



About Education in Maricopa, AZ



MEDA
Maricopa Economic
Development Alliance

July 2019

About Education in Maricopa, Arizona

Maricopa, Arizona is in an era of unprecedented opportunity. A young city, Maricopa commemorated its fifteenth anniversary in 2018 and the city is proud of its enviable quality of life, energetic business community, actively engaged citizenry and rewarding civic life.

Companies seeking a community where business, government, education and citizens value each other and where exceptional prospects for growth abound will find Maricopa, Arizona is such a place. It's the Maricopa Advantage.

Among Maricopa's many advantages is one that distinguishes the community from most American cities: its talented and well-educated local workforce.

Having such a highly educated population means that Maricopans want the same for their children. The City of Maricopa is proud to be home to Maricopa Unified School District, which serves more than 7,200 students in Preschool through 12th grade, offering programming and extracurricular opportunities that encourage students to explore and discover their passions.

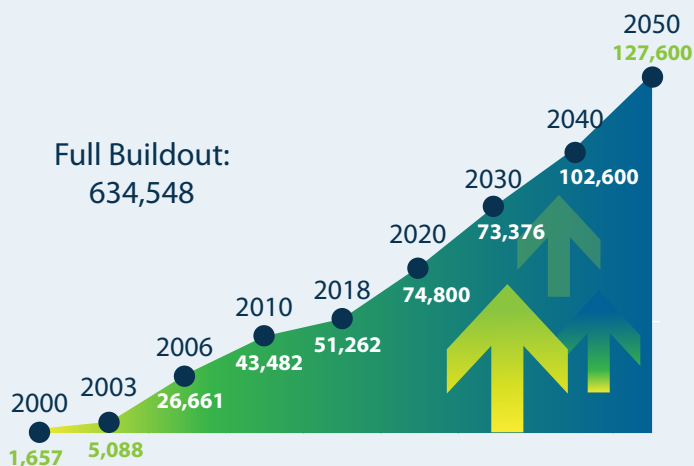
Of equal importance to Maricopa is the Central Arizona College's Maricopa Campus, a modern community college campus offering certificate programs and associate degree programs specifically at the Maricopa Campus.

In addition, Maricopa is home to two leading research institutions: the University of Arizona College of Agricultural & Life Sciences Maricopa Agricultural Center (MAC) and the USDA Arid Land Agricultural Research Center (ALARC). Both of these institutions are conducting cutting-edge research in the agricultural sciences, water conservation and management, and food safety and production, and also offer educational programs for youth.

Providing residents with access to quality education at all levels is one of Maricopa's primary objectives. We want every Maricopa resident, no matter what age, to be a lifelong learner.

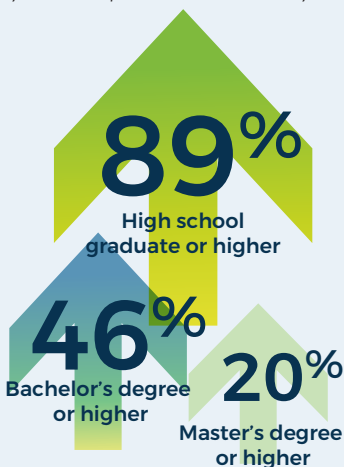
Maricopa Population Projections 2020 and Beyond

Sources: 2018 ESRI Community Profile, 2016 MAG Socioeconomic Projections



Educational Attainment (Head of Household)

Source: 2013 City of Maricopa Labor Market Study, Elliott D Pollack & Co.



POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN MARICOPA

Central Arizona College (CAC) opened its doors in 1969 to bring higher education to the diverse communities of Pinal County. From students of Hispanic and Native American descent to participants in the lifelong learners' program, CAC supports student success and academic achievement by providing a high-quality education that integrates continuous improvement strategies in teaching and learning.



CAC empowers its students and staff to succeed by providing a TRUE Learning community. The college offers a full array of academic degrees and certificates. Community members are provided multiple learning opportunities through career training, personal enrichment classes, online and university transfer courses, continuing education, and lifelong learning classes. Numerous transfer agreements with select four-year institutions including the University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University, allow students the opportunity to advance their education while remaining in Maricopa.

In 2006, CAC established a small education center in the city of Maricopa. Since then, Maricopa has become a burgeoning community and a highly desirable suburban location for professional couples, young families as well as adults who are highly educated. Committed to continued development in Maricopa, CAC closed the small center and built a brand-new campus to accommodate the local community.

The CAC Maricopa Campus opened in January 2013. It features a full-service campus, a student center, library, state-of-the-art classrooms and labs, and administrative offices.

