

In reviewing the draft ESSA plan from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), we came across one item that we felt we could contribute meaningfully to expanding. § 299.17, Accountability, support, and improvement for schools, subsection (a) asks that each SEA “describe its long-term goals, including how it established its ambitious long-term goals and measurements of interim progress”. To this end Expect More Arizona and the Center for the Future of Arizona, in coordination with 40 initial endorsers, developed the Arizona Education Progress Meter, which ADE supports as a partner. The Progress Meter provides a simple, visual way to assess the status of education, both for the state as a whole and for individual counties and schools, where the data is available. Please see the list of indicators below.

We are currently working with experts who have convened committees to set goals for each indicator. There are more than 100 people working with us in this endeavor across the state, including a number of ADE representatives. We anticipate that before the end of the year, we will have goals set in each of the areas below.

We hope that you will consider including these goals, or at a minimum aligning them, with the goals in the ESSA plan. We recognize that you will have other goals in addition to these, including those for sub-groups, but hope that these will provide a foundation on which to build, especially given the significant support from stakeholders across the state.

The eight indicators are:

- Postsecondary Attainment: Percent of Arizona residents who have completed a 2-or 4-year degree or received a non-degree credential.
- College Going: Percent of Arizona high school graduates attending a post-secondary institution.
- Opportunity Youth: Percent of youth 16-24 in school or working.
- High School Graduation: Percent of Arizona high school students graduating in 4 years.
- 8th Grade Math: Percent of Arizona 8th grade students proficient or highly proficient on AzMERIT math.
- 3rd Grade Reading: Percent of Arizona 3rd grade students proficient or highly proficient in reading on AzMERIT English language arts.
- Preschool Enrollment: Percent of Arizona 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool, including public, private and homeschool settings.
- Teacher Pay: Median Arizona elementary teacher salary as compared to the national median teacher salary.

Including these metrics will help send a clear message of what ADE prioritizes in the long-term as well as what it seeks from its statewide accountability system, and will help to fulfill in part the requirements of section 1111(c)(4)(A).