

Mesa City Council and Mesa Public Schools Governing Board Collaborative Meeting

September 26, 2024



City of Mesa Mayor and Council



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





Mesa Public Schools Governing Board

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

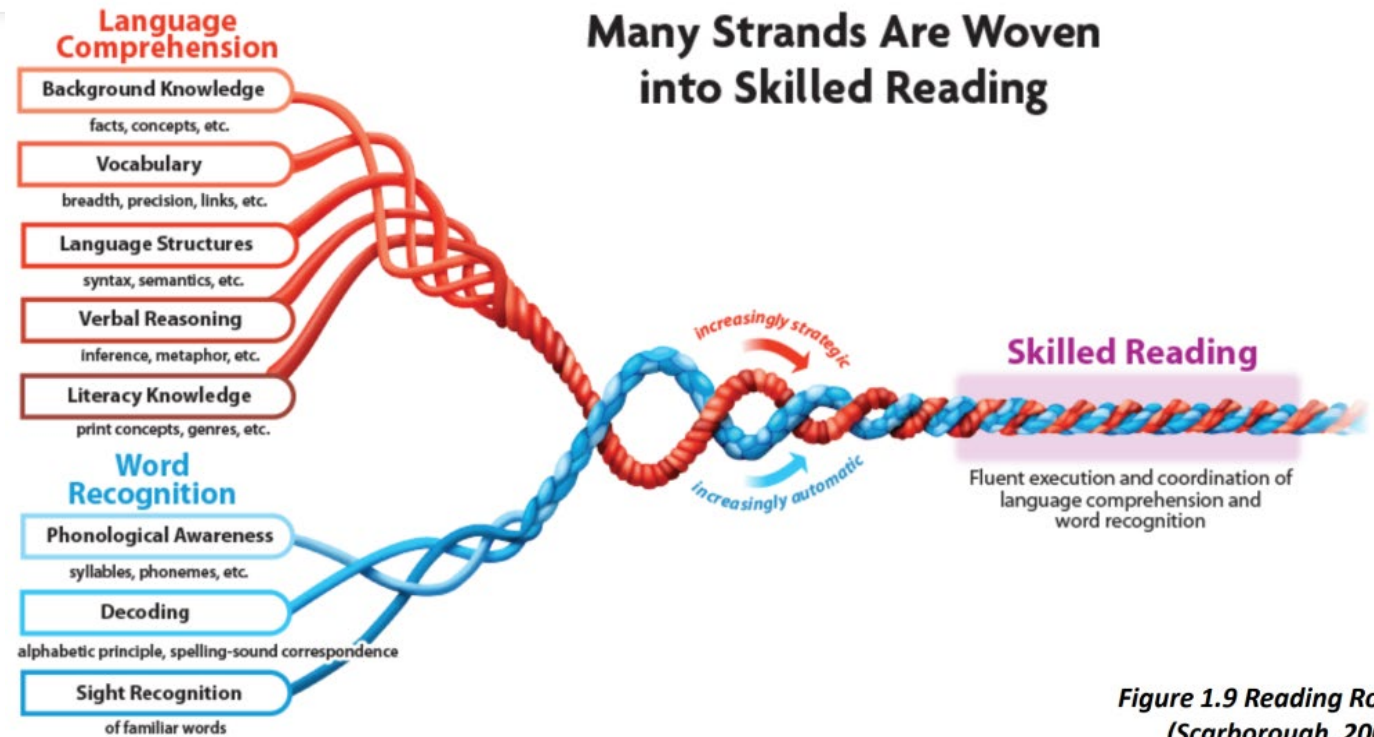
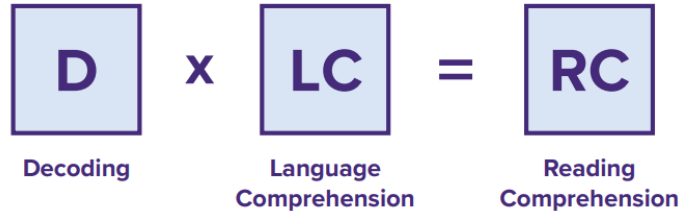


Figure 1.9 Reading Rope
(Scarborough, 2001)