CAC Maricopa offers 10 certificate programs and 11 associate degree programs designed to transfer into four-year degrees at the state's three universities, Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, 807 students were enrolled at the Maricopa Campus. The number of students continues to increase at this campus.

Central Arizona College Promise for the Future

Promise for the Future is an educational initiative made possible through a partnership between Central Arizona College, the Central Arizona College Foundation, and Pinal County middle and high schools. ***Promise for the Future*** was designed to encourage students who reside in Pinal County to remain in high school and graduate from a Pinal County high school or charter school. Upon graduation, students who successfully meet the ***Promise for the Future*** requirements are eligible to earn a tuition-free education at Central Arizona College. ***Promise for the Future*** requirements inspire students to reach their full potential by challenging them to graduate with a minimum of a 2.75 grade point average and participate in 20 hours of community service prior to graduation.

The ***Promise for the Future*** Educational Initiative provides funding for any tuition need that has not been met. ***Promise for the Future*** tuition funds are applied after all other financial aid has been applied to the individual student account (excluding student loans).

Pursuing 4 Year and Advanced Degrees in Maricopa

In Arizona, all community college students are able to access four-year and higher degrees through Northern Arizona University. The same holds true at the CAC Maricopa Campus. Additionally, Arizona State University and the Thunderbird School of International Management offer baccalaureate, masters, professional and Ph.D. degrees nearby at their Downtown Phoenix and Tempe campuses, less than 40 minutes from Maricopa. Also in the Greater Phoenix region are more than 25 institutions of higher education, offering traditional and online degrees from associate's to Ph.D. and post-doctoral degrees.

HIGHER ED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

University of Arizona

The **University of Arizona Maricopa Agricultural Center (MAC)** is a 2,100-acre research farm within the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences for the University of Arizona. MAC's mission is to develop and deliver the best-integrated agricultural technologies for the challenges facing Arizona consumers and agricultural producers. MAC also supports extension outreach programs, such as Ag-Ventures, various university classes, Ag-Literacy for all age groups, Maricopa 4-H, and Pinal County Masters Gardeners.

Research focuses on cotton, small grains, alfalfa, and new specialty crops that could be used to provide fibers, oils and pharmaceuticals. For instance, the cotton integrated pest management and cross-commodity efforts (vegetables, cotton and melons) in insect management have saved cotton growers in Arizona alone more than \$5 million over the last 22 years. In addition, MAC researchers have facilitated or are facilitating improvements to insect management (IPM) systems in Australian, Mexican, and Brazilian cotton.

The **USDA Arid Land Agricultural Research Center (ALARC)** is a 20-acre facility whose mission is to develop sustainable agricultural systems, protect natural resources, and support rural communities in arid and semi-arid regions through interdisciplinary research. Research topics include crop and soil management, integrated pest management, insect and plant molecular biology, irrigation technology, remote and proximal sensing for crop production and improvement, water reuse, crop breeding and physiology, and resilience to global climate change.

Recent research focus includes using proximal sensing based high-throughput phenotyping to accelerate the development of crops with improved tolerance to heat stress and drought, developing new industrial crops such as guayule, development and testing of new irrigation technologies for improved water use efficiency, reuse of reclaimed water for agriculture, gene discovery to identify new targets for pest control application and the development of integrated pest management systems for major pests of cotton and other arid-land crops.

Much of the research at these two state-of-the-art facilities is conducted collaboratively between ALARC and MAC and with many other federal, state and industry scientists, and with agricultural producers.

ALARC employs 60 to 100 research and support staff, depending on the season, with all 21 scientists having doctorate degrees. ALARC leases 20 acres from the University of Arizona MAC and researchers at the two centers frequently partner on projects. Both centers maintain partnerships with the private sector, which has led to the commercialization of innovative agricultural products and the launch a number of start-up companies.

Project Puente is an internship program offered to high school students and Central Arizona College students providing them with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in such fields of study as agricultural and natural resources and food safety and security. Internships are offered at both ALARC and the MAC. The goal of this program is to inspire students in rural communities to pursue bioscience careers through science emersion activities.



© InMaricopa/Jim Headley

MARICOPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: PRE-K-12TH GRADE

The MUSD Promise

Maricopa Unified School District (MUSD) serves more than 7,200 students and families in preschool through 12th grade and continues to grow each year. The District prides itself on being partners in a community destined for greatness. MUSD students are nationally recognized, the Governing Board is championing the crusade to provide access and equity in education for every student with two “A” school. MUSD recently led the state in new National Board Certified Teachers. Without exception, the classrooms are filled with educators who care deeply about the well-being and development of every child and who work skillfully to prepare them for their futures.

