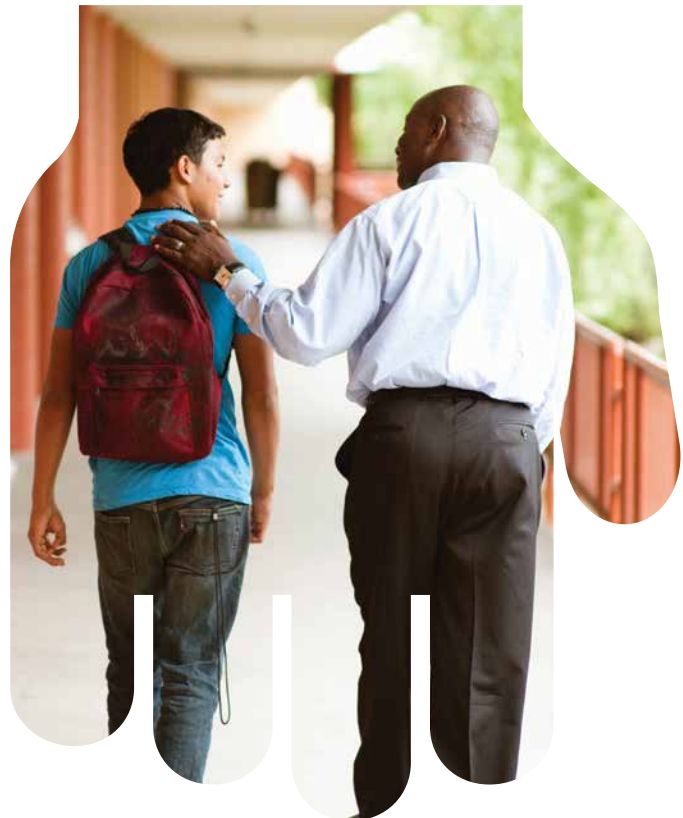


**THRIVING TOGETHER**  
Uniting Communities for Student Success



*Baseline Report Spring 2015*



# Dear Friends & Colleagues

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Preparing our children for the future is one of the most important goals we have as a community. However, many of our children face roadblocks and obstacles that can have a significant effect on their chances for success later in life. And it's our duty as parents and community members to work together to help them overcome those obstacles.

Within our schools, there are dozens of programs, initiatives and efforts to help children overcome obstacles, provided by schools and different community organizations. All want the same end result — to help our kids. These efforts will be more effective if they are coordinated.

So what if these efforts could be organized in a way that puts us all on the same page? What might it look like?

We think it would look a lot like success.

This kind of approach gives our children a better shot at success in life, which will have a positive effect on our community.

With Thriving Together, we will create a strong educational collaboration that strives for system changes and unites community leaders, business leaders, school administrators, parents, and teachers and students around a shared vision, goals and results. It starts when a child is born and concludes when that child succeeds in the workforce. Along the way, we measure progress and work to make sure goals are being met. If they are not, we identify opportunities to improve and resources to support students to get back on track.

We collect data that help inform the best methods for helping students. We select the right community partners and the right talent for the right roles. We hold ourselves accountable. Our children's and our community's future depend on its success.

We ask you for your help by staying engaged in the process. Visit our web site at [www.thrivingtogetheraz.org](http://www.thrivingtogetheraz.org) for updates, and see how the work we embark on in the coming months and years moves the needle for our children and young adults.

We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



**DR. KENT P. SCRIBNER**

*Superintendent*

Phoenix Union High School District  
Co-Chairman, Thriving Together



**PAM CONBOY**

*Lead Regional President*

Wells Fargo  
Co-Chairwoman, Thriving Together



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# THE PARTNERSHIP



## Leadership Council

**Dr. Kent P. Scribner, Co-Chair**  
Phoenix Union High School District

**Pam Conboy, Co-Chair**  
Wells Fargo

**Tracy Bame**  
Freeport McMoRan

**Dr. Charlotte Boyle**  
Creighton School District

**Chris Camacho**  
Greater Phoenix Economic Council

**Pearl Chang Esau**  
Expect More Arizona

**Dr. Jacob A. Chavez**  
Cartwright School District

**Gonzalo de la Melena, Jr.**  
Arizona Hispanic Chamber  
of Commerce

**Mac Esau**  
Maryvale Preparatory Academy

**Tom Franz**  
Greater Phoenix Leadership

**Glenn Hamer**  
Arizona Chamber of Commerce  
& Industry

**Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick**  
Maricopa County Community  
College District

**Brian Holman**  
Empower College Prep

**Dr. Jacqueline Jackson**  
Roosevelt School District

**Dr. Bill Johnson**  
Laveen Elementary School District

**Eileen Klein**  
Arizona Board of Regents

**Sam Leyvas**  
First Things First

**Paul J. Luna**  
Helios Education Foundation

**Rick Naimark**  
City of Phoenix

**Jackie Norton**  
Rodel Foundation

**Dr. Ed Oxford**  
Banner Health

**Curtis Reed**  
JPMorgan Chase

**Dr. Jaime Rivera**  
Riverside School District

**Dr. Myriam Roa**  
Phoenix Elementary School District

**Joe Rubio**  
Valley Interfaith Council

**Dr. James Rund**  
Arizona State University

**Antonio Sanchez**  
Wilson School District

**Mark Schiavoni**  
APS

**Todd Sanders**  
Greater Phoenix Chamber of  
Commerce

**Steve Seleznow**  
Arizona Community Foundation

**Don Smith**  
CopperPoint Mutual

**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
Balsz Elementary School District

**Patricia Tate**  
Osborn School District

**Gary Trujillo**  
Be A Leader Foundation

**Dr. Mario Ventura**  
Isaac School District

**Merl Waschler**  
Valley of the Sun United Way

## Anchor Entity

**Valley of the Sun United Way**

## Additional Participating Organizations

Academia Del Pueblo  
ACYR  
Aguila Youth Leadership Institute  
Arizona Charter School Association  
Arizona Commission for Post-Secondary Education  
Arizona State Bar Association  
Arizona State University Provost Office  
Arizona Summit Law School  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona  
Cesar Chavez Foundation  
Chicanos por La Causa  
Children's Action Alliance  
City of Phoenix Youth and Education Office  
College Depot  
College Success Arizona  
Degree Phoenix  
Elevate Phoenix  
Friendly House  
GateWay Community College  
Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus Pine Council  
Governor's Office of Faith and  
Community Partnerships  
Jobs for Arizona's Graduates  
Legacy Foundation  
Maricopa County Attorney's Office  
Neighborhood Ministries  
NorthBridge College Success Program  
Office of Maricopa County  
Superintendent of Schools  
Ortega Law Firm  
Phoenix College  
Phoenix Day  
Phoenix Public Library  
Qualia Agency  
Read On Arizona  
Stand for Children  
South Mountain Community College  
Teach for America  
Unlimited Potential  
Valley of the Sun YMCA

# WHAT IS THRIVING TOGETHER?



Thriving Together is an initiative designed to better prepare a quarter-million young people who live within the greater Phoenix metropolitan area for success from birth to career. The unique initiative brings together resources from throughout the community to help students improve educational results as they reach key benchmarks in their development, placing and keeping them on a path to success.

