

# Mesa City Council and Mesa Public Schools Governing Board Collaborative Meeting

September 26, 2024



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# City of Mesa Mayor and Council

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**Mayor** John Giles

**Vice Mayor** Francisco Heredia: District 3

**Councilmember** Mark Freeman: District 1

**Councilmember** Julie Spilsbury: District 2

**Councilmember** Jenn Duff: District 4

**Councilmember** Alicia Goforth: District 5

**Councilmember** Scott Somers: District 6





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# Mesa Public Schools Governing Board

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**President:** Ms. Marcie Hutchinson

**Clerk:** Dr. Joe O'Reilly

**Member:** Mrs. Courtney Davis

**Member:** Ms. Kiana Maria Sears

**Member:** Mrs. Rachel Walden



# Early Literacy and Education in Mesa

Mesa Public Schools  
Associate Superintendent:  
Dr. Matt Strom

Assistant Superintendent  
of Teaching and Learning:  
Dr. Tracy Yslas

City of Mesa Education  
and Workforce  
Administrator:  
Sarah Tolar

# Early Child Literacy & Preschool

Research indicates that **high-quality early childhood education**, such as **preschool**, has a significant **positive impact** on third-grade **reading proficiency**. Key findings include:



01

## IMPROVED LITERACY SKILLS

Studies show that **children who attend high-quality preschool programs** develop **stronger early literacy skills**, such as **phonemic awareness and vocabulary**, which contribute to **better reading outcomes** in later years. For example, a study published in Early Childhood Research Quarterly found that preschool attendees had **higher reading achievement scores** in elementary school compared to their peers who did not attend preschool.

02

## LONG-TERM ACADEMIC BENEFITS

Children who participate in preschool are more likely to **reach reading proficiency by third grade**. Research from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) demonstrates that **early education** can lead to **sustained gains in reading achievement** throughout elementary school.

03

## REDUCED ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

Quality **preschool programs** can help **close achievement gaps** by providing all children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a **strong foundation in literacy skills**. According to a study by the RAND Corporation, preschool education **helps mitigate disparities in reading proficiency** related to socioeconomic status.

04

## ENHANCED COGNITIVE & SOCIAL SKILLS

Early childhood education supports **cognitive development and social skills** that are critical for **learning to read**. A report from the Harvard Center on the Developing Child underscores that preschool fosters executive **function skills and emotional regulation**, which are essential for **academic success**.

05

## REDUCE THE RISK OF MISIDENTIFYING

Research indicates that high-quality preschool programs can significantly **reduce the risk of misidentifying English Language Learners (ELLs)** for special education services by providing early, targeted support that addresses both **language development and learning needs**, thereby improving **accurate assessment** and reducing false diagnoses.

# The Science of Reading

## The Simple View of Reading

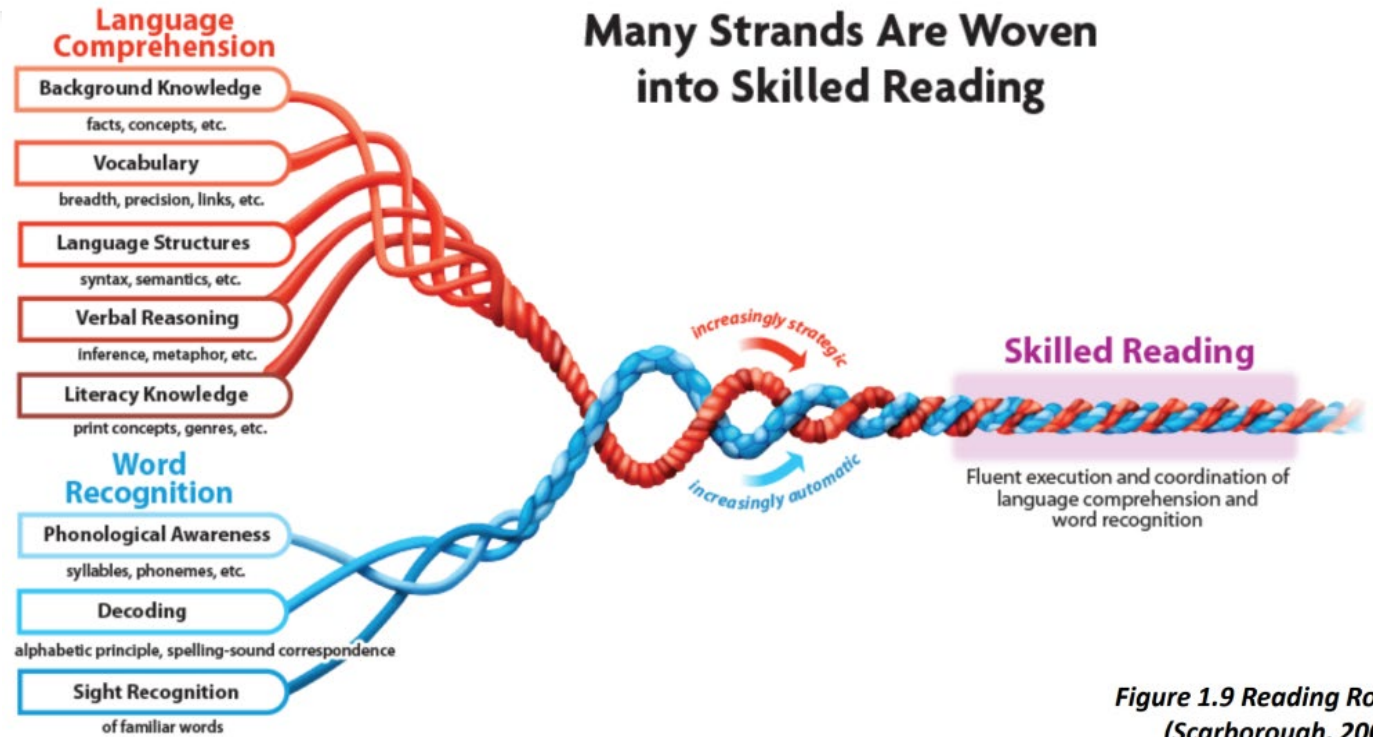
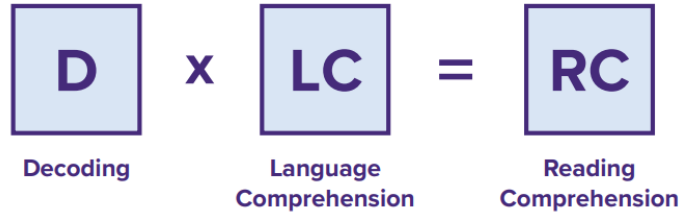


