

June 5, 2025

Dear Governor Hobbs and Honorable Members of the Arizona Legislature:

The undersigned organizations respectfully write to ask for your support to restore increased funding for dual enrollment in this year's FY 2025-26 appropriations package.

In 2023, the legislature passed funding in a bi-partisan manner that expanded dual enrollment opportunities for students to accelerate high quality learning to postsecondary attainment and/or workforce readiness. It specifically aided Arizona high school students with assistance to obtain college level credits in core academic areas (which will benefit them regardless of the degree they may seek) or for courses that will lead to a certification/licensure for in-demand jobs. The funding also provided a small stipend for teachers who work to become dual enrollment certified.

Helios Education Foundation conducted research that found just under one in four Arizona students took a dual enrollment course, over 200 schools in Arizona didn't offer dual enrollment courses, and students from low-income backgrounds were half as likely to take a dual enrollment course as students from higher income backgrounds.

The 2023 legislation expanding dual enrollment was supported by education and business stakeholders. The dual enrollment expansion was modeled after the successful program that was developed by ElevateEdAZ (an initiative run out the Greater Phoenix Chamber Foundation). ElevateEdAZ initially partnered with the Phoenix Union School District and Mesa Public Schools. Now participates in 21 schools across 6 districts. Since the enactment of dual enrollment expansion, success of this program is well documented with an almost 15% increase in student enrollment year over year. ElevateEdAZ had nearly 4,500 students engaged in dual enrollment classes in the 2024 academic year which equates to a total of 466 unique classes.

In the Maricopa County Community College District, the 2024 academic year saw close to 28,000 students enrolled in dual enrollment classes from 143 high schools and 1,305 instructors for the unique courses taken. That equates to a 4.6% growth rate from Spring of 2024 to 2025. The data indicates that more students are starting a meaningful education/workforce path with the added benefit of lowering overall college debt. This is the reason the multitude of organizations listed below are seeking your support of a proven system that will make Arizona's economic future even stronger.

We highly recommend and respectfully ask for the legislature to approve continued assistance and teacher training for dual enrollment courses in Arizona. This program can continue to provide highly valued education to students that need it the most and have a substantial impact on the state's economy with preparing our future workforce.

Sincerely,

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