.....

Thriving Together uses data to identify the effectiveness of a practice. If there's room to improve, Thriving Together draws on its resources to offer a path to success for students. It's a long-term movement that will use the resources of the private and non-profit sectors to ensure children, youth and young adults succeed within the boundaries of the Phoenix Union high schools and its partner elementary schools—from the moment that child enters the world until entering a career.

Thriving Together focuses on several key benchmarks during the educational process where students can get off track, sometimes with detrimental results for their future. Those benchmarks are:

- **Children enter school ready to succeed**
- **Children read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade**
- **Successful transition from middle school to high school**
- **High school graduates are college ready**
- **Young adults complete college or advanced career training**
- **Young adults enter a career**

All are key points in preparing young people for careers — and if students fall behind at one stage, it affects all the subsequent stages.

# WHAT MAKES THRIVING TOGETHER DIFFERENT?



Thriving Together is unique in the way it uses data to improve educational results. It's different in that instead of focusing on one program or sector, it brings together resources from the public sector, private sector and non-profit sector. It gives these varied resources a structure in which to come together in ways they may not have before and measures their effectiveness over time. This new approach is designed to maximize the chances for success for our children and our community.

In its first year, Thriving Together has already brought more than 200 people from across the community together to work toward common goals. These experts work through what we call Collaborative Action Teams to create improved results in each of their areas of focus. Their expertise is invaluable to the success of Thriving Together's efforts, and ensures the kind of accountability needed to create positive change.

Thriving Together will help make our community stronger by ensuring a better prepared workforce to drive economic growth. This generation of children is critical to the future of our community and our state. If they succeed, we all succeed.

It's part of a national effort based on the tenets of Collective Impact: Shared Community Vision, Evidence-Based Decision Making, Collaborative Action, and Investment and Sustainability.

Thriving Together is funded entirely by the private sector — and is not part of any government-mandated effort.

Thriving Together is a collaborative initiative to improve the quality of education throughout a child's schooling and career entry and provide the child with the best possible chance for success as an adult.



“Helios Education Foundation is proud to participate in Thriving Together – a true community collaboration comprehensively focused on the future success of students and families in the Phoenix Union High School District and other partner districts. The more than 250,000 young people in this area are critical to Arizona's future and this cross-sector partnership will help prepare them for success in college and career.”

— Paul J. Luna

*President and CEO, Helios Education Foundation*

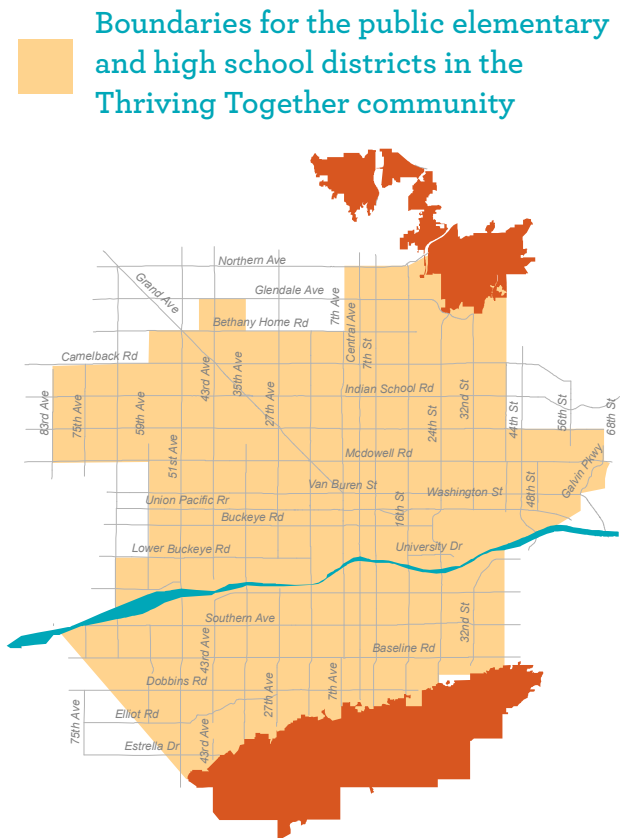
# THE MISSION



# 250,000

A **QUARTER OF A MILLION** young people in Phoenix will benefit if we further collaborate and calibrate our programs and promote what works.

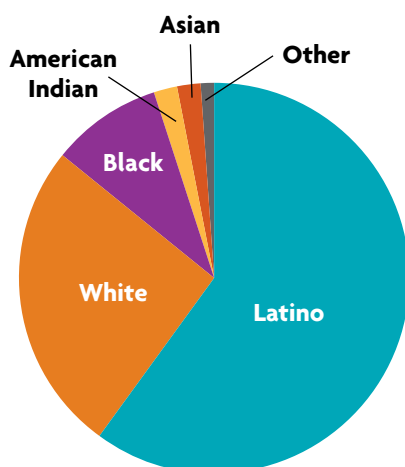
To build a thriving community and economy through collective action that fosters success from birth to career for every child, youth and young adult.



## THE BACKGROUND

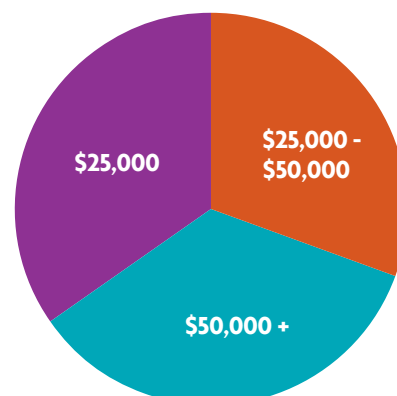
Teachers, parents, administrators and all who have a stake in the future of our students strive to ensure the best education in our schools by adjusting our course and investing our energy and resources where they are needed most and have the best results.

Thirteen elementary school districts partner with PUHSD in an area that covers 220 square miles of the urban core of Phoenix.



