



# Arizona Pathways to Prosperity

## Arizona GEAR UP

October 6, 2023



CENTER  
FOR THE FUTURE OF  
ARIZONA

[arizonafuture.org](https://arizonafuture.org)

#arizonafuture #TheArizonaWeWant #azprogressmeters







## Mission

The Center for the Future of Arizona  
brings Arizonans together  
to create a stronger and brighter  
future for our state.



# Advancing Economic Prosperity, Quality of Life, and Opportunity for All

**CFA leads impact initiatives and programs across the state to achieve real change in our communities and thousands of fellow Arizonans' lives every day in areas critical to The Arizona We Want**

## Education

Driving equity and excellence across the education system

## Workforce

Strengthening workforce and increasing economic opportunity

## Civic Engagement

Building civic leaders and thriving communities

# Arizona Pathways to Prosperity

**Systems of early college career pathways that span grades 6-14+, enabling students to transition smoothly through high school, into higher education, and onto family-supporting careers—particularly in high-demand sectors like information technology, energy, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing**



# Role in Achieve60/AZGU Plan

The APTP initiative aligns with the Arizona GEAR UP 2019-26 goals for Statewide/Local Initiatives component of the grant, specifically:

- increase the four-year graduation rate of low-income schools, especially those with current rates of < 78%;
- increase the post-high school enrollment rate of low-income schools, whether that be for the purpose of obtaining a degree or certificate

In order to increase high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment, CFA is proud to partner with Arizona GEAR UP (AZGU) to:

1. expand implementation of quality, nationally recognized career literacy curriculum across middle grades; and
2. expand career connected pathways practices in schools, with particular focus on schools with high numbers of low-income students.

# Expand Quality Career Literacy and Guidance to Middle Grades Students

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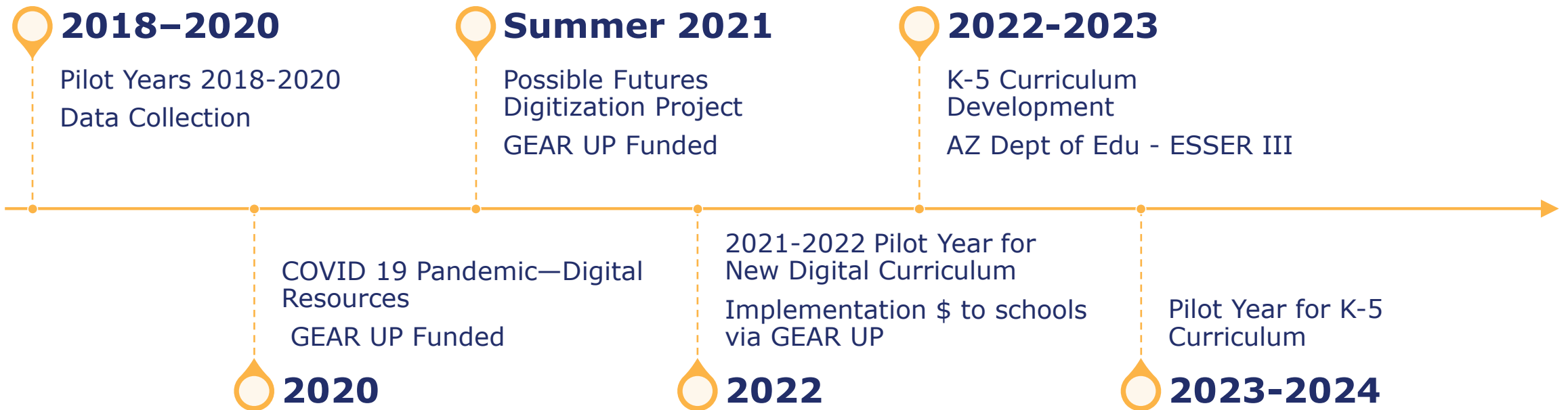
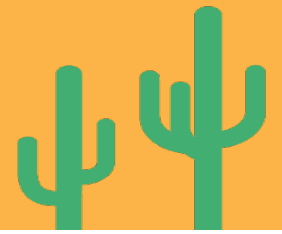
# Possible Futures Career Exploration Curriculum

- Health Sciences, Engineering & Design, Information Technology, Cybersecurity, Skills for Success, & Lenses on the Future
  - 72 digital lessons total (45 min. each)
- Inquiry-based & Hands-on approach
- Arizona Labor Market Data
- Connect to My Future Az
  - Align to ECAP elements!

