

Thriving Together: Powering Student Success Through Partnership



CradletoCareer
Anchored at United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona



Kristin Reidy
Assistant Superintendent
Marana Unified School District



Amber Schlak
Program Director
Cradle to Career Partnership



Melissa Hernandez, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President
Cradle to Career Partnership



Why This Topic Matters

- No single system can solve complex challenges alone.
- Our students move across systems everyday - education, workforce, health, community services.
- When systems operate in silos, opportunities are missed and inequities widen.
- When we align, we accelerate outcomes.



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Session Objectives

1. Understand the Cradle to Career Partnership Framework
2. Gain an Overview of Empowered Teaching
3. Learn About the School Systems Solution Team Model



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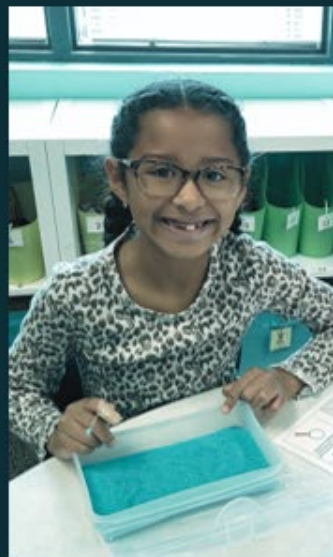
- A collective impact initiative anchored at United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, uniting partners across education, workforce, nonprofit, and government sectors to support youth from Cradle to Career (ages 0–24).
- Grounded in the StriveTogether national framework, the initiative leverages data to identify barriers and drive aligned, cross-sector solutions for lasting impact.

ABOUT US



VISION

Engaged Community
Thriving Economy
Successful Children



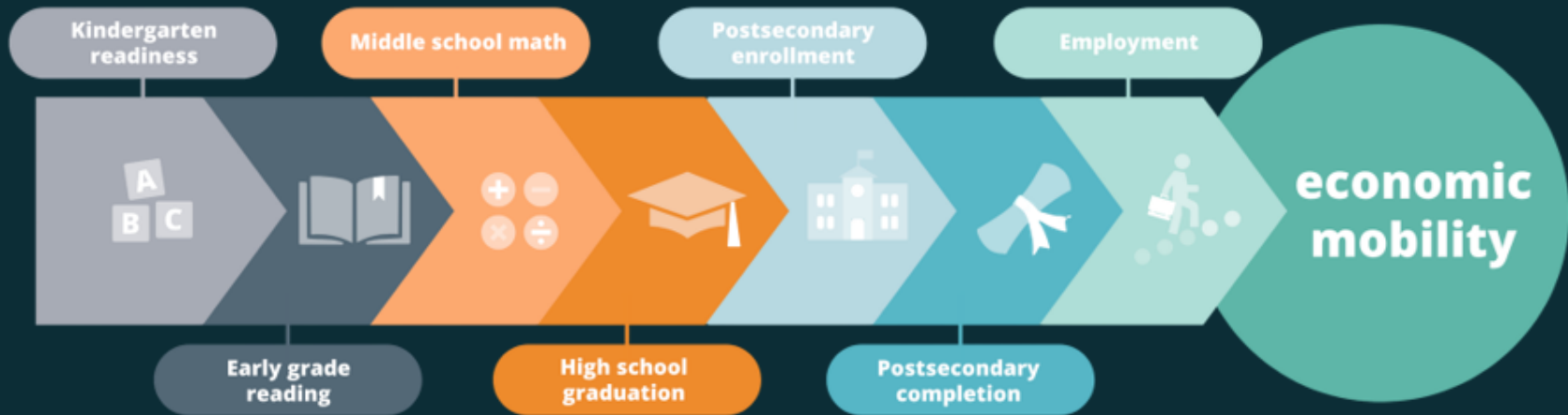
MISSION

We collectively create our community's economic vitality for every family by preparing each child for success in school and life.

OUR FRAMEWORK



We track **seven core indicators** spanning early childhood to living wage employment, each highlighting system-level challenges and opportunities—all with the goal of ensuring every youth in Pima County has a clear path to economic mobility.