Literacy Professional Learning

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

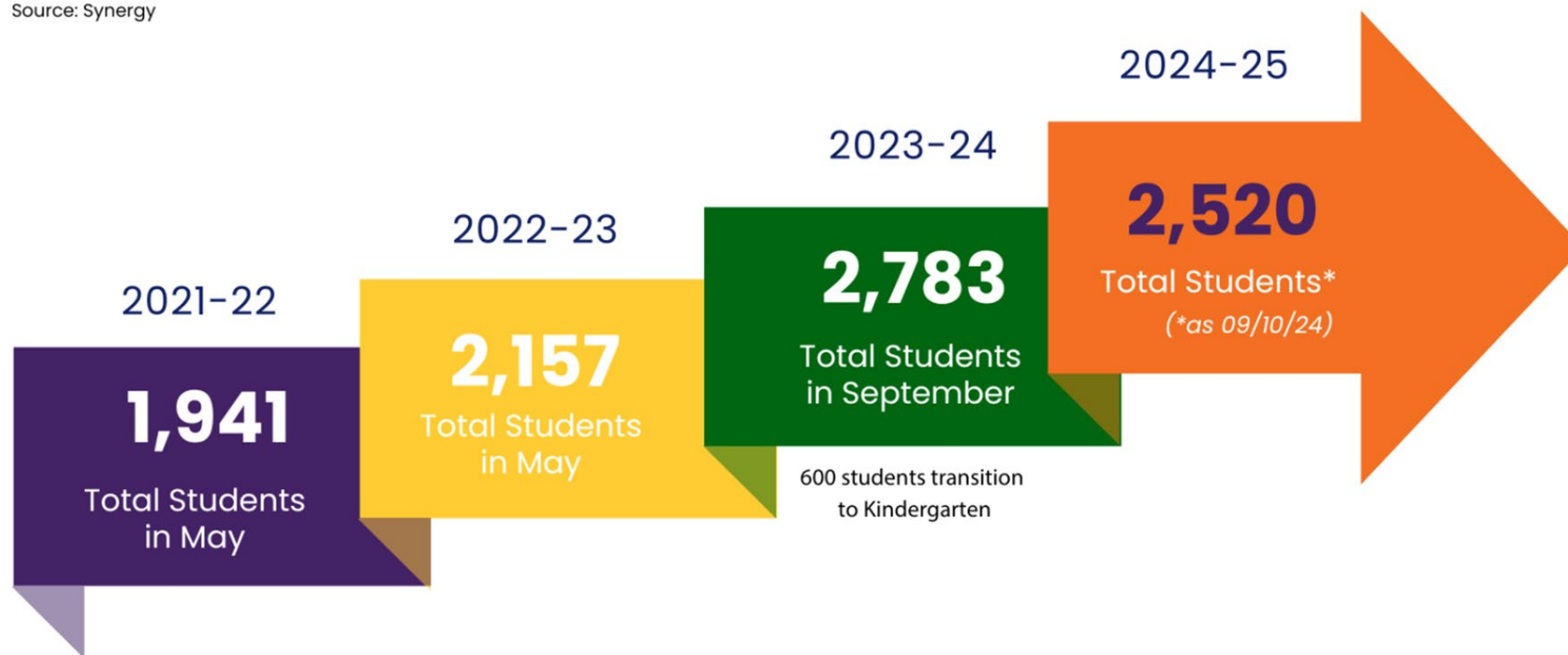


Preschool Access

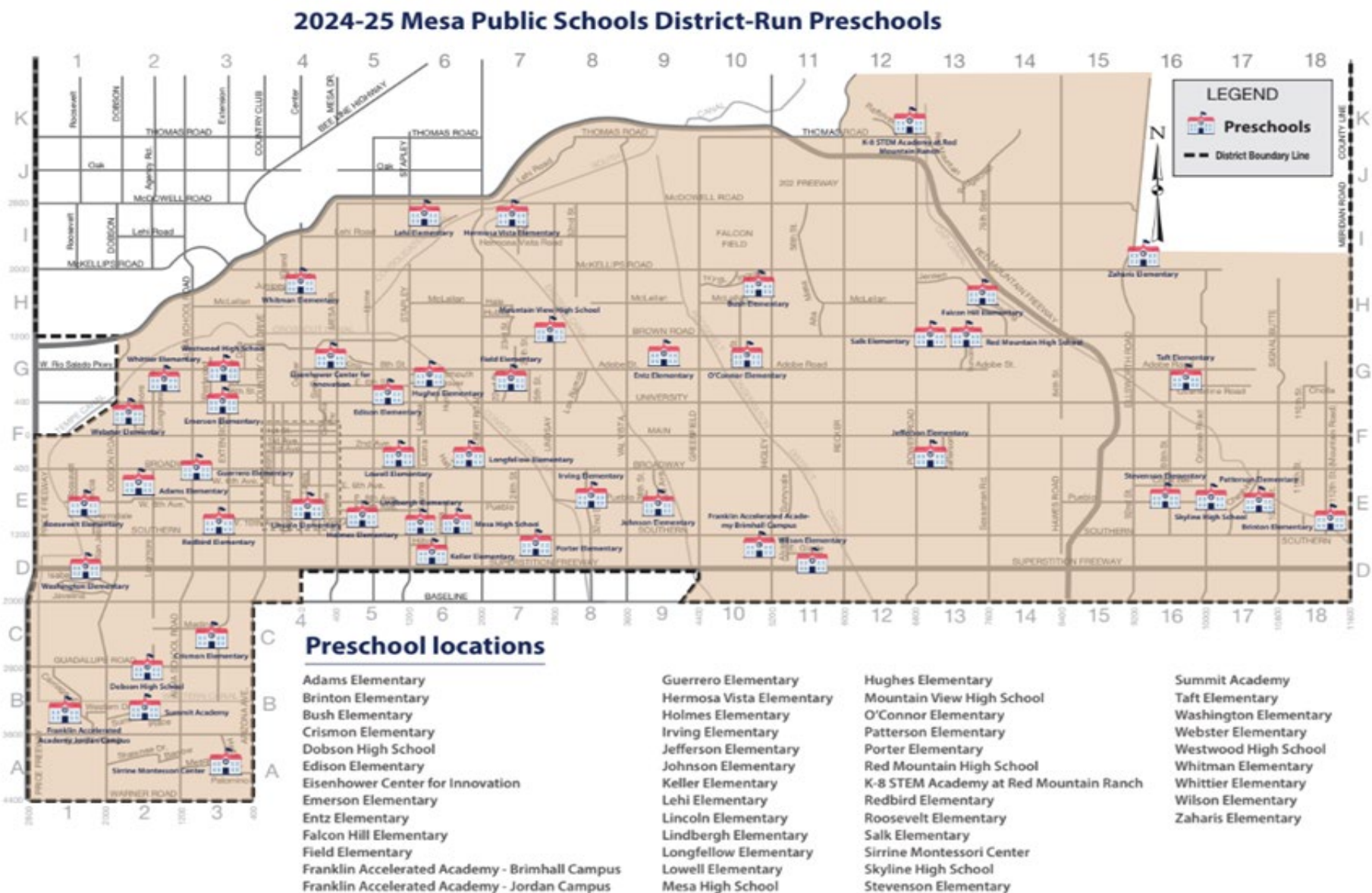
Student Enrollment