MUSD Strategic Plan

Successful schools do not do it alone. In the fall of 2018, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community leaders gathered to articulate a vision that would chart the course for Maricopa Unified School District through 2025. Ongoing commitments to student achievement, collaborative culture, accountability, and community pride serve as guideposts to becoming a premier district that meets and exceeds the individual needs of students and broad expectations of our community. Four goals have emerged from that planning process:

Goal 1: Every student graduates prepared to create, innovate, lead and succeed.

Strategies Include:

- Create safe and orderly environments where every student can learn and every teacher can teach.
- Engage all students in a full continuum of services to elevate academic achievement and close achievement gaps among sub-groups of learners.
- Provide multiple paths to graduation to meet the diverse needs of all students.
- Provide alternative settings for students to maintain enrollment in MUSD.
- Engage pre-schoolers in dynamic research-based programs for early learners.

- Implement a multi-tiered system of support to provide intervention and acceleration based on students' individual strengths and needs.
- Engage all students in extracurricular activities.
- Involve parents in meaningful avenues for partnership and support.

Goal 2: Every student has access to and equity in excellent educational services, resources and programs.

Strategies Include:

- Implement Arizona College and Career Readiness Math Standards using research-based curriculum.
- Implement Arizona College and Career Readiness Reading and ELA Standards through research-based curriculum.
- Implement project-based learning opportunities for all students.
- Implement accelerated learning opportunities at all levels.
- Develop certified, classified, and administrative staff toward the achievement of the MUSD Professional Profile.
- Implement the technology strategic plan.
- Implement data-driven instruction, decision-making, and continuous improvement.
- Provide specialized programming for identified populations.
- Implement programs to serve the social and emotional needs of all students.

Goal 3: Organizational culture that prioritizes people over programs and invests in the support of students and staff.

Strategies Include:

- Employ recruiting strategies for maximum return on investment.
- On-board new staff and mentor all employees through user-friendly systems and strategies.
- Include staff in transparent communication and decision-making processes.
- Provide competitive compensation and benefits packages.
- Engage staff in fun and motivational wellness initiatives.
- Prioritize personal interaction by leveraging digital and electronic systems to capacity.
- Expand and maintain open avenues of two-way communication.

- Engage staff in implementation and evaluation of strategic plan.
- Transport students in a friendly, safe, and efficient manner.
- Meet students' nutritional needs with delicious meals in a clean, friendly environment.

Goal 4: Community pride through excellent customer service, sound business practices, open and effective communication, and safe and attractive facilities.

- Strategies Include:
- Demonstrate accuracy and efficiency in all fiscal management and accounting systems and processes.
- Prioritize and leverage district resources to support the MUSD Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan.
- Demonstrate transparency and collaboration regarding financial resources and decision-making.
- Impact and influence public policy resulting in increases in funding for MUSD and public education through collaboration with the Arizona legislature and lobbying groups.
- Exemplify MUSD CARES Customer Service Standards in all interactions.
- Grow relationships and expand resources through purposeful marketing and advertising plans.
- Create, share, and influence the MUSD story through a purposeful presence on social media.
- Develop mutually beneficial partnerships.
- Maintain safe and attractive facilities for all students, staff, and community members.

Dynamic Programming at MUSD

Maricopa Unified School District is proud of the strides the district is making. The Arizona Department of Education has awarded two MUSD schools, Butterfield Elementary and Pima Butte Elementary, the prestigious "A" rating, and the district's other schools are well on their way to achieving similar designations.

Pima Butte Elementary school was recently awarded the A+ School of Excellence distinction by Arizona Educational Foundation. The team at Pima Butte worked hard in a rigorous application and evaluation process with the Arizona Educational Foundation. The school was evaluated on student focus and

support, active teaching and learning, climate, parent involvement, community building, and leadership. Earning an A+ distinction spotlights the many positive successes happening at Pima Butte every day.

Additionally, MUSD led the state in new National Board Certified Teachers. Often referred to as the "gold standard" of achievement, National Board Certification asks educators to demonstrate standards-based evidence of the dynamic instruction that takes place in their classrooms. Each teacher spends time evaluating their own instructional strategies and works purposely to adjust his/her practices to better meet the needs of students.

MUSD schools offer opportunities for every child. Much of a person's success begins with the learning that takes place from birth to five-years-old. In July 2019, MUSD expanded Preschool opportunities on two new campuses. Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Elementary schools are already making room for the community's youngest learners. Each classroom will be led by a certified teacher who specializes in Early Childhood learning.