OUR ROLE AS A



Improved student outcomes
Equity-focused solutions
Sustainable Systems Change

WHAT WE DO

BACKBONE

- Coordinate **cross-sector partners** around shared goals
- **Facilitate data sharing, analysis, and continuous improvement**
- Guide strategy across education, workforce, health, and housing systems
- Provide tools, training, and structure to **support effective collaboration**
- **Center equity** in all decision-making
- Amplify, connect, and align direct service providers
- Ensure the work is **sustained, measurable, and grounded in what works for youth**



HOW WE DO IT

- **Data as a Flashlight**

- Data Infrastructure and Dashboard
- D.A.T.A. Community of Practice
- Know Your Number

- **Leadership Table**

- Table of systems leaders who direct Cradle to Career work and priority areas

- **Collaborative Action Networks**

- ReadOn Pima
- Empowering Stem Innovators
- Thriving Futures

- **Alignment**

- Education Forward Progress Meter, Read on Arizona, Achieve60AZ, StriveTogether's Theory of Action, and Prosperity Initiative strategic frameworks.



DATA AS A FLASHLIGHT



- Turn data into action by identifying gaps and prioritizing needs
- Convene Collaborative Action Networks (CANs) around specific indicators
- Align funding, policy, and program strategies
- Measure progress and adapt in real time
- Embed equity and trauma-informed practices throughout the work





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Our Commitment to Achieving Equitable Results

- Ensure bright futures for **all children** in Pima County
- Align actions in ways that make a **measurable contribution** to the better results for all students in Pima County
- Accelerate equitable results for all students, **especially those furthest from the desired result.**