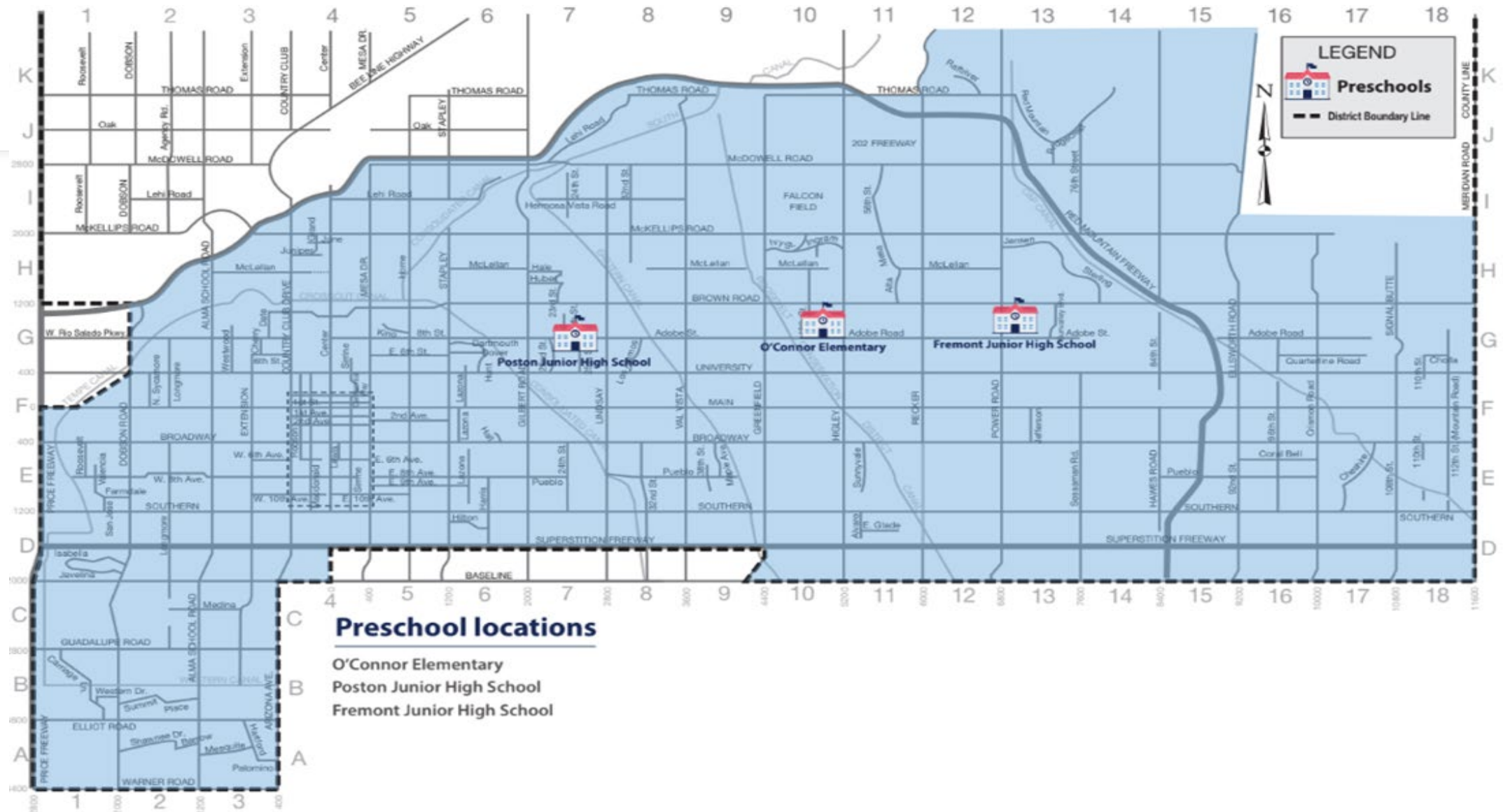
Source: Synergy



Preschool Access – District Delivered



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

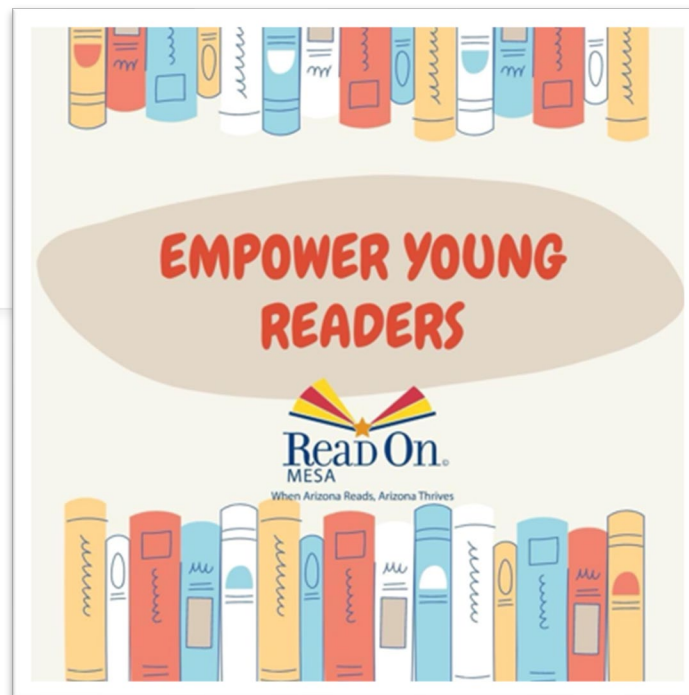
- Kindergarten-**readiness software** program to use as a tool at home with an adult.
- The Mesa K-Ready Program has a **Spanish-language** component
- The program offers resources & referrals for any potential **developmental screenings**



