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