The Healthy Economic Life Cycle



The Poverty Life Cycle



The Poverty Life Cycle

**C2C Aims to
Break Down
These
Barriers**



Low Birth Weight



Impoverished
Communities

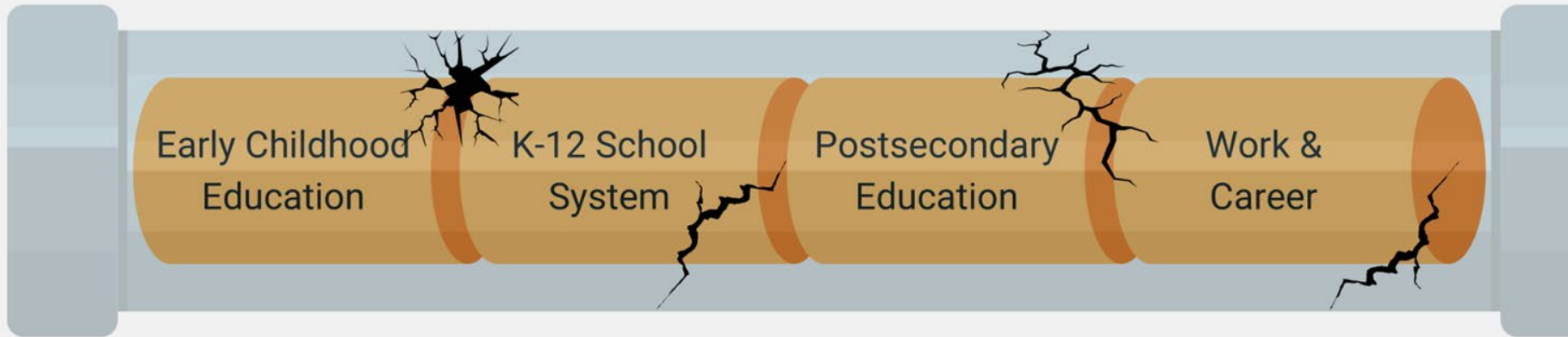


Higher Unemployment
Lower Income
Less Home Ownership



School Dropout

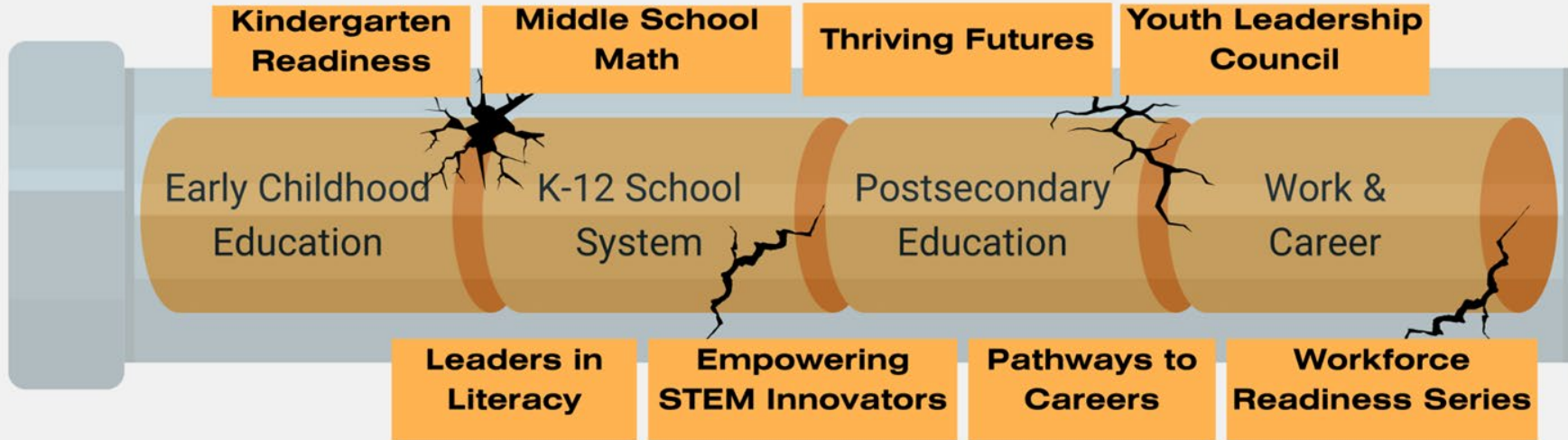
How Do We Prevent Failure?





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We Strengthen the Pipeline By Creating Safeguards to Prevent Failure