PARTNERSHIPS

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





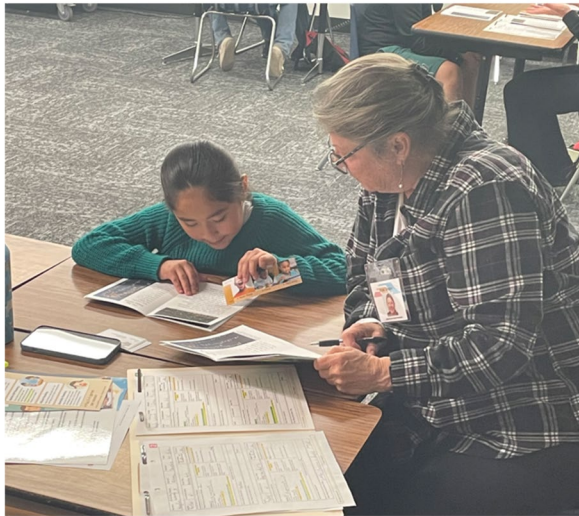
Mesa Public Library ✦ Southwest Human Development ✦ Mesa Public Schools ✦ Unite for Literacy
 Mesa Public Schools Foundation ✦ National Center for Families Learning ✦ i.d.e.a. Museum
 Mesa Chamber of Commerce ✦ Azura Literacy ✦ First Things First ✦ Read On Arizona ✦ Mesa Arts Center
 Arizona Museum of 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[®]
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-3rd 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-6th
- 2026: Scale program to K-12



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

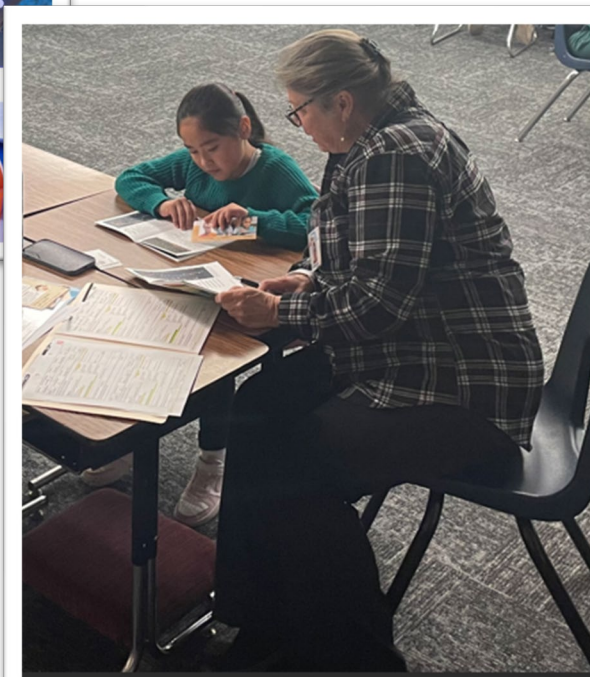


Increasing Access & Engagement

- 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	0	1	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

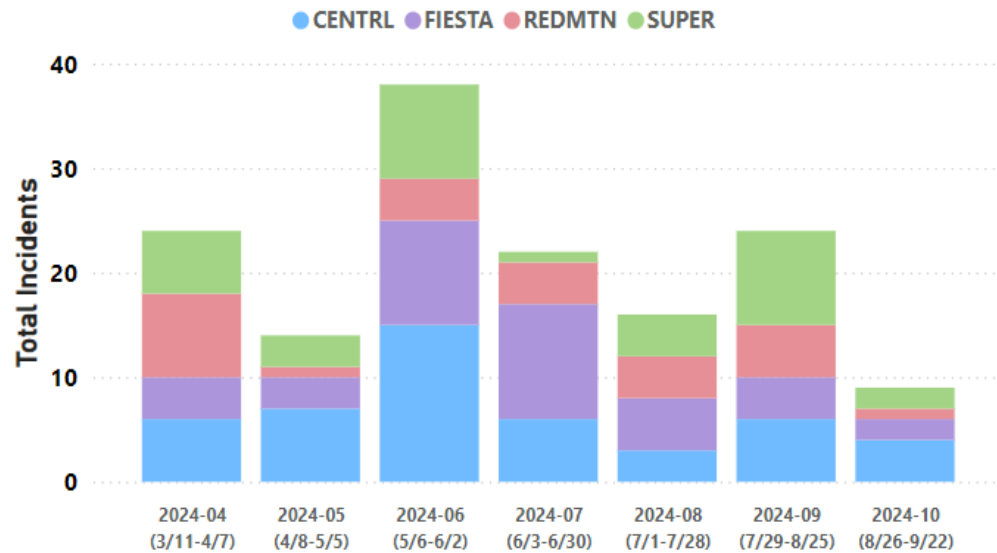
Crimes Involving Teen Violence – Teen Offenses



Crimes Involving Teen Violence - Teen Offenders:

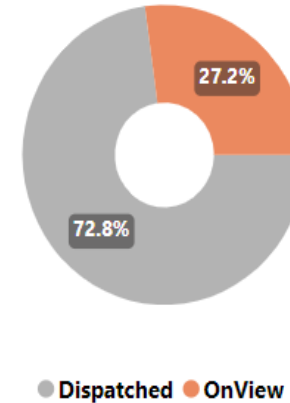
- (1) Any aggravated assault, homicide, sexual assault/rape, robbery, simple assault, or weapon violation.
- (2) There is at least one entity labeled as a juvenile suspect or arrestee or investigative lead, or an adult suspect or arrestee or investigative lead of 19 years of age or younger.

