ECAP At A Glance
Education and Career Action Plan

WHAT

ECAP is an ongoing process that empowers students to create a meaningful and individualized plan toward postsecondary success. With support and guidance from their families, school personnel and other advisors, students undergo a process of:

- **ECAP personalizes the education experience** by helping students align coursework and extracurricular activities to a career pathway that reflects their individual interests, skills, and values.

- **ECAP develops the awareness, knowledge, and skills** necessary for students to make informed decisions for maximized lifetime employability in living-wage careers.

- **ECAP is a tool** that connects students to the multiple resources and initiatives in Arizona that provide support and guidance for career and college readiness.

WHY ECAP?

Many Arizona students are not prepared for college and career

- Compared to the rising national average of 83%, Arizona only graduates 78% of our students on time

- Nearly 60% of students that attend Arizona community colleges require remediation courses

- Only 47% of high school graduates qualify to enroll in our public universities

- By the year 2020, 68% of all jobs in Arizona will require postsecondary education or training

Results of a Quality ECAP Process

- Increases student motivation and goal setting
- Improves school attendance and grades
- Helps students see connections between coursework and future success
- Guides students toward rigorous coursework
- Increases communication between schools and families
- Creates a future qualified workforce
HOW

The ECAP process results in a student portfolio.
Students outline their secondary and postsecondary plans aligned to their career aspirations. The portfolio documents completed activities and the skills and knowledge developed throughout their ECAP process.

An ECAP process portfolio has four attributes which should be documented, reviewed and updated, at minimum, annually:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Career</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Plan coursework to meet High School</td>
<td>• Explore career opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>requirements</td>
<td>• Define a career goal aligned to personal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Document postsecondary education goals</td>
<td>interests, skills, and values</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Record academic achievements/awards</td>
<td>• Explore needed educational</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>requirements to achieve the career goal</td>
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<tr>
<th>Postsecondary</th>
<th>Extracurricular</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Explore admissions requirements</td>
<td>• Clubs, leadership opportunities, CTSO,</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Complete necessary applications</td>
<td>athletics, community service, work</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Create a financial assistance plan</td>
<td>experience, internships, job shadowing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Enhance college applications and resumes</td>
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<td>• Explore interests and skills</td>
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The ECAP process takes collaboration.
Students complete the ECAP process with the guidance of their families, supportive adults at their school, and members of the larger community.

An ECAP does not replace an IEP or a CTE-POS.
ECAP complements other individual plans such as an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in Special Education or a Programs of Study (POS) in Career Technical Education. The ECAP process is a whole-school effort that includes all students and all school staff.

CONTACT
Kay Schreiber
ADE College and Career Ready Contact
602-542-5353
Kay.Schreiber@azed.gov

LEARN MORE
ECAP Website
http://www.azed.gov/ecap
Arizona Career Information System
http://azcis.intocareers.org

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