Creating Pathways for Success

3rd Grade Reading



61% of 3rd grade students in Pima County are not testing proficient in reading

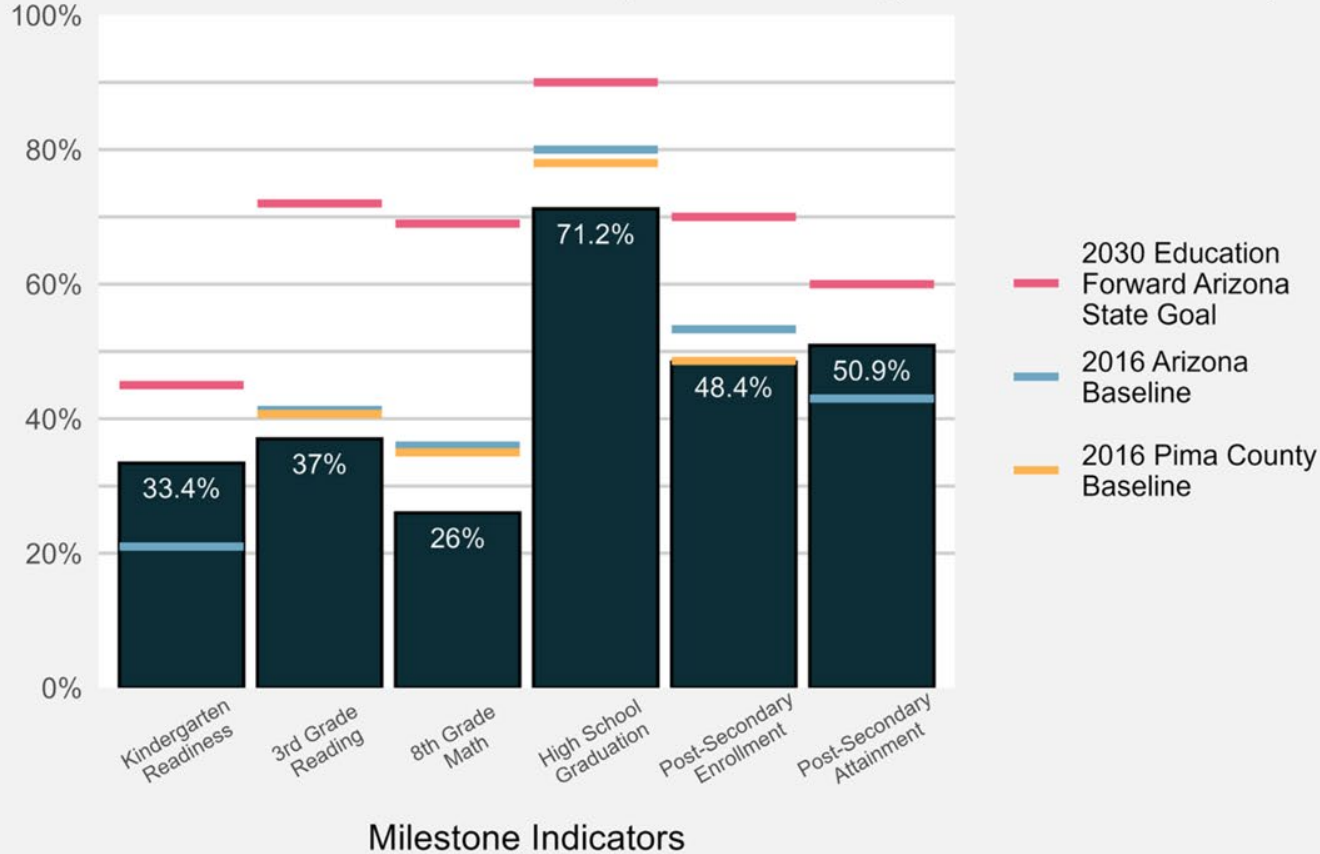
Source: Arizona Department of Education

Children who can't read in 3rd grade are 4x's more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers

Source: Annie E Casey Foundation

GROUNDING AROUND DATA

Cradle to Career Partnership Current Progress in Pima County



LEADERS IN LITERACY

Strengthens K–12 literacy and math instruction through a train-the-trainer model that builds educator capacity. C2C trains site coaches to help teachers use real-time data, rapid learning cycles, and student goal setting to make learning visible to improve student engagement and achievement.



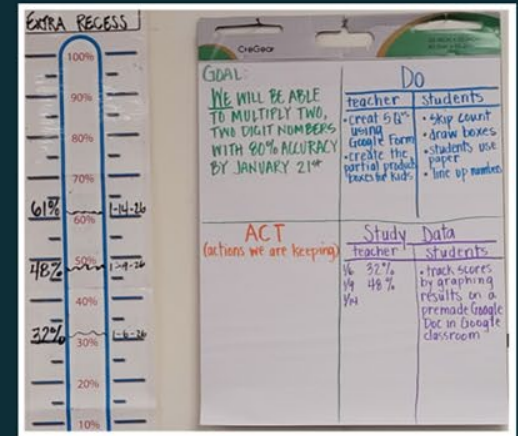
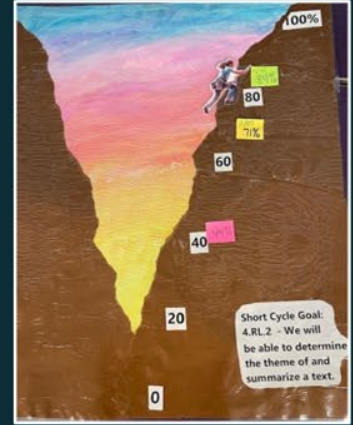
EMPOWERED TEACHING

So far this school year, 102 educators across 9 Marana K–8 schools are actively participating in Empowered Teaching, impacting more than 850 students.

What District & School Leaders Are Seeing

Shared Learning from the Field:

- **High value, worth the time:** leaders want to spread it
- **Powerful for teams:** clear structure for collaborative time
- **Strong student ownership:** goals, progress, celebration
- **Culture shift:** from deficit-focused to growth-focused
- **High student engagement:** momentum spreads across classrooms
- **Stronger use of data:** practical and actionable
- **Aligned, not additive:** supports HRS Level 2 and not a heavy lift



What Makes It Work and What We're Learning

Implementation Insights

- **District involvement matters:** show up, protect time, sustain momentum
- **Shared leadership is key:** admin + coach commitment drives results
- **Framework, not a program:** strengthens existing district work
- **Pacing matters:** permission to go slower improves uptake
- **Frontloading helps:** early clarity and peer examples build readiness
- **Next refinements:**
 - **Aligned to school improvement goals**
 - **Summer training option** to reduce in-year lift
 - **Clear communication** for non-participating staff





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**SCHOOL SYSTEMS
SOLUTION TEAM:
3RD GRADE LITERACY
IN PIMA COUNTY**

SCHOOL SYSTEMS SOLUTION TEAM

Kristin Reidy

- *Overarching Strengths*
- *Barriers and Challenges*
- *Suggested opportunities for Cradle to Career Partnership Engagement and Support*