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
Total	24	14	38	22	16	24	9	147

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)

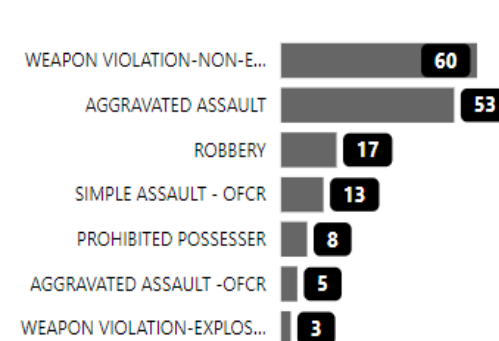
2024-07 (6/3-6/30)

2024-08 (7/1-7/28)

2024-09 (7/29-8/25)

2024-10 (8/26-9/22)

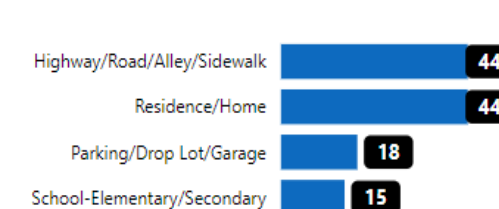
CITV Offenses (Count)



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

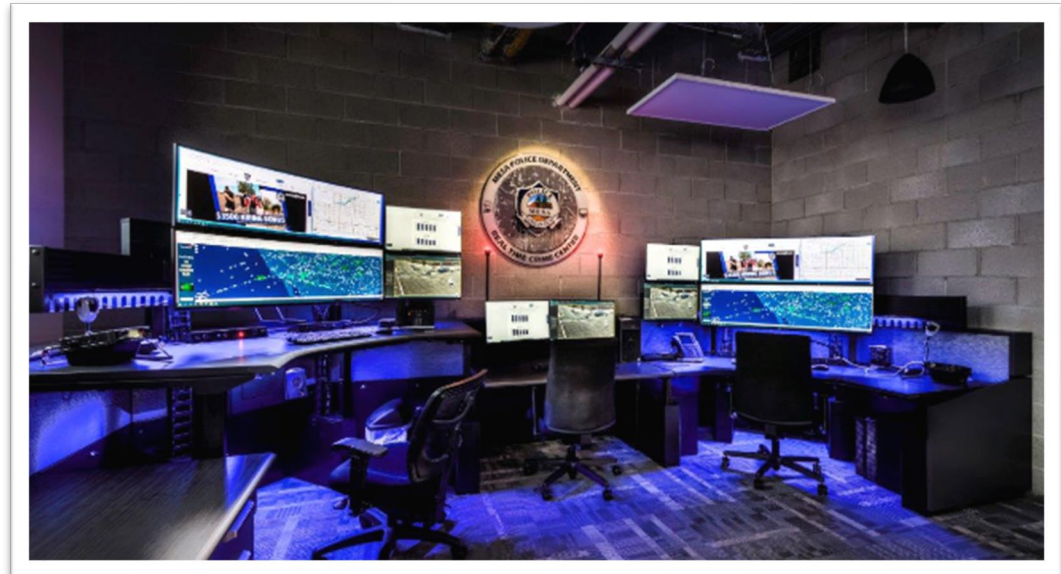
Waiting Lab Results

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



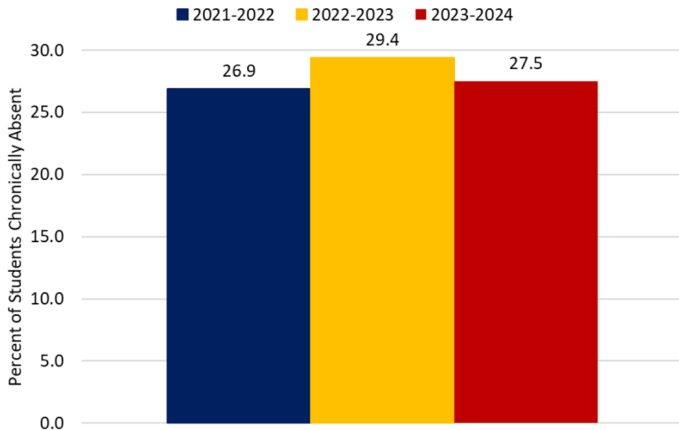
MPS Security Measures

- 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).