### ETHNICITY

Of the approximately 653,000 total residents within the geographic scope of Thriving Together, 60% are Latino, 26% White, 9% Black, 2% American Indian, 2% Asian and 1% are other ethnicities.\*



### INCOME LEVEL

Approximately 34% of households in this area have an income below \$25,000 a year and 30% have an income from \$25,000 - \$50,000.\*

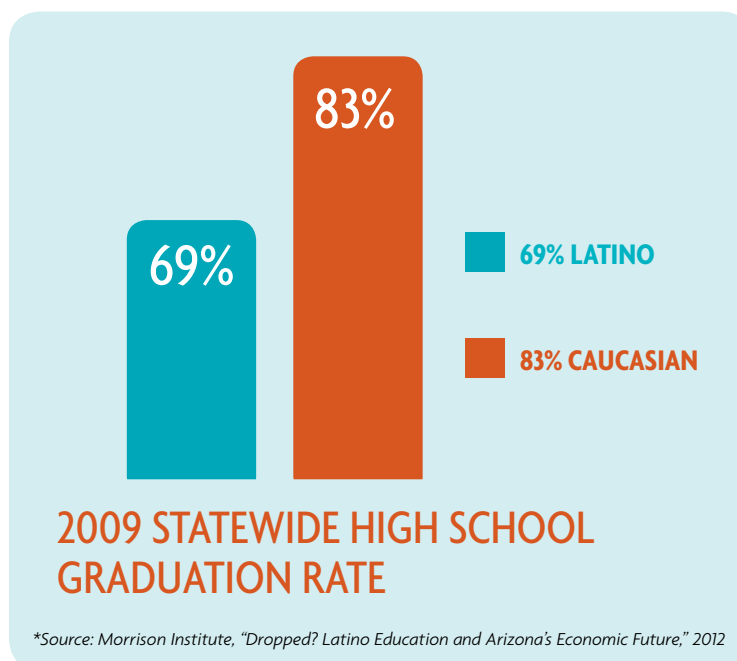
\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010)

# WHY CHANGE?



The school districts in the Thriving Together area mirror our city and state in the future. In other words, how the district's demographics look in 2015 is how Phoenix's will look a decade from now — and how the state of Arizona will look in another generation. That's why we have to act now. If we work together, we can make changes that will have a positive impact for future generations. If we don't, the negative impact on our state will be tremendous.

In order for our state to compete, it must have at the ready a mass of trained workers for key industries. Arizona's Latino population growth rate between 2001 and 2010 was 46.3%. The non-Latino population grew by 17.3%.\* About 69% of Latino students graduated from high school in 2009 versus 83% of Caucasians. State and national testing shows Latinos trailing Caucasians by large measures in reading, science, math and in college graduation rates. Lagging Latino educational performance could become an increasingly critical workforce issue if nothing is done, as Arizona's Latino population grows to "majority" status. We need to close the gap between Latinos and the rest of the student population soon, while creating diverse and multicultural adult professionals who are an asset to our workforce.



Studies show that the bilingual work skills of Latino students will be in high demand in the future as our economy grows and evolves.

“Our students in the Thriving Together community are the future leaders in our workforce and in the Valley. They are dynamic, resilient and will create a stronger future for all.”

— Merl Waschler

Valley of the Sun United Way President and CEO

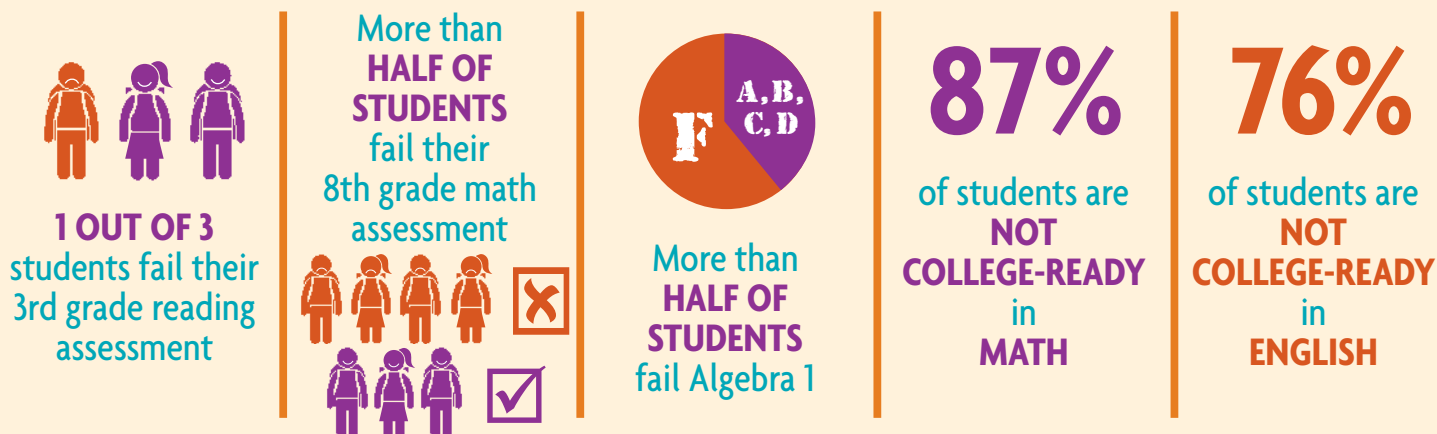
\*Source: Morrison Institute, "Dropped? Latino Education and Arizona's Economic Future," 2012



# WHY NOW?



We are acting now because the following statistics for the area served by Thriving Together show a reality that is unsustainable — if we don't act now, our children will fall behind and they could struggle to achieve success in school and life.



Source: Arizona Department of Education and Phoenix Union High School District

## OF THE STUDENTS IN THE THRIVING TOGETHER COMMUNITY:

3 out of 4 students graduate from high school on time.

Of those, 4 out of 10 students enroll in 2 or 4 year university.

And of those, 1 out of those 4 students graduate with a degree or certificate within 6 years.

In other words: Less than 10 percent of PUHSD students get a degree or certificate.

## HERE'S THE POINT

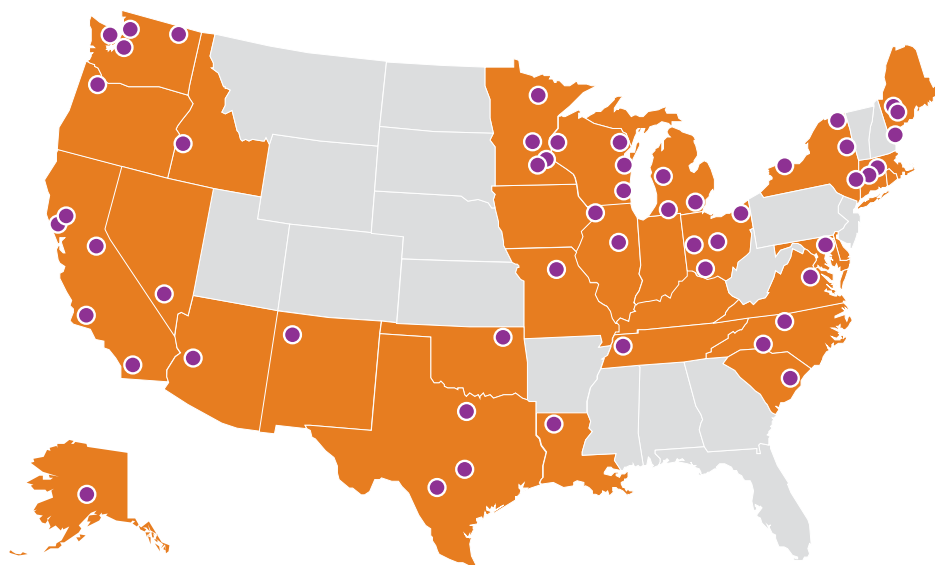
These children are the future of our community. And their odds of achieving the kind of high-quality education they need to prepare for a successful future are slim right now.