Figure 1.9 Reading Rope (Scarborough, 2001)

# Literacy Professional Learning

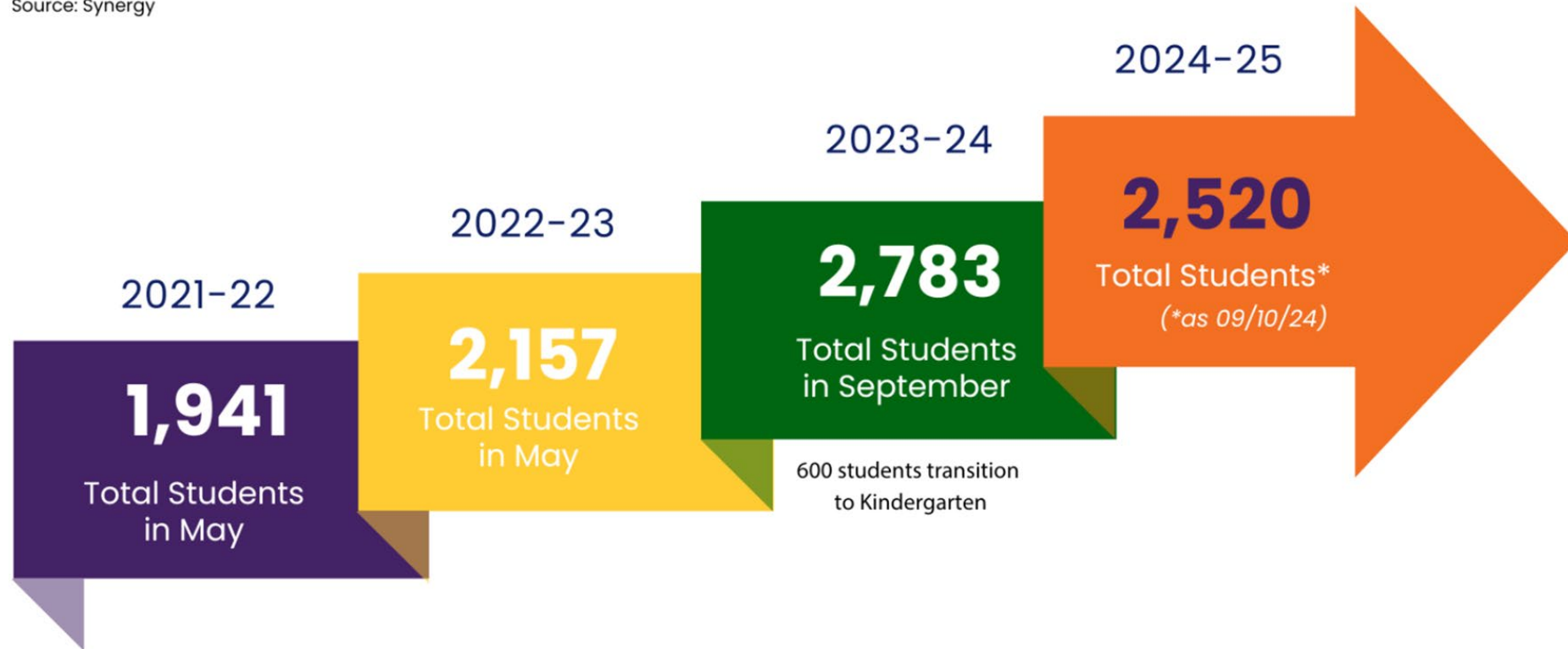
- Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)
- Structured Literacy and “The Big 5” core reading resources
- Valley Leadership Partnership