## **CFA Provides:**

- ✓ Teacher Training
- ✓ Implementation Funds
- ✓ Sample Scope & Sequences
- ✓ Regional Community of Practice

# The *Possible Futures* Network





# *Possible Futures Districts*

Arizona Agribusiness & Equine Center  
Agua Fria Union HSD  
Amphitheater Public Schools  
Antelope Union High School District  
Benson Unified School District  
Casa Grande UHSD  
Center for Academic Success High School Douglas  
Coconino Accommodations School District  
Cottonwood-Oak Creek USD  
Choice Academies  
Cave Creek Unified School District  
Crane Elementary School District  
Deer Valley Unified School District  
Dysart Unified School District  
Flagstaff Unified School District  
Florence Unified School District  
Gadsden Elementary School District #32  
Glendale Elementary School District

Humboldt Unified School District  
Isaac Elementary School District  
Lake Havasu Unified School District  
Laveen School District  
Marana Unified School District  
Mayer Unified School District  
Mesa Public Schools  
Morristown Elementary District  
Nogales Unified School District  
Queen Creek Unified School District  
Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office  
Sierra Vista USD  
Somerton Middle School  
Sonoita Elementary District  
SFNO - San Miguel  
Sunnyside Unified School District  
Tombstone Unified School District  
Wilcox Unified School District  
Yuma Elementary School District #1

## Statewide:

- 37 District Partners to-date
  - 60+ schools using *Possible Futures*
- Over 275 teachers trained to-date
  - 6,300+ students impacted in the 2022-2023 SY

## Amphitheater Public Schools:

- Pilot Year 2018-2019 SY: 5 schools, 5 teachers, and 270 impacted
- 2023-2024 SY: 5 middle schools, 2 elementary schools, total of 8 teachers

*"And, offering some solutions to students if they're not on the college pathway. You know there are so many other opportunities out there for them, and ones that they can be really good at and that they enjoy. And so that's probably been the biggest benefits that I've seen with my kids"*

- Jasmine Goldstein, La Cima Middle School

# Partner Spotlight- Amphitheater

- Why Amphi is working with CFA-APTP
- Alignment to school goals and college & career preparation
- Highlights
- Benefits, positive changes, progress, and forward movement towards achieving school and Achieve60AZ goals

# Expand Career Connected Pathways in Schools

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## Connect, manage, and measure industry and education connections

- **Work-Based Learning-**

- 105 students participated in Virtual Internships supported by 15 employers

- **Educator Externships-**

- 396 educators participated in Industry Virtual Externships
- 50 educators participated in onsite Industry Externships



# Expand pathways adoption across Arizona

- Regional Engagement and Expansion-
  - Southeast Arizona
  - Southwest Arizona
  - Northern Arizona
  - Maricopa County
  - Pima County