Statistics point the way to the future. If that's the case, we need to do something — now — to change.

# THRIVING TOGETHER: *A National Movement*



The idea for Thriving Together started with a nationwide movement called StriveTogether, the goal of which is to improve a child's educational experience from birth to career. StriveTogether has helped launch initiatives in a number of major cities across the country to take a data-driven look at whether programs and processes are effectively meeting goals. In 59 communities in 28 states across the country, it is impacting millions of students.



In **59** communities across the country, it is impacting millions of students.

In Arizona, the initiative launched as Thriving Together, and is bringing together the public sector, private sector and non-profit community in unprecedented ways to achieve measurable results for our children. These efforts are supported by Valley of the Sun United Way, which serves as the Anchor Entity, a neutral third-party that coordinates the activities of Thriving Together. Thriving Together set several goals as it begins its critical work in our community.

- Empower those working with our children by giving them the data they need to improve the quality of education.
- Unite leaders from across different sectors around a shared vision for learning and a commitment to concrete, measurable results.
- Engage the community in Thriving Together's work and invite community members to become involved.
- Align community resources behind action plans that get results.
- Continue to use practices that are showing measurable results, and identify new practices or different ways of approaching problems where results need improvement.

Thriving Together is designed to be nimble and accountable. The initiative will identify what's working well, implement those practices on a broader scale, look at what's not working as planned and find ways to improve expected results. These solutions are designed to be specific to our unique community. At the end of the day, the initiative will remain focused on the one thing that truly matters — creating a better future for our children.

# THE NEW “THREE R’s”

---



"Years ago, the ‘Three R’s’ of instruction were Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. But in this day and age, in addition to academic content, the Three R’s of education are Rigor, Relevance and Relationships. Rigor ensures that our curriculum is challenging. Relevance reminds us to prepare children for life beyond schooling. Relationships between teachers, students and parents are critical for success. Thriving Together focuses on the new ‘Three R’s’ in everything it does."

— **Dr. Kent P. Scribner**

*Superintendent, Phoenix Union High School District*



# THE APPROACH: *Collective Impact*



The Thriving Together approach is based on the tenets of Collective Impact. In communities across the country there's a common thread to the approaches that are moving the needle for our children. Collective Impact is the method Thriving Together uses to implement similar approaches specific to our community's unique needs.

The tenets of Collective Impact include:

- **Shared Community Vision:**

Make sure the goals of the initiative are shared among the stakeholders throughout the community.

- **Evidence-Based Decision Making:**

Use data as a flashlight to shine on efforts that are working — not as a hammer to punish those that aren't — and make sure they are replicated.

- **Collaborative Action:**

Work together to create a plan for measurable results that make a difference for our children.

- **Investment and Sustainability:**

Thriving Together is truly a long-term effort that spans the entire educational spectrum for young people.

## So What Does It Look Like In The Classroom?

Each initiative undertaken by Thriving Together will be different, but generally speaking, they will follow a similar path:

1. Thriving Together will examine the data to understand where a program or practice is and whether or not it is meeting its goals. With regard to third-grade reading, for example, Thriving Together will start by looking at current state or formative assessment and set goals for where test scores should be in the coming years.
2. Thriving Together creates a Collaborative Action Team for each benchmark, made up of experts and stakeholders who will use data to find ways to improve results in the classroom.
3. The Collaborative Action Team will identify what programs and practices are working and which ones could be more effective, and work alongside schools and organizations whose programs and practices accordingly.
4. Thriving Together will continue to track the data as changes and refinements are made to make sure positive results are being achieved. In areas where progress is slower, more adjustments will be made, and in areas that are working, best practices will be shared with other schools so they can share in the improvement.
5. In the long term, Thriving Together's goal is to ensure the children in the district enjoy the same success rates as school children throughout Arizona, so that the quarter-million students in the district's boundaries are competitive and prepared for the future.

“Thriving Together is making a real attempt at doing things differently by bringing together the community and smart use of data to improve outcomes for all children by ensuring that more kids arrive at kindergarten ready to meet our state's high expectations.”

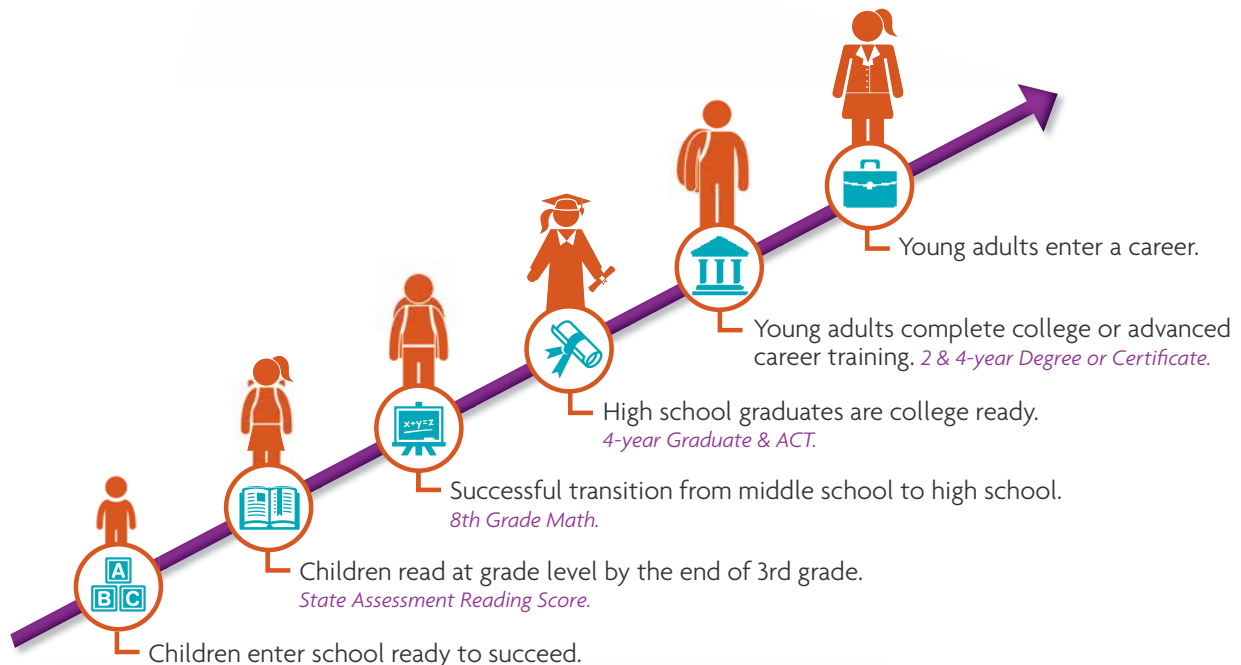
— **Sam Leyvas**

*Chief Executive Officer, First Things First*

# AREAS OF ACTION



## BIRTH TO CAREER CONTINUUM



## Resiliency, Persistency, Skill-Building

All children, youth & young adults reach their full potential in school, career & life.