# Preschool Access

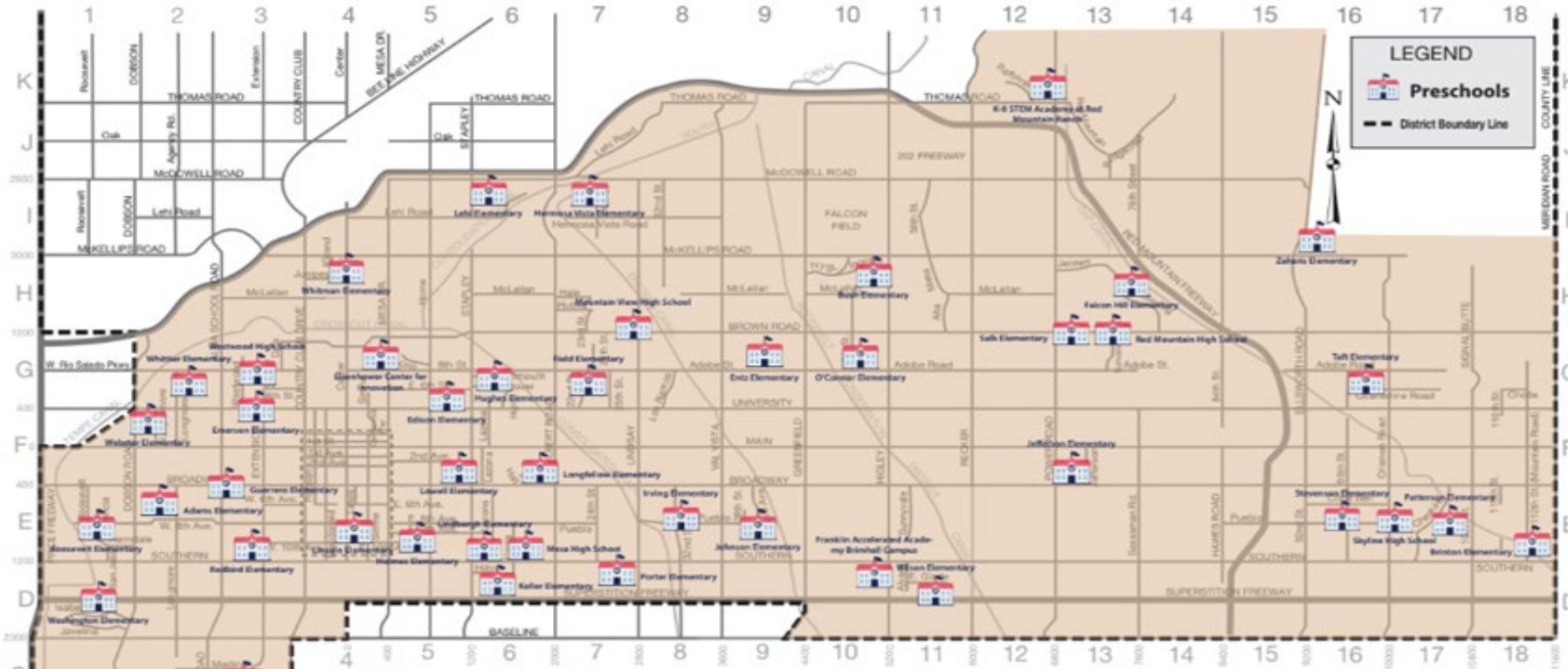


Source: Synergy



# Preschool Access - District Delivered

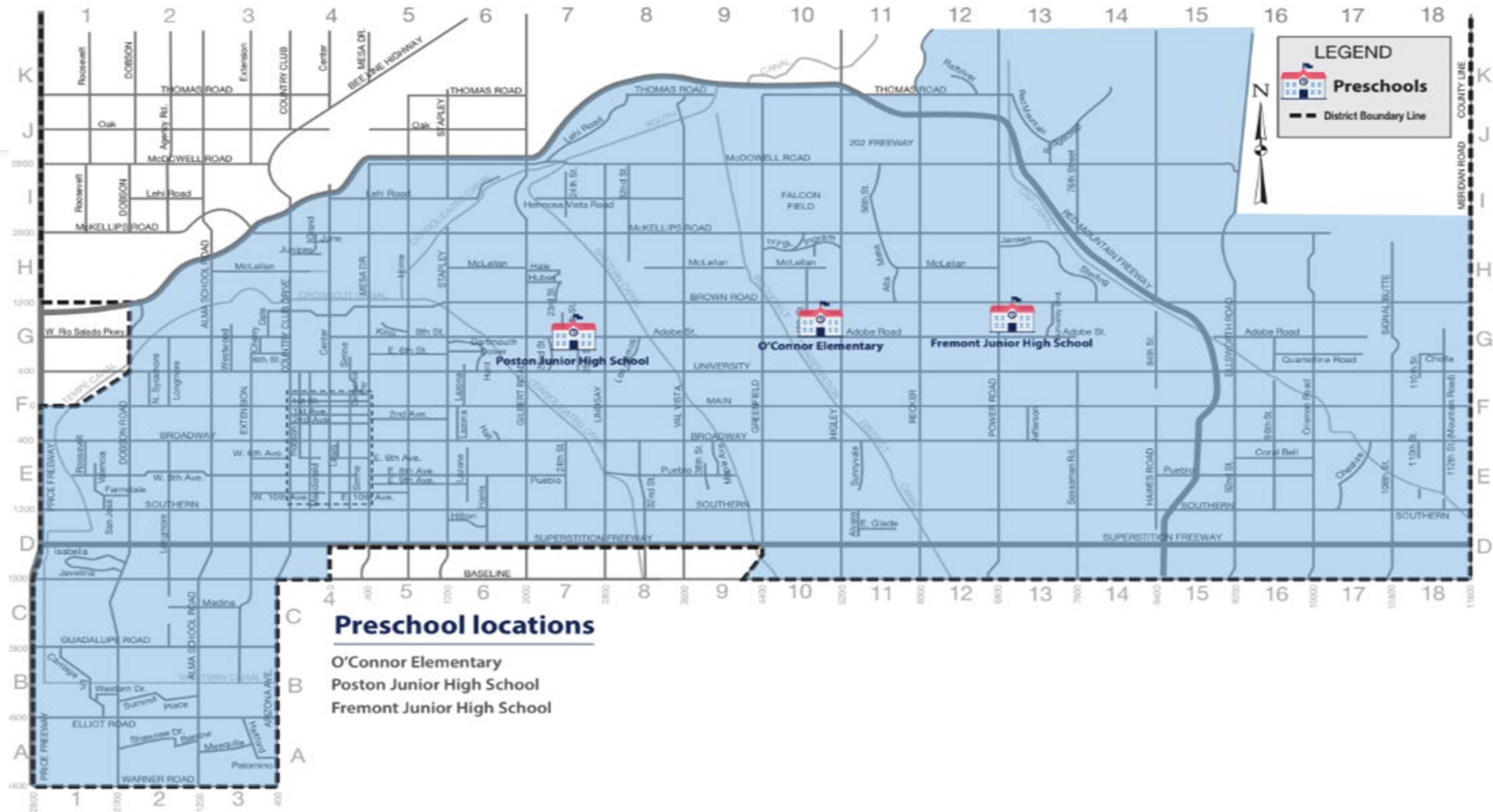
2024-25 Mesa Public Schools District-Run Preschools