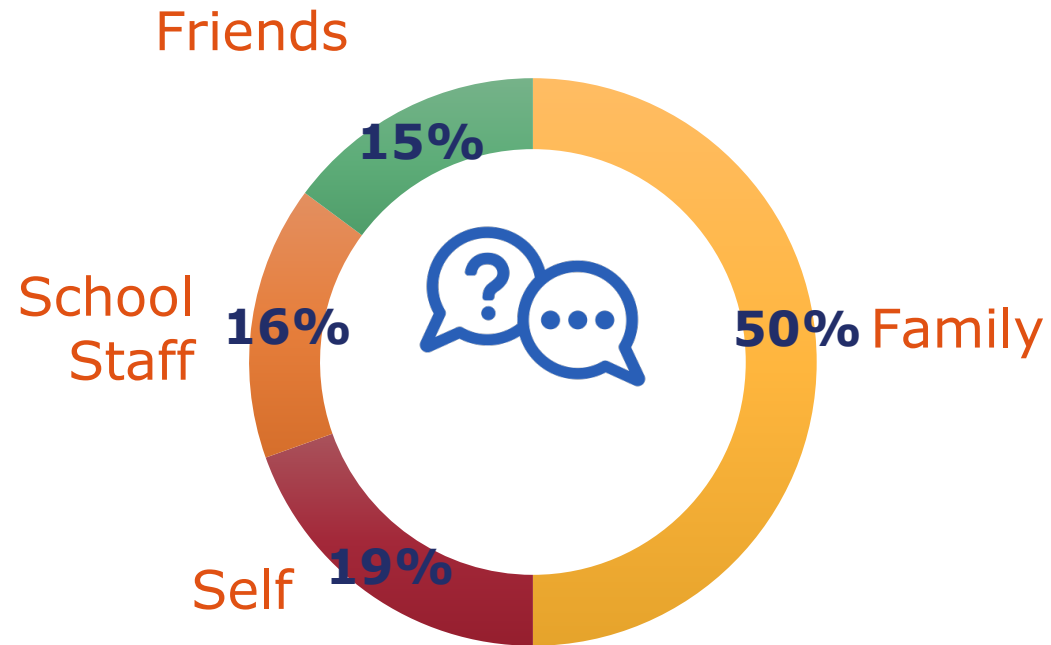
# Disseminate research, best practices and national pathways learnings

- Chatting for Action-
  - Monthly Zoom Sessions
  - Highlight Pathways Strategies, and Key Learnings
- Student Voice Project-
  - Partnership with Westwood High School and Glendale Community College
  - Student and Family views on messaging related to Pathways



## HOW DO YOU MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE?

### Who helps you make important life decisions?





# HOW DO YOU MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE?

## 9th & 10th GRADE

My parents actually help a lot. I kind of work out my schedule. I just kind of choose what classes I want to do. Then I talk to them about what they think would be good for me to do. I don't know, just for my goals and stuff.

My mom, because she went to college for a minute and she told me her strategy and-- not her strategy, but her plan. So I kind of get information from her and also online and looking things up.

My AVID teacher she's really good at listening and answers a lot of my college questions. AVID talks about it a lot but it's more of a getting you ready for college instead of preparing you for life.

Sometimes, it's hard to focus on one student. They have all these other kids. If counselors are busy, I feel like there's no other resources here for us to talk about stuff.

## 11th & 12th GRADE

If I'm confused about something, I'll either go to my friend or my parents, and we'll just have a sit-down conversation about the pros and cons of each and every single one and see what one you're actually more excited and more interested in, and that helps a lot.

My parents, they just say whatever gets me motivated to wake up in the morning. It doesn't really matter about the money, just whether you're happy with that job

I used the Compass Center like last week or two weeks ago. They helped me up with my dual enrollment classes. The thing is that they're in a Compass Center's just like mainly juniors and seniors. So it's not really open to like upcoming freshmen or sophomores. So something like having it open for all grade levels...I wish I learned more about this my freshman year so I wasn't so nervous, and I was a little bit more prepared

## COLLEGE

I talk about it with my parents a lot just because they already know so it's easy to talk with my mom .I talk with my friends a lot about it too. And I do a lot of online research.

I feel, maybe, being the youngest and having-- my sisters went to the same school. A lot of that came from my sisters. They're like, don't take this class with this teacher. That was hell. Or they'll be like, "Take this class. It's really good. It can actually help you." Stuff like that, I feel it's from my family.

I feel like my parents have literally been the only thing that's helped guide me through anything in my entire life.

I feel like if college was more talked about in high school, kind of more-- if things about your career, your future were talked about more....I feel like it would give us a lot more qualities that we use in college now

Quotes from focus group participants at Westwood and CGCC



# Thank You

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