Studies\* have shown that if our children are prepared at several key milestones in their educational career, they can stay on a path to success. Those milestones are the focus of Thriving Together and its efforts to provide measurable results. The six points in the birth-to-career continuum shown here are where children and young people are most likely to lose their way — it's where they fall behind, or get frustrated, or suffer from a lack of support. If we can keep children and young people on the track shown in this continuum, they have a better chance to be prepared for a successful future.

Thriving Together will eventually focus on all six of these key milestones. But as the initiative begins within the Phoenix community, its initial work will focus on four key areas:



3RD GRADE  
READING



8TH GRADE  
MATH



HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATION &  
COLLEGE READINESS



COLLEGE  
ENROLLMENT &  
ATTAINMENT

The other two areas — Early Childhood Education and Career Readiness — will be added later this year.

\*Source: Strive Partnership, "Welcome to the Roadmap To Success," 2006





## *3rd Grade Reading Proficiency*

In the Thriving Together-targeted schools, more than a third (39%) — of students fail 3rd Grade AIMS Reading. All ethnic groups except Whites are trending down in terms of performance, with Latino students being especially affected by the trend.

### **The Challenge:**

A student who is struggling to read in 3rd grade, and does not get help to catch up, often does not overcome the struggles in later grades and is more likely to drop out of the educational system.\* The challenge is to ensure the student is able to catch up and stop the negative trend in its tracks.

### **The Key Metric:**

State test assessments

### **The Approach:**

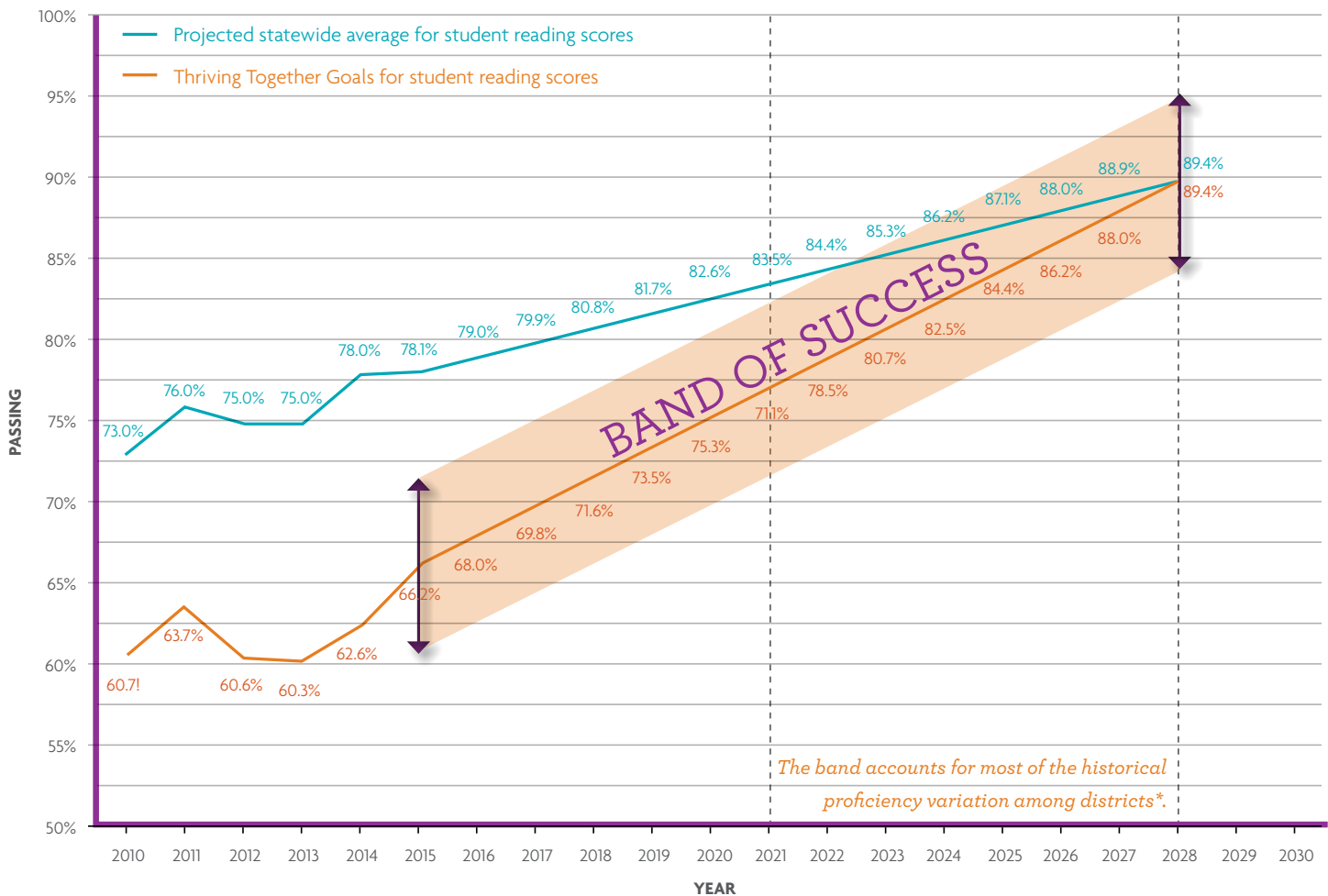
Efforts to bolster early-grade literacy programs and widen access to them are being enhanced throughout the Thriving Together-targeted districts. Among those engaged in helping improve early-grade reading are the Read On Arizona collaboration and other community partners. The 3rd-Grade Reading Collaborative Action Team will examine current data to identify what programs and practices are working best to improve reading test scores.

\*Source: Schorr, Lisbeth, and Marchand, Vicky. 2007. *Pathway to Children Ready for School and Succeeding at Third Grade*. Cambridge: Project on Effective Interventions at Harvard University.

# THE GOAL



To create a “Band of Success” that matches Thriving Together schools with projected improved performance by schools statewide over the long-term.