**Preschool locations**

- |  |                          |                           |                       |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Adams Elementary                               | Guerrero Elementary      | Hughes Elementary         | Summit Academy        |
| Brinton Elementary                             | Hermosa Vista Elementary | Mountain View High School | Taft Elementary       |
| Bush Elementary                                | Holmes Elementary        | O'Connor Elementary       | Washington Elementary |
| Crismon Elementary                             | Irving Elementary        | Patterson Elementary      | Webster Elementary    |
| Dobson High School                             | Jefferson Elementary     | Porter Elementary         | Westwood High School  |
| Edison Elementary                              | Johnson Elementary       | Red Mountain High School  | Whitman Elementary    |
| Eisenhower Center for Innovation               | Keller Elementary        | Redbird Elementary        | Whittier Elementary   |
| Emerson Elementary                             | Lehi Elementary          | Roosevelt Elementary      | Wilson Elementary     |
| Entz Elementary                                | Lincoln Elementary       | Salk Elementary           | Zaharis Elementary    |
| Falcon Hill Elementary                         | Lindbergh Elementary     | Sirrine Montessori Center |                       |
| Field Elementary                               | Longfellow Elementary    | Skyline High School       |                       |
| Franklin Accelerated Academy - Brimhall Campus | Lowell Elementary        | Stevenson Elementary      |                       |
| Franklin Accelerated Academy - Jordan Campus   | Mesa High School         |                           |                       |

# Preschool Access - Partnerships



# Preschool Programming

## Mesa K-Ready Program and MPS Preschools

Free kindergarten readiness program for **3-4-year-old children** and their **parents**



### OBJECTIVES

- Parents **prepare** their children for **kindergarten**
- Supports **social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development**
- Parent Education



### TOPICS

- Discussion on topics related to child development, including **nutrition, oral hygiene, the importance of sleep, meal planning, and budgeting.**



### RESOURCES

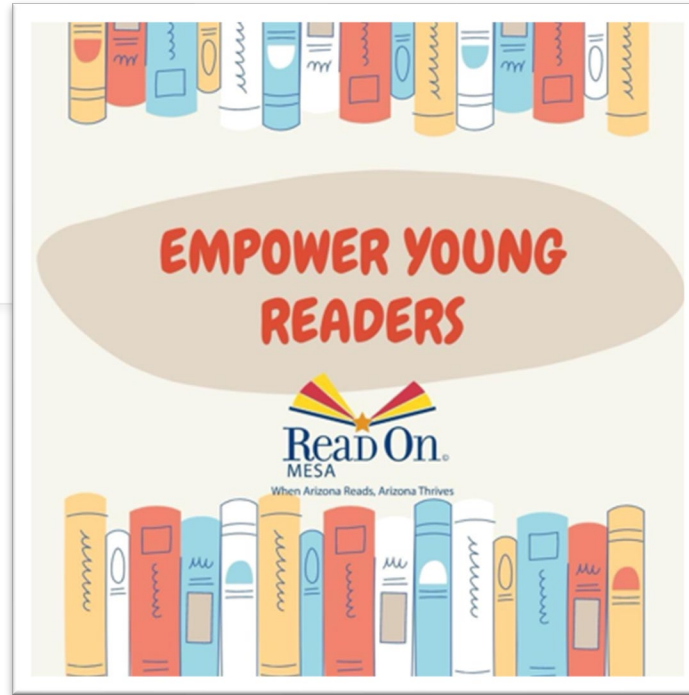
- Kindergarten-**readiness software** program to use as a tool at home with an adult.
- The Mesa K-Ready Program has a **Spanish-language** component
- The program offers resources & referrals for any potential **developmental screenings**



### PARTNERSHIPS

This program is in partnership with the **City of Mesa** and the **Mesa Foundation**





Mesa Public Library ✦ Southwest Human Development ✦ Mesa Public Schools ✦ Unite for Literacy  
Mesa Public Schools Foundation ✦ National Center for Families Learning ✦ i.d.e.a. Museum  
Mesa Chamber of Commerce ✦ Azura Literacy ✦ First Things First ✦ Read On Arizona ✦ Mesa Arts Center  
Arizona Museum of Natural History ✦ AARP Experience Corps ✦ Child Crisis Arizona ✦ Native Health  
Read Better Be Better ✦ Kids Need to Read ✦ Hands-on Phoenix ✦ Literacy Lab

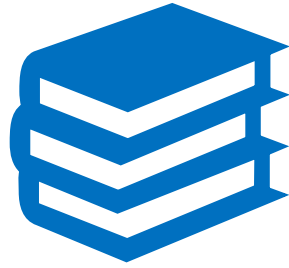


A PROUD PROGRAM PARTNER OF

**AARP** Foundation<sup>®</sup>  
**Experience Corps**

AARP Foundation Experience Corps is a community-based volunteer program that empowers people over 50 to serve as tutors to help students become better readers by the end of third grade. It is a proven “triple win,” helping students succeed, older adults thrive, and communities grow stronger.





# Library Card Initiative

## • **MPL & MPS IGA**

- Gives permission to share data between entities
- Strengthens collaboration and partnership between MPL and MPS
- Streamlined approach for Library card registration process
- Reach more schools and students
- Expand support and access to resources
- Provide opportunity for all students in Mesa

**2023:** Opt-in Registration for Kindergarteners launches

**2024:** Expansion of the program to K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

✓ Cards issued up to **April 2024**  
(K-3 expansion): 2,338

✓ TOTAL cards issued thru **June 2024:** 3,716

Future goals:

- 2025: Scale program to K-6<sup>th</sup>
- 2026: Scale program to K-12



  
**MesaFamily**  
 Resource Center

# Grand Opening Event!

*Details:*

**Thursday, September 26th**

Program and Ribbon Cutting: 11:00-11:30 AM  
 Community event and family activities: 11:30-5:00 PM

*Join us to see the Mesa Family Resource Center, participate in activities, raffle drawings and learn about the resources, services and programs that will be provided!*