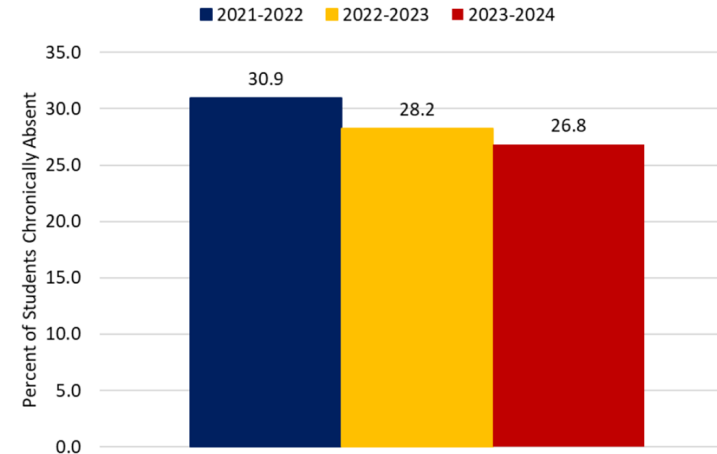
How it's calculated:

* 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

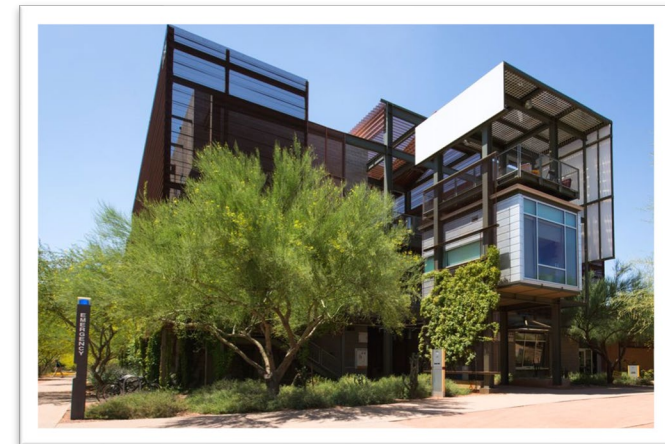
Mesa Public Schools
Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning:
Dr. Tracy Yslas

Director of CTE & Innovative
Partnerships:
Marlo Loria

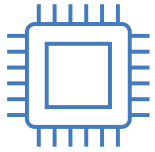
Legacy Industries

ESTABLISHED COMPANIES & SECTORS

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



FY25 Industry Focus



Semiconductor
(Supply Chain)



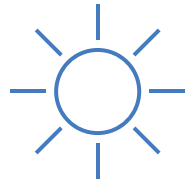
Manufacturing
(Advanced / Standard)



Electric Vehicles,
Battery Tech



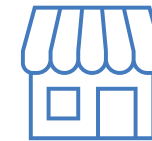
Advanced Air
Mobility



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

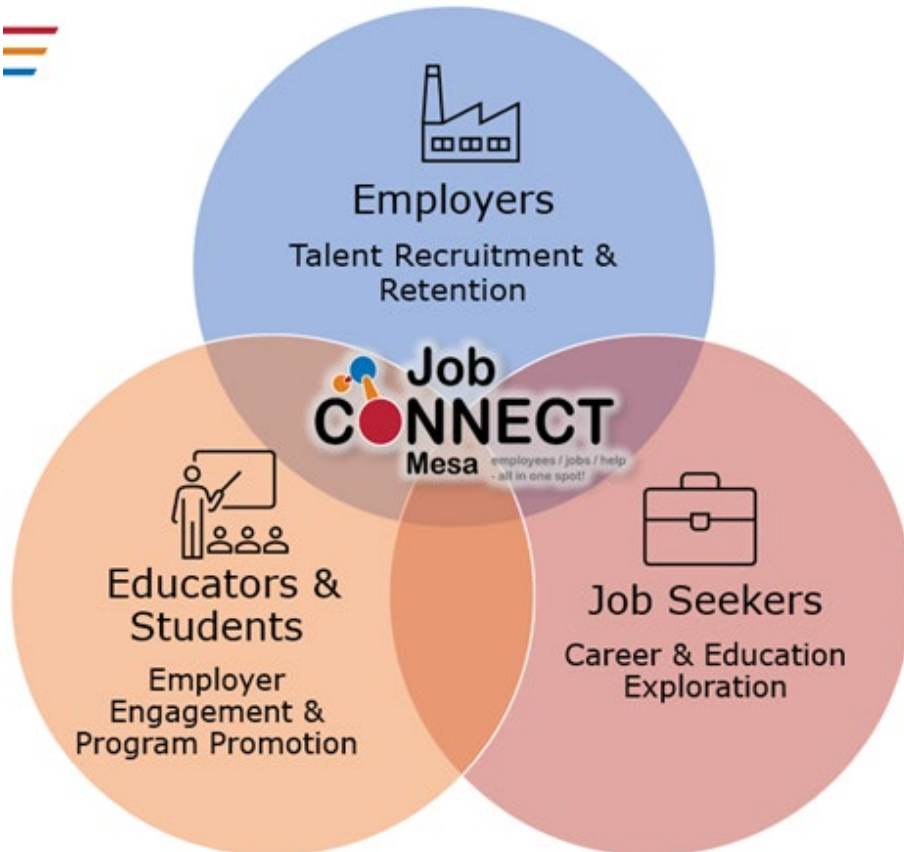
Services to Business -
Office of Economic Development