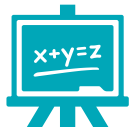


\*Note: Based on averaged standard deviations from 2010 to 2014 (about 5.5%)

## The Bottom Line:

If we do nothing, student reading scores in the Thriving Together community will collectively continue to lag below state averages. Thriving Together will work alongside partner districts to ensure all schools reach the “band of success” which brings students and schools close to or above statewide averages.

Additional data is available at [www.ThrivingTogetherAZ.org](http://www.ThrivingTogetherAZ.org).



## 8th Grade Math

In the Thriving Together-targeted schools, more than half (54%) of students are failing the AIMS math examination, with persistent gaps in achievement between most ethnicity groups and with Latinos being particularly impacted.

### The Challenge

It's as simple as this: If a child does not fare well in 8th Grade math and 9th Grade Algebra, it becomes increasingly likely the student will not graduate from high school.\*

### The Key Metric

State test assessments

### The Approach

Elementary and high school districts are interested in communicating more often and more effectively with each other to help smooth the transition for students during this key milestone. Districts and community partners want to build on existing programs and create new opportunities to help students get up to speed. Districts track math performance throughout the year so data can be used by Thriving Together action teams to assess what can be done.

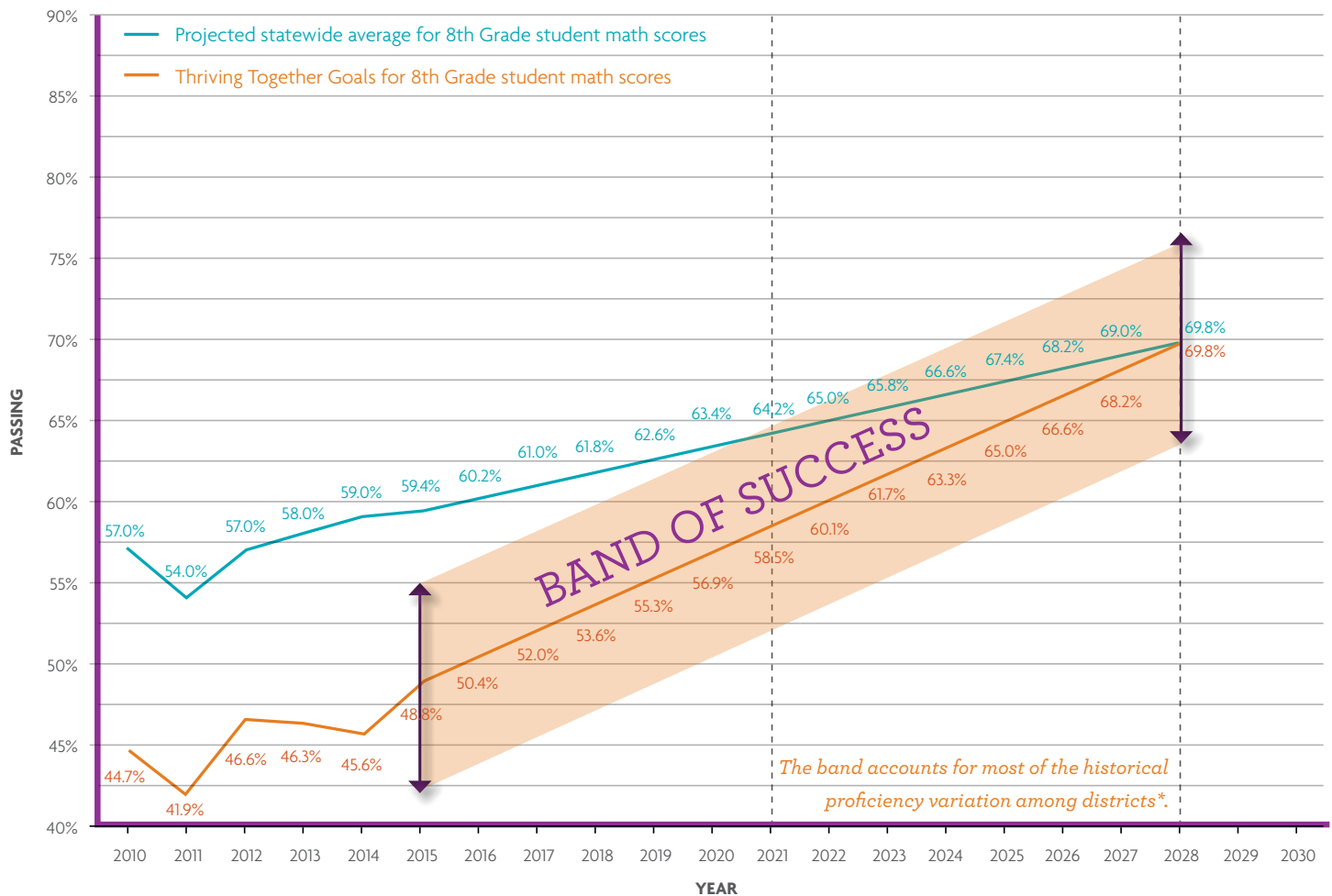


\*Source: Strive Partnership, "Welcome to the Roadmap To Success," 2006

# THE GOAL



To create a “Band of Success” that matches Thriving Together schools with projected improved performance by schools statewide over the long-term.



\*Note: Based on averaged standard deviations from 2010 to 2014 (about 6.2%)

## The Bottom Line:

If we do nothing, student math scores in the Thriving Together community will collectively continue to lag below state averages. Thriving Together will work alongside partner districts to ensure all schools reach the “band of success” which brings students and schools close to or above statewide averages.

Additional data is available at [www.ThrivingTogetherAZ.org](http://www.ThrivingTogetherAZ.org).



## High School Graduation

24% of students fail to graduate on time, 88% are not college ready for math and 74% are not college ready for English as of 11th grade.



### The Challenge

For most adults, graduating from high school is the number one factor in earning potential. It also determines whether a student goes to college and how successful they end up being in their future career.\*

### The Key Metric

High school graduation rates in the Phoenix Union High School District

### The Approach

In the Thriving Together-targeted schools, there are programs in place that can be bolstered in focus and capacity. There are opportunities for collaboration. And there is plenty of data that the Thriving Together action team can use to maximize high school graduation rates.

### OF NOTE:

Statewide, about 69% of Latino students graduated from high school in 2009 versus 83% of Caucasian students. State and national testing shows a need to improve results for Latino students in reading, science, math and in college graduation rates.