*Location:*

**Mesa Family Resource Center • Main Library – Lower Level**  
 64 East 1st St., Mesa, AZ 85201

— SUPPORTED BY —

**# FIRST THINGS FIRST**

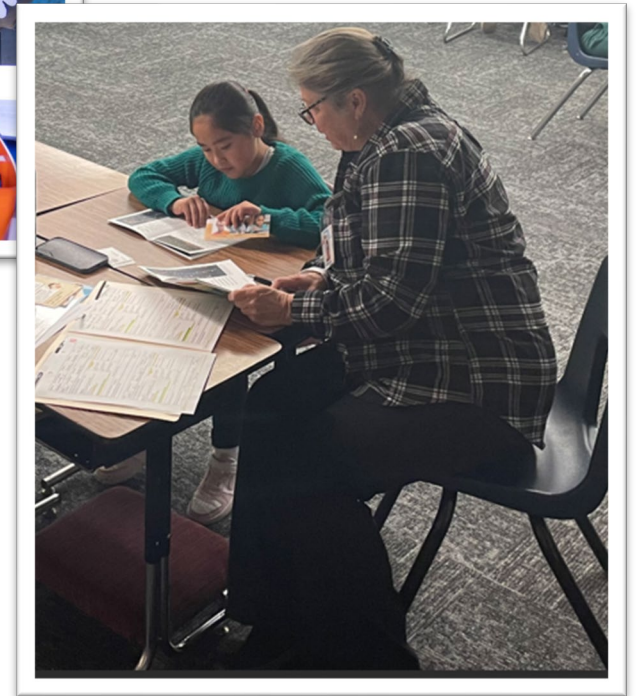


# Increasing Access & Engagement

- Increasing available and affordable preschool seat access
- Awareness of resources for early learning and family engagement
- Building a strong foundation for students to be kindergarten-ready



# Questions & Discussion



# Student and Youth Safety and Crime Prevention

Mesa Assistant Police  
Chief:  
Gina Nesbit

Mesa Public Schools  
Director of School Safety  
and Security:  
Al Moore

Director of Federal  
Grants:  
Aimee De La Torre

# Importance of Student and Youth Safety and Crime Prevention

- Impacts academic performance and mental well-being
- Essential for students/youth to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially
- Violence affects the overall well-being of our youth
- Create a healthy environment for students and foster healthy relationships with SROs to form positive relations and healthy behaviors

# Mesa Police Response to Juvenile Crime

- Increased community engagement with school-aged students to build relationships between police and youth
  - SPARC (Sports, Programs & Activities Reuniting Community)
  - Youth Leadership Academy
  - Cadet Program
  - Teen Court
- Ensure strong communication between SROs and patrol officers
- Commanders' engagement in juvenile-related crime in their respective districts and appropriate deployment of resources
- Review of juvenile curfew and noise violations with patrol officers

# Mesa Police Response to Juvenile Crime

## **Operation Safe Summer**

- Ensure consistency in the response protocol for curfew violations, loud party/noise disturbance and underage drinking calls from 5/23/24 thru 7/31/24
- Goal of reducing teen violence over the summer
- Education of parents on curfew laws and their responsibility/accountability
- Social media campaign around curfew
- Continued enforcement of persons crimes and other juvenile crimes

# Curfew Citation Data

Curfew Citations Issued		2023											2024									Total	
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		Sep
6-6-1	Curfew Violation - General	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
6-6-1A	Curfew Violation - Minor	4	8	7	6	7	6	1	5	4	9	4	2	4	0	13	5	32	25	25	10	6	183
6-6-1B	Curfew Violation - Parents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total Citations Issued		4	8	7	6	7	6	5	6	4	9	4	2	4	0	13	5	32	26	25	10	6	189

Curfew Citation Incidents													Total
Year\Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2023	2	5	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	5	2	1	32
2024	3	0	6	3	15	15	11	8	2				63
Total Incidents	5	5	8	5	18	18	13	11	4	5	2	1	95

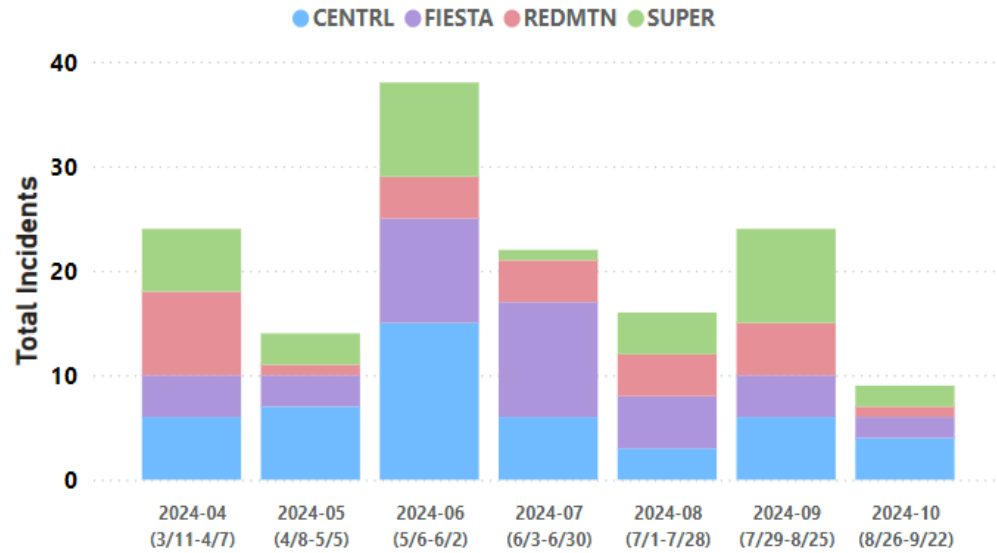
# Crimes Involving Teen Violence - Teen Offenses



## Crimes Involving Teen Violence - Teen Offenders:

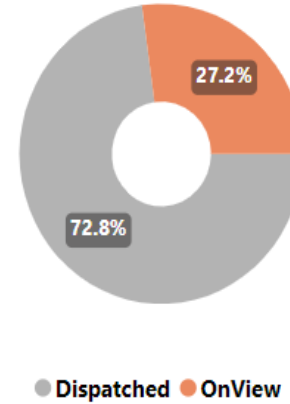
- (1) Any aggravated assault, homicide, sexual assault/rape, robbery, simple assault, or weapon violation.
- (2) There is at least one entity labeled as a juvenile suspect or arrestee or investigative lead, or an adult suspect or arrestee or investigative lead of 19 years of age or younger.

