and repairing existing schools, minimize the burden on the state's general fund, encourage resource sharing, and embrace options for capital that recognize the diversity of school options in the modern public education system. Create certainty for our highest performers and minimize relocation of students in high performing schools; consider school performance; and allow multiple financing options including leasing and discounted leases for schools serving

students in poverty. Protect standardized vacant-space reporting to create public inventories of under-utilized, taxpayer funded educational space. Ensure cost-effective private sector delivery of services. Support efforts to ensure that school district spending for new construction, building maintenance, materials, services, and goods are conducted consistent with the State Procurement Code and procurement rules for school districts and allow for open and competitive bidding using historically successful alternative project delivery methods.

SUPPORT THE RESPONSIBLE COLLECTION AND USAGE OF EDUCATION DATA: Improve timely access, transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of education by collecting and utilizing data more efficiently, while ensuring individual student data is kept secure. Ensure authentic implementation of any modernized budget and financial reporting systems to reduce unnecessary costs. Reduce redundant regulatory and compliance cost of data collection. Ensure statewide, aggregate data is available to policymakers, educators, regulators, stakeholders, and other critical partners engaged in school quality and continuous improvement. Ensure local, relevant education data is available to teachers, principals, and parents to better inform learning strategies in real time.

SUPPORT POLICIES THAT FOCUS ON STUDENTS' PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING: Support policies aimed at students', teachers' and staff members' physical health and safety while on campus. Ensure access to resources intended to address students' emotional wellness.





SUPPORT ARIZONA'S HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING MEANINGFUL ACCESSIBLE POST-SECONDARY CHOICES FOR STUDENTS IN BUILDING THE TALENT PIPELINE FOR HIGH-DEMAND, WELL-PAYING JOBS: Sustain and grow Arizona's highly effective private post-secondary pipeline in support of our in-demand jobs and innovation. Support clear pathways to private post-secondary institutions for students seeking technical training or degrees and a diverse community of providers to meet Arizona's attainment, workforce, and economic goals. Support the public university system to ensure access for qualified students, world-class research capabilities, and excellent workforce preparation. Support an enterprise model of operations and maintain leading edge research infrastructure. Support university and community college tuition rates specified for Arizona high school graduates. Support Arizona's tribal colleges in meeting the specific education needs of Arizona Native American students. Support initiatives for the rapid reskilling and retraining of adult learners to facilitate job attainment.

SUPPORT ARIZONA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THEIR ROLE IN WORKFORCE TRAINING WITH STABLE FUNDING AND ENHANCED FLEXIBILITY: Support efforts to restore funding to our state's community colleges in a manner that is fiscally responsible, aligned with workforce needs.

SUPPORT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION: Encourage public/private partnerships between industry and Career & Technical Education Districts (CTEDs). Advocate for state and federal funding of CTEDs. Ensure regulatory flexibility for hands-

on CTE instruction to occur on any day and at any time. Support expansion of CTEDs as a proven method for preparing the workforce and decreasing the high school dropout rate. Support credit transfers for these types of programs.

RECRUIT, HIRE, TRAIN, EVALUATE, AND RETAIN HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS: Advocate for more effective systems for recruiting, training and retaining teachers who are prepared to succeed in a modern learning environment. Reduce unnecessary certification administrative requirements that interfere with placements in quality schools and are not proven to be related to effective teaching. Support maximum transparency on teacher pay at the school, system, and state levels. Support differentiated, and performance-based pay decisions made at the school-site, alternative pathways to teaching careers, and successful ongoing professional development and mentoring programs with equitable funding streams. Support loan forgiveness programs for hard-to-fill teacher positions specifically at high poverty, rural, or high performing schools.

SUPPORT MORE QUALITY EDUCATIONAL HOURS FOR STUDENTS: Support options for more quality time on task for students by lengthening the school day and/or the school year with commensurate funding and accountability based on performance so that Arizona students can master a level of skills and knowledge that will enable them to be competitive on a global basis.

IMPROVE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION: Support policies to improve STEM education at all levels so that Arizona students master a baseline of knowledge that will prepare them for postsecondary education or careers that require advanced math, technology, and science skills. Support policies that prepare students for jobs in the 21st century that increasingly require the development of skills and proficiency in the use of computers and machines. Restore funding for proven scholarship programs for teachers of math, science, and special education. Reduce barriers to recruiting STEM educators. Develop K-12 benchmarks for STEM literacy that inform teaching and learning.

