

# **KEY POINTS FROM FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL ON “FUNDING PREK-12 EDUCATION”**

## **GOALS OF ARIZONA’S PREK-12 EDUCATION SYSTEM**

- Prepare students for careers and their futures as individuals in the community.
- Aspire to send more students on for post-secondary education.
- Build critical life skills and teach common knowledge.
- Encourage students to become lifelong learners with a passion for education.
- Foster good values and develop community engagement.
- Incorporate a flexible and relevant curriculum to empower students to explore diverse opportunities.

## **IMPACT OF FUNDING LEVELS AND METHODS**

- Constrains ability to recruit and retain high quality teachers.
- Limits resources available for implementation of technology.
- Restricts budgets for purchasing supplies and maintaining facilities.
- Reduces dollars available for extracurricular activities.
- Increases class size and reduces individualized instruction when funding is low.
- Directly influences the variety, availability and quality of educational opportunities.

## **WAYS TO IMPROVE FUNDING**

- Reallocate funds in the state budget from other areas such as prisons.
- Generate more funding through donations such as the tax credit program.
- Ensure more transparency and accountability in how funds are spent.
- Support bond issues and budget overrides.
- Renew Proposition 301.
- Involve more businesses in supporting specific programs or adopting schools.

## **MESSAGES FOR ARIZONA’S ELECTED LEADERS**

- Raise teacher pay and invest in their development.
- Increase overall funding to improve Arizona’s educational ranking nationally.
- Become directly involved in schools in your area and embrace education as a top priority.
- Focus on preparing students for career and life success and reduce emphasis on test scores.
- Consider long-term effects of education funding on our state’s future.
- Fund all aspects of education including extracurricular activities and life skills programs.

## **INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION**

- Use my voice and my vote to influence education funding.
- Engage political leaders in understanding the importance of making education funding a priority.
- Expand other students’ knowledge on school funding including holding a resource fair.
- Continue to push for higher salaries for teachers.
- Talk to my parents about education funding and the Town Hall experience.
- Post about these issues on social media.

*"I will attempt to convey our ideas to our school boards so they can help bring together our community and entice them to look into reform and change within the district."*

– Prescott Future Leaders Town Hall

## **FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL LOCATIONS**

Mesa Community College • University of Arizona • City of Phoenix

Payson High School • South Mountain Community College

Arizona Western College - San Luis Learning Center, Somerton Center & Yuma Campus

Coconino Community College – Lone Tree Campus • Cochise College – Sierra Vista Campus

Pima Community College – Community Campus

Yavapai College – Clarkdale Campus & Prescott Campus

*"I will register to vote and make my voice heard!"*

– City of Phoenix Future Leaders Town Hall



*"I will advocate for the importance and best use of educational funding."*

– Payson Future Leaders Town Hall