### CITV by CompStat Cycle



HR_RANGE	2024-04 (3/11-4/7)	2024-05 (4/8-5/5)	2024-06 (5/6-6/2)	2024-07 (6/3-6/30)	2024-08 (7/1-7/28)	2024-09 (7/29-8/25)	2024-10 (8/26-9/22)	Total
0200-0559	1		7	2	1	1		12
0600-0959	1	2	4			4	1	12
1000-1359	6	1	1	3	2	5	1	19
1400-1759	7	4	6	3	3	8	1	32
1800-2159	3	6	12	4	5	3	1	34
2200-0159	6	1	8	10	5	3	5	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>147</b>

### How Received?



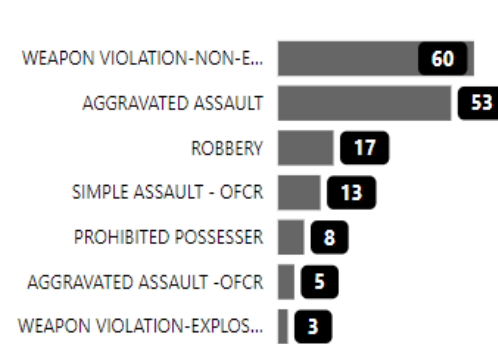
### Choose District

- CENTRL
- FIESTA
- REDMTN
- SUPER

### Choose Cycle

- 2024-04 (3/11-4/7)
- 2024-05 (4/8-5/5)
- 2024-06 (5/6-6/2)
- 2024-07 (6/3-6/30)
- 2024-08 (7/1-7/28)
- 2024-09 (7/29-8/25)
- 2024-10 (8/26-9/22)

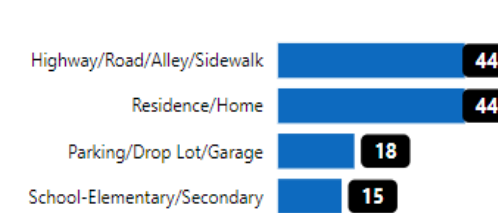
### CITV Offenses (Count)



### CITV Offenses

- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT -DV
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT -OFCR
- ASSIST - MENTAL CONDITION
- BURGLARY
- CCV-TITLE 6-POLICE REGULATIONS
- CREDIT CARD FRAUD
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE - DV <\$1 000
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE <\$1 000

### CITV by Location Type



### CITV Case Status

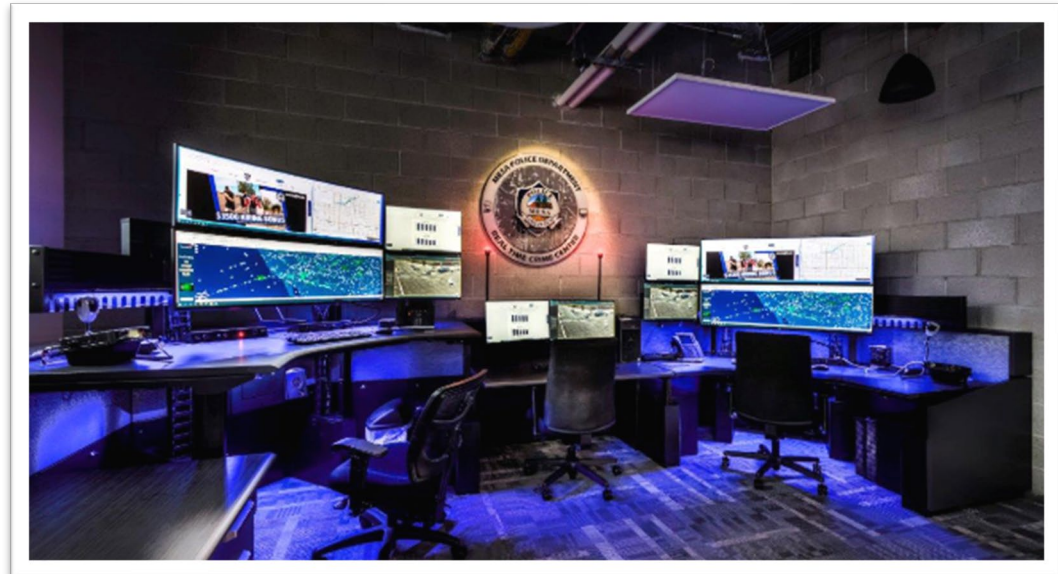
- Active/Open
- Closed
- Inactive
- Cleared By Arrest
- Furthered
- Waiting Lab Results

# Juvenile Violent Crime Committee

- Working group to combat teen violence and teen crime
- Collaboration with Mesa Police, Mesa Public Schools, Queen Creek Public Schools, Gilbert Public Schools, Prosecutors (MCAO and Juvenile MCAO), Probation Officers, School Resource Officers, Detectives/Gang Detectives
- Create an understanding of goals of the different entities - educational, rehabilitation, and enforcement role
- Discuss issues facing each area to bring together a more cohesive response
- Increase collaboration with City Prosecutor's Office

# Security Camera Intergovernmental Agreement

- Allows Mesa Police Department access in the RTCC (Real Time Crime Center) during emergencies only
- Real-time access
- Site Maps



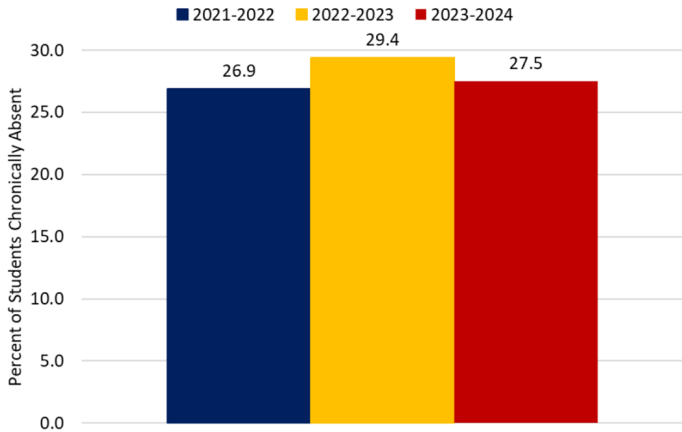
# MPS Security Measures

- Weapon Detectors
- Additional SRO Grants
- Extra Security Officers
- Vape Detectors



# Data - Chronic Absenteeism

## Percent Chronically Absent in Semester 1



### Notes

#### Students included:

\* Includes all K-12 students who are continuously enrolled for 50% of Semester 1 (45 out of 90 days).