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



Job Connect Mesa

CITY OF MESA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

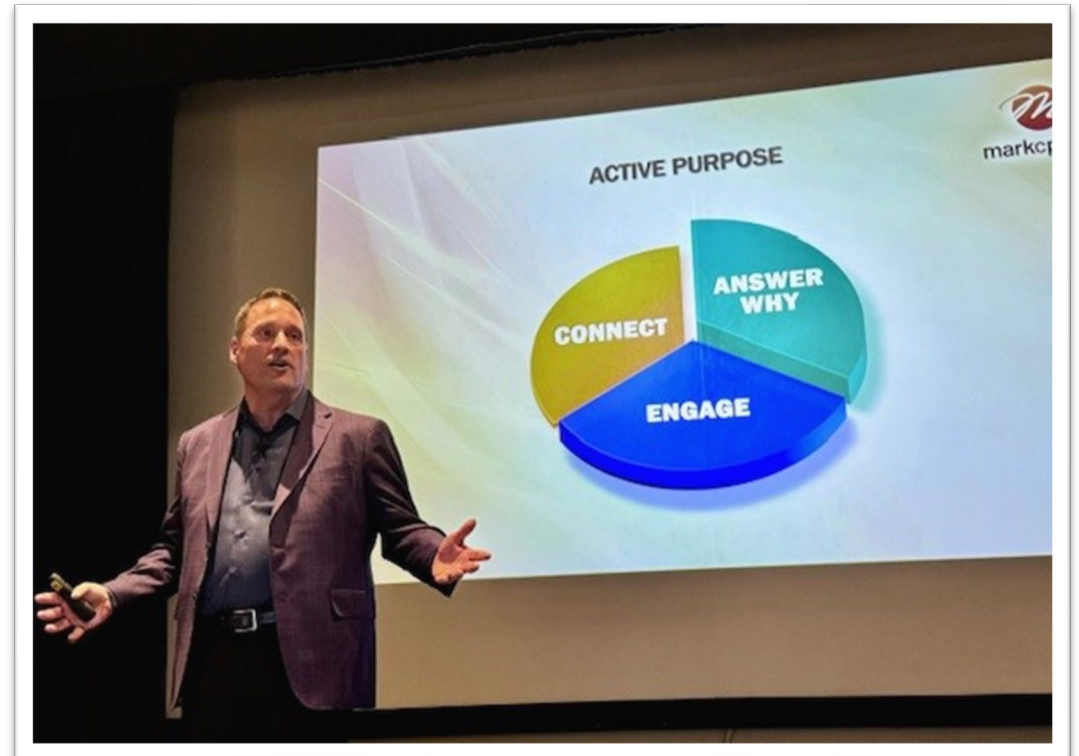


- Bring employers and job seekers together.
- Provide training, guidance, and help tools.
- Very easy to use, all in one spot.
- No other jobsite connects jobseekers to local resources and employers or allows employers to connect with workforce suppliers and jobseekers.

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

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

Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing	Emphasizes innovation, collaboration, and design thinking . Learning linked to multiple sectors, including aerospace, engineering, and advanced production technologies, while also fostering essential employability and leadership competencies.
Healthcare	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 critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership in the dynamic and ever-evolving healthcare industry.
Business & Entrepreneurship	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 creativity, problem-solving, and strategic thinking .
Multimedia	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 innovation, storytelling, and visual communication expertise.
Public Service	Exposes students to impactful careers in public safety, human services, and civic engagement, fostering a sense of duty, problem-solving abilities, and a commitment 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

