

# FUNDING PREK-12 EDUCATION

## Key Facts

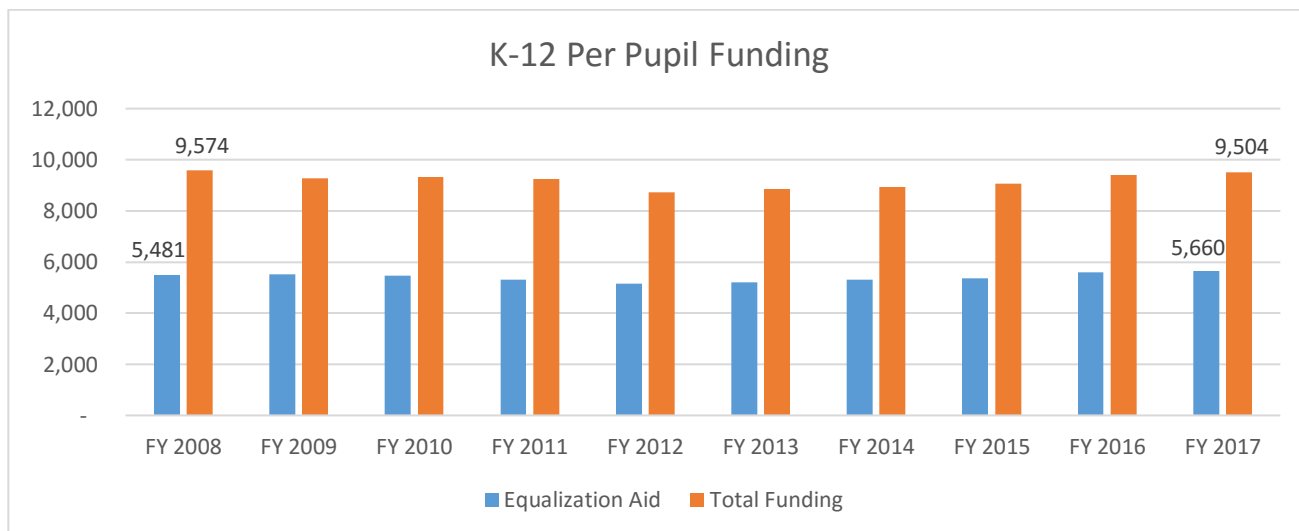
### KEY GOALS & METRICS IN FOR EDUCATION IN ARIZONA

The Center for the Future of Arizona and Expect More Arizona recently launched the “Arizona Education Progress Meter” which has eight primary metrics. The selected metrics and Arizona’s current status are as follows:

- **Post-Secondary Attainment** – In Arizona only 42% of students go on to a 2 or 4-year post-secondary career. Aspire to 60%.
- **College going** – In Arizona 54% of students are college bound compared to 65.9% nationally.
- **Opportunity Youth** – More than 15% of 16-24 year olds are neither in school nor employed which is one of the highest percentages in the US. This translates to 18,100 dropouts per year adding to a total population of about 200,000 with an economic lifetime cost to taxpayers of \$7.6 Billion.
- **High School Graduation** – Arizona’s rate is 79%. The national average is 82%.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Proficiency** – Only 26% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students demonstrate proficient or highly proficient math test scores (one of the key metrics towards future career success and earnings).
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading** – Only 41% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students scored proficient or highly proficient (one of the key metrics that contributes to a student earning a high school diploma).
- **Pre-School Enrollment** – 38% of 3 to 4 year olds were enrolled in an Arizona pre-school program (note: 90% of a child’s brain develops before kindergarten).
- **Teacher Pay** – Arizona teachers make, on average, 75% of the national average in teacher pay, a shortfall in excess of \$14,000 per year. Several recent reports rank Arizona at the bottom of the states for teacher pay.

### How Much Does the K-12 System Receive

In FY 2017, Arizona will provide approximately \$5,660 per student. Per pupil funding reductions between FY 2009 and FY 2012 were due to adjustments made during the recession. When all sources of funding are considered including federal and local funds, the average per pupil amount jumps to \$9,504.



Source: JLBC, *K-12 Funding Since 2008 (Non-Capital Funding Only)*

Arizona spends less than \$35 per thousand of personal income on education, one of only four states in the US with this distinction (Arizona, Idaho, Utah and Oklahoma) in the bottom four in overall state commitment to education spending.

- School districts around the state are unable to hire and retain certified teachers. The teacher shortage has been exacerbated by the inability to provide cost of living raises and competitive salaries.

It is projected that 26,122 or 24 percent of Arizona teachers will be eligible to retire by June 30, 2018.

Student teacher ratios: To bring the state to the national average of 16 to 1 would require an additional 21,000 teachers. To return the state to the pre-recession 20 to 1 levels would require 7,460 new teachers.