Female students are faring significantly better than their male counterparts, with males scoring 9% lower on statewide tests.\*

\*Source: Morrison Institute, "Dropped? Latino Education and Arizona's Economic Future," 2012

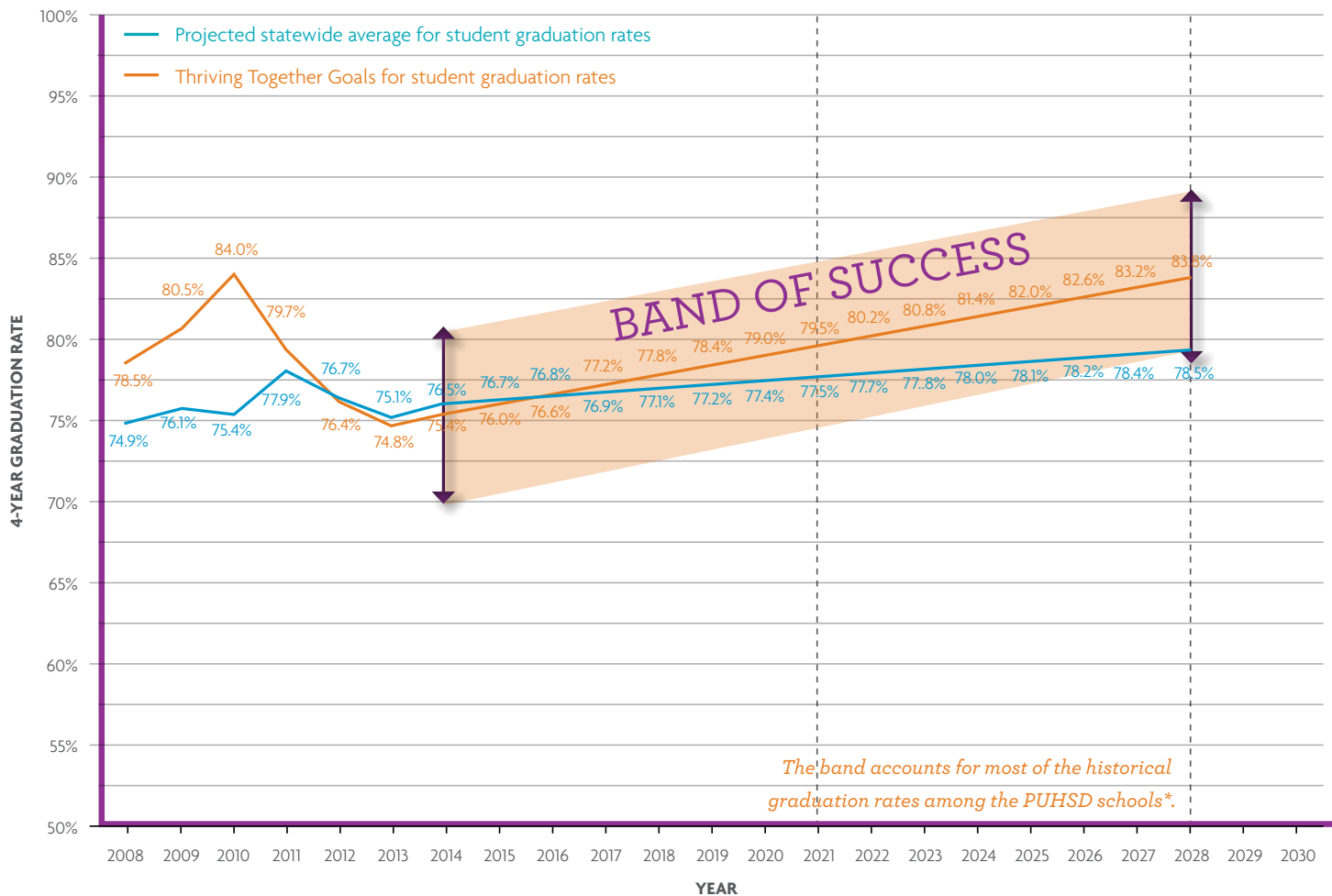
\*Source: Phoenix Union High School District, 2013-2014



# THE GOAL



To ensure that Thriving Together students are graduating at a similar rate as students throughout the state of Arizona — a rate that will improve steadily in the coming years.



\*Note: Based on averaged standard deviations from 2008 to 2013 of large comprehensive high schools (about 5.3%)

## The Bottom Line:

If we do nothing, high school graduation rates could fall below statewide averages, putting our students at a huge disadvantage going into adulthood. Thriving Together will work alongside high schools to ensure all high schools reach the “band of success” which brings students and schools close to or above statewide averages.

Additional data is available at [www.ThrivingTogetherAZ.org](http://www.ThrivingTogetherAZ.org).



## College Enrollment & Attainment

### The Challenge

Below-average attainment of higher education within a rapidly growing population can negatively impact Arizona's economy — as well as the future of our young people.

### The Key Metric

**On average, 4 out of 10 (43%) graduates of PUHSD enroll in college the school year following graduation,\*** with the vast majority of those enrolling in public, two-year institutions. **Additionally, only 1 out of 10 students in the Thriving Together community attains a degree after six years.\***

Young college graduates find full-time work, earn more money and have greater job satisfaction than peers with less education. Measured against previous generations, the disparity in economic well-being between college graduates and those with less formal schooling is greater than ever in modern times.

### The Approach

Universities and community colleges have a plan already in place to help more students complete their degrees or earn their certificates. There are opportunities for collaboration as many Thriving Together partners are already focused on Latino college enrollment and completion. In particular, there is an opportunity to partner with Degree Phoenix, which focuses on college readiness and enrollment.

*“With the increase in baby boomer retirements, our workforce is at risk. Thriving Together’s focus to collaborate across many sectors and include business acumen will help close the workforce gap and ensure career-ready employees.”*

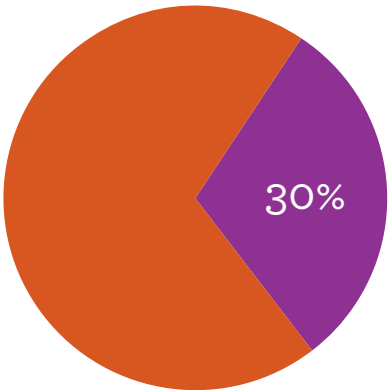
**— Todd Sanders**  
*President and CEO,  
Greater Phoenix  
Chamber of Commerce*

\*Source: Arizona Board of Regents, 2013-14

# THE GOAL



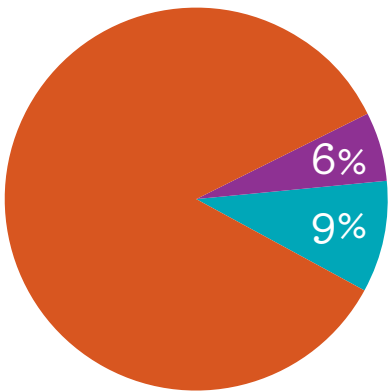
To increase college enrollment and attainment rates for PUHSD graduates so that they maximize their opportunities for future success — and improve the quality of life in our community.