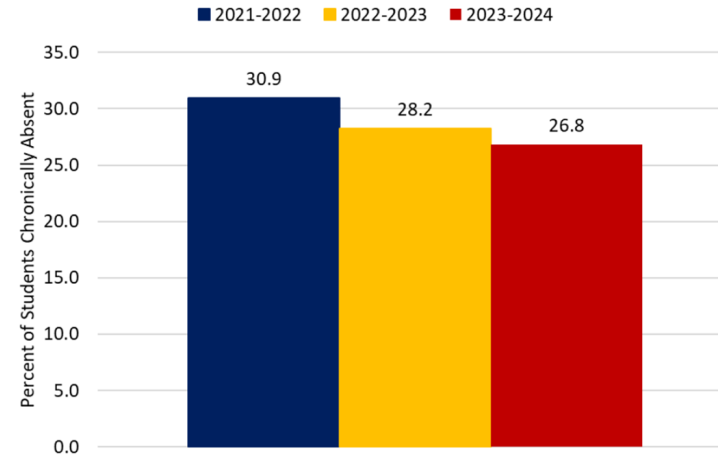
#### How it's calculated:

\* This metric is calculated as the percent of students who are absent for 10% or more of respective enrollment.  
 \* For schools with period attendance, a daily absence is considered two or more periods missed in a day.



- Board Goal: Increase Proficiency in ELA
- Board Goal: Increase Proficiency in Math
- Board Goal: Increase Graduation Rate

## Percent Chronically Absent YTD through Q3



### Notes

#### Students included:

\* Includes all K-12 students who are continuously enrolled for 50% of Quarter 3 (68 out of 137 days).

#### How it's calculated:

\* This metric is calculated as the percent of students who are absent for 10% or more of respective enrollment.  
 \* For schools with period attendance, a daily absence is considered two or more periods missed in a day.



- Board Goal: Increase Proficiency in ELA
- Board Goal: Increase Proficiency in Math
- Board Goal: Increase Graduation Rate

# Addressing Absenteeism: Prosecutor's Office and MPS Truancy Office Collaboration

- Chronic absenteeism and the impact on student learning as well as the Mesa community
- Proactive approaches and documentation at the school and district level
- Training and communication for all MPS staff and City Court staff
- Intended for the most intensive absenteeism concerns
- Includes opportunity for support and recognition of improved attendance where fines and/ or charges may be reduced or dropped

# Questions & Discussion



# Economic and Workforce Development in Mesa

City of Mesa Economic  
Development Deputy  
Director:  
Maria Laughner

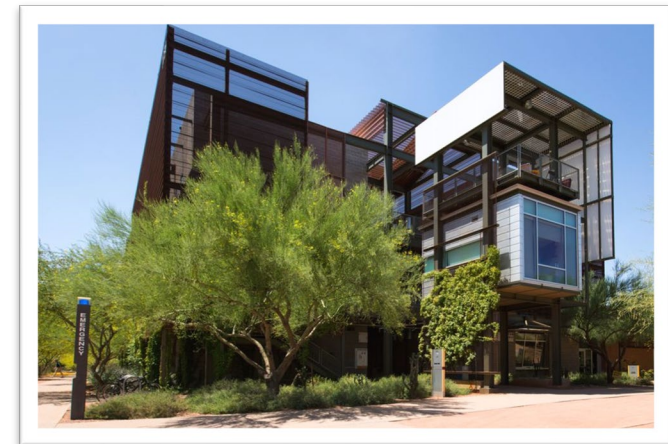
Mesa Public Schools  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Teaching and Learning:  
Dr. Tracy Yslas

Director of CTE & Innovative  
Partnerships:  
Marlo Loria

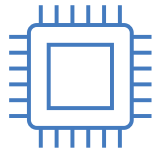
# Legacy Industries

## ESTABLISHED COMPANIES & SECTORS

- Healthcare / Biotechnology / Medical Devices
- Aerospace / Aviation / Defense
- Technology
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Warehouse / Distribution
- Tourism



# FY25 Industry Focus



Semiconductor  
(Supply Chain)



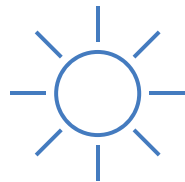
Manufacturing  
(Advanced / Standard)



Electric Vehicles,  
Battery Tech



Advanced Air  
Mobility



Climate Tech



Healthcare,  
Bioscience,  
Medical Device



Retail

# High Growth Jobs

Occupation	Annual Openings	Growth Projection 2032
Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, home health aides, medical assistants	18,000+	38%
Software developers	3,151	38%
Truck drivers (heavy and light)	6,844	29%
Laborers and freight, stock, material movers	9,974	25%
Retail, restaurant, hospitality	38,205	17%
Professional (managers, CSRs, analysts, sales and marketing)	24,059	14%