SCHOOL SYSTEMS SOLUTION TEAM

Themes – Challenges

- Universal Preschool for ALL
- Regional Support for PD and Teacher Preparation Programming
- Literacy Initiative Alignment
- Real Solutions for Chronic Absenteeism



SCHOOL SYSTEMS SOLUTION TEAM

Leadership Table Supports and Updates

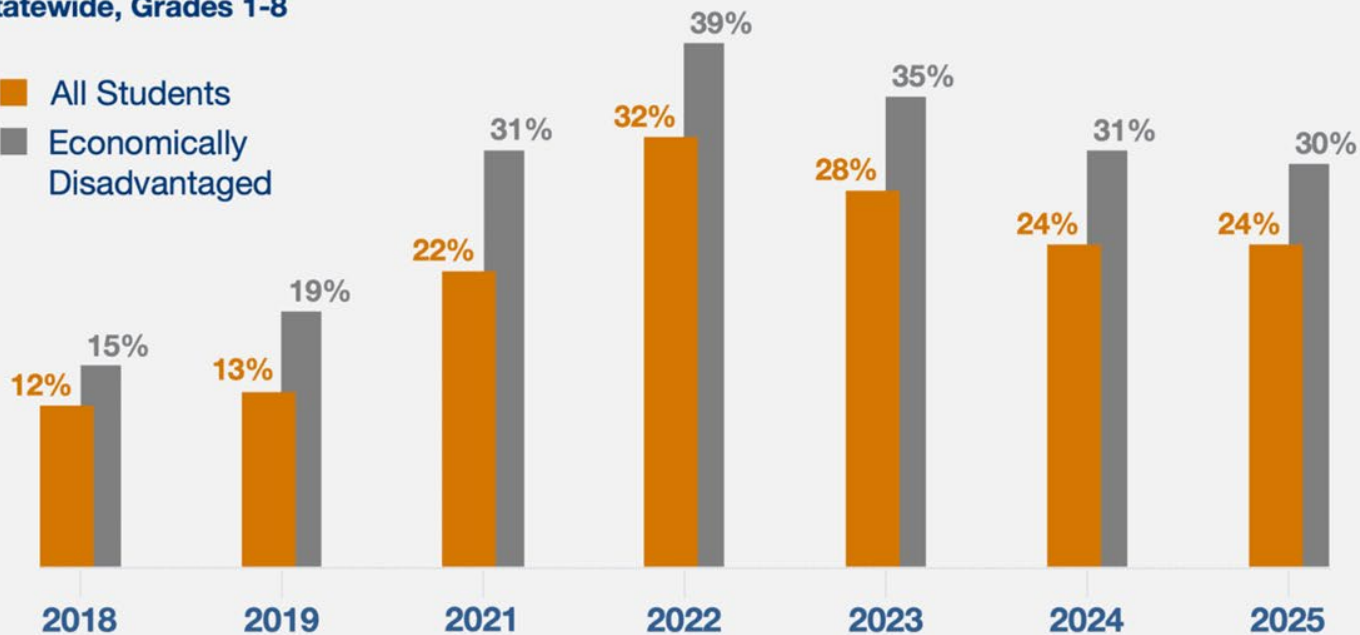
- How could our cross-sector partnership contribute to the focus area?
- What barriers might we encounter?
- What data might be helpful to guide our strategies?



ARIZONA CHRONIC ABSENCE RATE

Statewide, Grades 1-8

- All Students
- Economically Disadvantaged



Chronic absence rate is the percentage of students missing 10% or more of a school year for any reason.
Source: AZ School Report Cards/Arizona Department of Education

The Opportunity

By intentionally connecting our efforts, we move from isolated impact to collective impact - ensuring every student in Marana (and beyond) has a seamless pathway from classroom to career.

Let's Connect!



Kristin Reidy
Assistant Superintendent
Marana Unified School District

K.L.Reidy@maranausd.org



Amber Schlak
Program Director
Cradle to Career Partnership

ASchlak@unitedwaytucson.org



Melissa Hernandez, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President
Cradle to Career Partnership

mhernandez@unitedwaytucson.org



**WE USE EDUCATION DATA AS A TOOL, BUT
OUR MISSION IS BROADER:
REMOVING BARRIERS TO YOUTH SUCCESS
THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION.**



THANK YOU!