UNIDOS US
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Advancing Latino and English Learner Student Success in Arizona
Advancing Latino and English Learner Students

UnidosUS believes that every child should graduate high school ready for college and career.

In order to reach this goal it is essential that there be an elimination of achievement gaps and educational disparities by race and ethnicity.
Educational Equity

UnidosUS advocates for accountability and culturally responsive policy and program solutions to:

- Ensure Latinos and English learners receive the proper support for educational success
- Prepare Latino students to be successful in college and career
- Build leadership and advocacy skills in Latino youth, parents, educators, and Affiliates
The Changing Face of America’s Schools

- 46% of all K-12 students in Arizona are Latino.
- English Learners are the fastest growing group of students nationwide.
- There are more than 75,000 ELs in Arizona, enough to fill up the Superdome.
- 85% ELs in Arizona K-12 schools are Latino.

Source: Arizona Department of Education Enrollment Data SY 2018-19
English Learners

- Most ELs are Spanish speaking, Latino, and U.S. born citizens.
- Most teachers will encounter an EL in their classrooms at some point in their careers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>Latino Share of Students in County (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maricopa</td>
<td>33,8735</td>
<td>44.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pima</td>
<td>81,066</td>
<td>54.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuma</td>
<td>32,811</td>
<td>83.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinal</td>
<td>23,364</td>
<td>44.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochise</td>
<td>10,698</td>
<td>55.72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Arizona Department of Education Enrollment Data SY 2018-19
Today’s students of color are a large and growing share of the next generation of American workers, taxpayers, teachers, lawyers, and scientists.
Significant Gains and Gaps in Arizona

Gains
• The Latino 4 year high school graduation rate has improved by 8 percentage points since 2008, at 75% in 2019.*
• The 4 year English Learner high school graduation rate is at an all-time high (52%); this includes current and former ELs.*

Gaps
• During SY 2015-16, Arizona was one of six states in which fewer than half of all ELs graduated from high school on time.†
• In SY 2015-16, Arizona had the largest graduation gap nationwide, with ELs graduating at 48 percentage points lower than non-ELs.†

Sources:
*Arizona Department of Education Graduation Data 2008-18
†US Department of Education, Academic Performance and Outcomes for English Learners
Fourth Grade Math Basic Level Attainment, Arizona 2003-2019

- Although we have seen growth for Latino students, 25% of Latino 4th graders remain below basic in math.
- 60% of English Learners score below basic in math.
- From 2003 to 2019, English Learners have seen an increase of only 1% in 4th grade math basic level attainment.

Source: The Nation’s Report Card, NAEP Data Explorer
Fourth Grade Reading Basic Level Attainment, Arizona 2003-2019

- 43% of Latino 4th graders remain below basic in reading.
- 85% of 4th grade English Learners score below basic in reading.
- From 2003 to 2019, 4th grade reading basic level attainment for ELs decreased by 3 percentage points.

Source: The Nation’s Report Card, NAEP Data Explorer
Are Schools Serving Latino and EL students?

- Enrollment
- Achievement Gap
- Access to Advanced Coursework
- Graduation Rates
- Teacher Shortages

The demographic makeup of an F rated school in Arizona was on average 63% Latino, while the typical A school was 27% Latino.

Nearly 40% of targeted support schools in Arizona were identified due to low performance of English Learners.

Source:
Alliance for Excellent Education Arizona State Factsheet
UnidosUS advocates for **accountability** and **culturally-responsive** policy and program solutions that provide:

- equitable resources to support the highest need students
- strong accountability measures to ensure schools are working to close achievement gaps
- inclusive schools where all children are welcome and their constitutional rights to a public education are upheld
Adopting Policies to Advance Latino and English Learner Student Success
Targeting Additional K-12 State Funding

- 67% of Latino Arizona voters surveyed would support a presidential candidate who supports increasing K-12 funding.

- Arizona uses a weight of 11.5% for ELs for its funding formula to districts. Even with weighted funding, Arizona’s low-funding levels provide a key barrier to making a substantial investment in ELs to close persistent achievement gaps.

- Arizona’s overall per pupil funding is insufficient to serve the needs of all students.

- Arizona should increase overall spending in education, use the state’s accountability system to identify schools in need of additional resources for ELs, and target funds to those districts and schools to be used on research-based practices in attaining English language proficiency and content mastery.

Source:
UnidosUS, 2020 National Latino Electorate Survey
Poll conducted from June 1-14, 2019. State samples at least N=300. Margin of error: +/-2.3 percentage points
Repeal Proposition 203 and discontinue structured/sheltered English immersion model (SEI)

- By 2013, fewer than 8% of the state’s ELs had met basic level attainment in 4th grade reading.
- SEI inappropriately pulls EL students away from their content area courses and segregates them from other students for a significant part of the school day.
- There is a large body of research that has documented the negative impacts of SEI and its focus on achieving English Language Proficiency in just one year (or as quickly as possible). SEI is counter to what research and best practice suggest.

Source:
The Nation’s Report Card, NAEP Data Explorer
Expand High Quality Dual Language Programs

- 6 in 10 Arizona voters support dual language education
- In a growing global economy, bilingualism is more valuable than ever.
- Beyond being an asset on the job market, dual language programs promote biliteracy, academic content knowledge and cross-cultural competency in students.
- Arizona should invest in quality dual language programs that will better prepare its students to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Source:
UnidosUS & Helios Education Foundation, Arizona Statewide Survey
Poll conducted from April 23-25, 2019. State sample N=600. Margin of error: +/- 4.0 percentage points
Dual Language Programs in Arizona

6 in 10 Arizona voters support dual language education, with high levels of support across party.
Publications and Toolkits: publications.unidosus.org

- Educational Equity: Latino and English Learner Success in Arizona (December 2019)
- Native Language Assessment White Paper (October 2019)
- The 2020 National Latino Electorate Survey (June 2019)
- Arizona Statewide Survey (May 2019)
- The state of Public Education for Latino Students: A Qualitative Research Project (May 2019)
- Arizona Educational Fairness White Paper (March 2019)
- English Learners and ESSA (Spring 2018)
- English Learner Goals in ESSA State Plans (April 2018)
- Advocate Questions to Protect English Learners (Feb 2018)
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2020

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Questions