# Respond. Support. Adapt.

CITY OF MESA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



## A CITY-WIDE EFFORT: BUILDING A THRIVING WORKFORCE

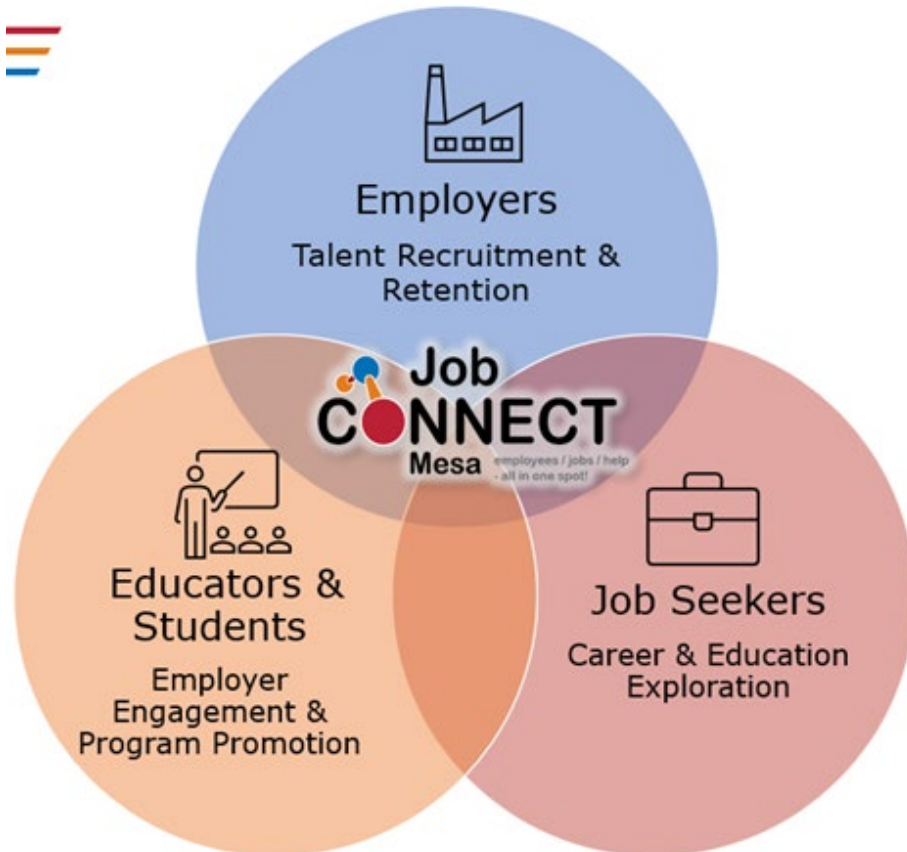
**Services to Business -**  
*Office of Economic Development*

**Services to Community -**  
*Education & Workforce Office /  
Workforce Center @ Mesa*



# Job Connect Mesa

## CITY OF MESA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



- Bring employers and job seekers together.
- Provide training, guidance, and help tools.
- Very easy to use, all in one spot.
- No other jobsite connects jobseekers to local resources and employers or allows employers to connect with workforce suppliers and jobseekers.

# Job Connect Mesa

## CITY OF MESA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Launched on June 20, 2024 at special event with workforce consultant and keynote Mark Perna
- Goal = 300 employers and 3,200 job seekers by 6/30/25



# College, Career, & Community Readiness Framework



**Preschool** → **Graduation Plus**

# Ensuring College, Career, and Community Readiness

**Elementary**

- Development of foundational academic skills
- Career awareness



**Junior High**

- Development of strong academic and social skills
- Identification of aptitudes and interests
- Career exploration



**High School**

**9th Grade Academy**

- Small cohorts of learners
- Freshman Seminar course focused on career exploration & life skills
- Intentional focus on workplace skills
- Interdisciplinary project-based learning

**High School**

**Grades 10-12 Academies**

- **ACADEMY A**  
PATHWAY
- **ACADEMY B**  
PATHWAY
- **ACADEMY C**  
PATHWAY

- Small cohorts of learners
- Interdisciplinary project-based learning connected to academy career theme
- Embedded work based learning

**Graduation Plus**

**Academic competency**

**Work-based learning**

**Portrait of a Graduate**

# College & Career Academies of MPS

<b>Engineering &amp; Advanced Manufacturing</b>	Emphasizes <b>innovation, collaboration, and design thinking</b> . Learning linked to multiple sectors, including aerospace, engineering, and advanced production technologies, while also fostering essential employability and <b>leadership</b> competencies.
<b>Healthcare</b>	Provides students with an immersive educational experience, offering a deep dive into various healthcare fields, including patient care, medical technology, and health sciences. Fosters technical proficiency and compassionate care, while emphasizing <b>critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership</b> in the dynamic and ever-evolving healthcare industry.
<b>Business &amp; Entrepreneurship</b>	Equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the competitive world of business, finance, and entrepreneurship. Exposes students to corporate environments, small businesses, or their own entrepreneurial ventures, fostering <b>creativity, problem-solving, and strategic thinking</b> .
<b>Multimedia</b>	Immerses students in the dynamic world of digital media, communications, and creative arts, offering hands-on experiences in areas such as graphic design, video production, animation, and web development. Academy fosters <b>innovation, storytelling, and visual communication</b> expertise.
<b>Public Service</b>	Exposes students to impactful careers in public safety, human services, and civic engagement, fostering a sense of duty, <b>problem-solving abilities, and a commitment</b> to making a positive difference in society.

# Business Partnerships



MPS is working with over 100 employers to provide work based learning experiences for students.

As the largest employer in Mesa, we have hired over 75 interns to work with district departments, such as IT, HR, communications, ect.

We currently have 50 students still looking internship placement.

# Collaboration Opportunities

- Hire CTE interns
  - HS seniors
  - CTE program participant
  - minimum 10 hr/wk
- WBL opportunities
- Mesa Youth Creative Agency (MYCA)
- MPS business co-location exploration



## **PARTNER WITH MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Help provide real world learning experiences to qualified high school students

### **Partnership Opportunities**

- ✓ Join a Business Community Council
- ✓ Grow your workforce by providing part-time internships and job shadows
- ✓ Engage with 1000+ students by participating in Career Fairs
- ✓ Share business expertise as a guest speaker

Scan here to join us:



# Questions & Discussion



# Mesa City Council and Mesa Public Schools Governing Board Collaborative Meeting

Closing Remarks