MUSD Elementary Schools offer leadership development, character education, and STEAM activities; and the district remains proud of its Middle Schools' Blended Learning environments that meld traditional instruction and self-paced project-based learning. The program is infused with rigor and relevance where students put their problem solving, forward thinking, and creative skills to the test by collaborating in projects to solve real-world issues.

"Every Student Graduates" is an important goal that emerged through the district's strategic vision. By creating multiple paths to graduation, MUSD is better able to meet the diverse needs and interests of its diversified student population. The district is thrilled to share that Maricopa High School is one of only two schools in Pinal County to launch an AP Capstone Diploma program in the Fall of 2019. The innovative program allows students to develop the skills that matter most for college success, such as research, collaboration, and communication. Additional paths to graduation include College Prep through Central Arizona College, an Online High School Expansion,



and a multitude of Career and Technical Education opportunities.

As the district grows, it is clear that MUSD captures the connected values of a small town with the dynamic academic, social, and extracurricular experiences of a destination city.

A Partner in the Community

Maricopa Unified School District understands the importance of being a partner in the community. In 2018, MUSD launched the Partners Program that invites business, faith-based and community leaders to collaborate and create meaningful partnerships with other leaders in the community. Current partners include the City of Maricopa, Chasse Building Team, InMaricopa, UltraStar Multi-tainment Center, Church of Celebration, and Maricopa Police and Fire departments, just to name a few.

CHARTER AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS (K-12)

A growing community like Maricopa offers parents a variety of choices for K-12 education. In addition to MUSD, Maricopa also has six charter schools that offer varying levels of academic rigor.

Heritage Academy is one of Arizona's oldest charter schools. Heritage offers a classical education for the leaders who will shape the 21st century. Heritage Academy is dedicated to youth, their growth and development. Heritage believes in building sound character which will result in strong families, strong communities, and a strong nation.

Legacy Traditional Schools believes there is no limit to what a student can achieve with great education and strong character. The non-profit network of tuition-free, A-rated public schools was founded on this principle, and it underlies the mission to build lifelong learners and good citizens. Legacy Traditional School features a rigorous, well-rounded curriculum

that emphasizes all areas of academic study, including the arts, physical education and extensive athletics and extracurricular activities.

Leading Edge Academy is a Kindergarten-12th grade college preparatory school that believes in teaching the whole child, through academic excellence and a values-based character program to challenge students to improve their character and enhance their relationships. Through direct instruction and real-world simulation projects, its team of highly qualified teachers provide encouragement, respect, patience, and understanding as we partner with the parent and child to succeed in learning.

Holsteiner Agricultural School provides a dynamic and richly individualized educational experience for all students. The staff is devoted to an educational climate that is productive, cooperative and nurturing, providing a combination of agricultural experiences and academics, through multiple learning environments both within the classroom and outside.

Sequoia Pathway is a tuition-free, highly performing public charter school serves students in Kindergarten-12th grade. Classrooms are set-up in a manner to promote cross-curricular activities and teachers work within teams to provide students with exposure to subjects such as physical education, music and art.

Maricopa Economic Development Alliance Mission
As a 501(c)3 corporation, the Maricopa Economic Development Alliance (MEDA) organization champions strategies and solutions that foster economic growth and prosperity in the City of Maricopa by bringing together the business, government, education and civic sectors to identify and advance forward-looking policies that facilitate investment, growth and workforce development.



WHY K-12 EDUCATION MATTERS TO MEDA

Maricopa has a strong college-going culture and one of the most highly-educated resident populations in the State of Arizona. People who live in the City of Maricopa have a higher education attainment level well above the state and national average. According to a third-party survey conducted in 2013, nearly 90 percent of Maricopa adult residents have had some college, and more than 40 percent hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 28.8 percent in the U.S. We know that education is not only important to our residents, it's important for their children and grandchildren. It's also extremely important to us.

Highly educated parents seek the best possible education for their children. Having a public school system that delivers the highest quality education should be an enduring and top priority for all communities. To be competitive in retaining and recruiting a highly educated resident workforce that is critical to economic and employment growth in Maricopa, it is essential that the entire community support the MUSD in improving the quality of the education it delivers to its students. MEDA has been unwavering in its commitment to support these endeavors in Maricopa.

MEDA

**Maricopa Economic
Development Alliance**

Maricopa Economic Development Alliance
PO Box 1703, Maricopa, AZ 85139

info@MaricopaEDA.com
(520) 424-0419 (Chairman John D. Schurz)

**Special thanks to Pat Davis Design Group, Inc. for
their generosity in making this publication possible.**



PAT DAVIS DESIGN GROUP, INC

www.pddesign.com