Phoenix Union High School Class of 2013-2014

Total number of graduates: .....4,772

Total number enrolled in post-secondary education:..... 1,453

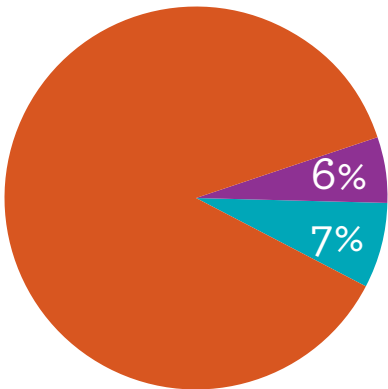


Phoenix Union High School Class of 2007-2008 and College Graduation Rates

Total number of high school graduates: ..... 4,193

Total number of students graduated from a 2-year school within six years: .....251

Total number of students graduated from a 4-year school within six years:..... 388



Latino Students in Phoenix Union High School Class of 2007-2008 and College Graduation Rates

Total number of Latino high school graduates:.. . 3,166

Total number of Latino students graduated from a 2-year school within six years:.....182

Total number of Latino students graduated from a 4-year school within six years ..... 222

# SUCCESS SO FAR



What follows are glimpses at some of the progress Thriving Together is making in its early stages.

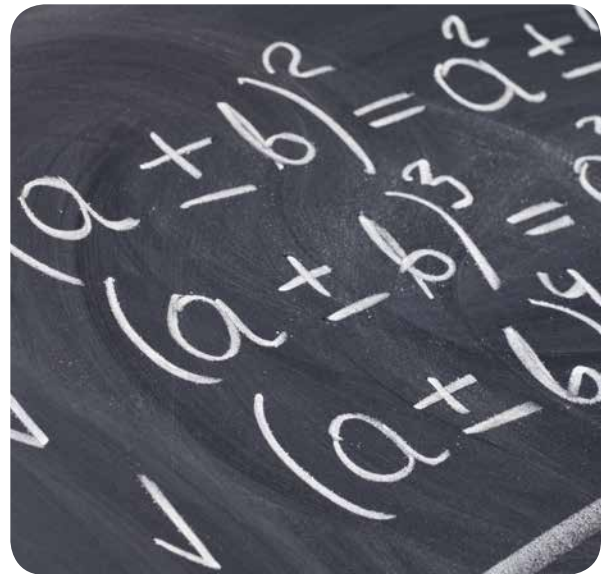
## WORKING TO REFINE MATH CONCEPTS

**In El Paso, math scores went up across the board and remediation rates at community colleges went down after schools aligned how they teach math concepts across their many school districts.**

We're looking at these examples from other similar communities and how to implement them here in Phoenix. On the local level, Thriving Together is partnering with Degree Phoenix, which has already been working on aligning how math concepts are taught for 8th graders and up. Thriving Together is helping Degree Phoenix expand its outreach through its relationships with K-8 schools.

Thriving Together has helped a workgroup to positively impact math achievement in all grades (and into college), and is eyeing a structured action plan which would better align the teaching of math concepts — just as was done in El Paso.

Thriving Together has placed math experts from schools and non-profits — who have never worked together in the past — in the same room for the first time. They are developing the solution that will lead to huge gains in math achievement across the board for Phoenix students.



*“The combination of vision and accountability of Thriving Together will certainly make this effort very, very successful when it comes to bridging academic excellence and economic development.”*

**— Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick**  
Vice Chancellor and Provost,  
Maricopa County  
Community College District

## STRIVING TOWARD BETTER, FASTER DATA

**Plenty of teachers already use data and use it well. But we are pursuing the goal to use data more effectively and efficiently so teachers can more quickly intervene when students fall behind.**

If teachers are able to look at data every two weeks as opposed to every quarter, or in some cases every year, they can quickly determine whether the interventions they perform are effective and adjust their strategies if they are not.

A huge step forward for Thriving Together is the willingness demonstrated so far by superintendents and principals to work to uncover what their data is saying. We are exploring with the schools ways to develop a process that shows continuous improvement with the use of data. Once we find the most effective way, we will scale it.

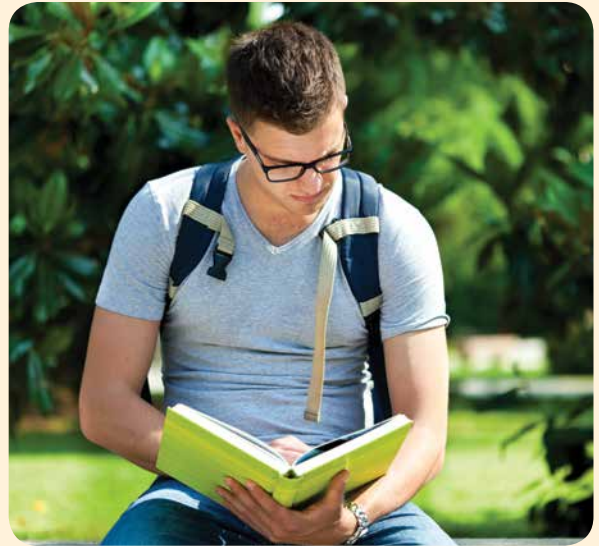
Superintendents have told us that there is a need for faster and better use of data. Their key word here is “use.” Data alone does not do much to help a student. The goal is to show teachers how to use data effectively. The questions arising from data are: What is it that has to be improved? By when does it need to be done? How are you going to do it?

Thriving Together is working in different schools in the form of a 3rd grade reading collaborative action team. Thriving Together will work with high schools in the coming months and years to create positive change for students.

*“I’m most excited about the work to be done with Thriving Together because it will give us objective feedback from an outside perspective. Our hope is to have a fresh look at how effectively our current programs are working and an opportunity to make the changes that will have the most powerful, positive impact on student achievement.”*

**— Stephanie Acosta**

*Principal, Ed and Verma Pastor Elementary School,  
Roosevelt School District*



## FOCUSING ON HELPING YOUNG MEN STAY IN COLLEGE

**Young Latino males will play a vital role in the Valley's future as employees, leaders and parents. Unfortunately, when some students graduate from high school and go to college, they aren't prepared for college-level mathematics and require remediation classes in order to get into college-credit math. These classes cost money, but don't count for college credit for the student.**

A Lumina-funded Collaborative Action Team has found that male Phoenix Union High District graduates who have to take remediation classes have the lowest attainment scores — meaning they don't make it through college and attain a degree. A big reason is they are required to take extra course work that they do not receive college credit for, which has a negative effect on their ability to manage the time and expense of an education.

So in the next 12 months Thriving Together will focus on how to unearth scalable best practices to ensure that more male students persist from their freshmen to sophomore years — and beyond — so that they attain their degree and become valuable assets to our workforce and our communities.





Uniting Communities for Student Success

[www.ThrivingTogetherAZ.org](http://www.ThrivingTogetherAZ.org)