The State of Native Education in Arizona
# About Ed Trust

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who We Are</th>
<th>What We do</th>
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| The Education Trust works for the high academic achievement of all students at all levels (pre-kindergarten through college), and closes opportunity and achievement gaps that separate low-income students and students of color from other youth. | - Research and policy analysis on patterns and practices that both cause and eliminate inequities.  
- Advocacy to share that knowledge and push for policies and practices that help to close gaps.  
- Technical assistance to districts, states, and community-based organizations. |
Native students make up about 5% of Arizona’s student population. The state serves approximately 50,000 Native students.

Total Enrollment: 1,113,433

Student Enrollment by Race/ Ethnicity

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 39%
- Black: 3%
- Latino: 5%
- Native: 5%
- Two or More Races: 5%
- White: 45%

Percent of students by program group

- Percent of Students Receiving Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 37%
- Percent of 5-17 Year Olds in Poverty: 20%
- Percent of English Learners: 7%
- Percent of students with disabilities: 12%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Program, 2018
Apache, Navajo and Coconino counties have the highest percentages of Native students in the state.

Source: Arizona 2017 Indian Education Annual Report
The 5 counties with the highest numbers of Native students are Maricopa, Navajo, Apache, Coconino and Pima. Together, they serve 84 percent of Native students statewide.

Source: Arizona 2017 Indian Education Annual Report
So, how is Arizona doing?
Let’s start with some good news.
Since 2003, 4th grade math results for Native students have improved faster than the state’s overall results.

Source: NCES, NAEP Data Explorer, 2018
The same is true in 8th grade reading.
However, there’s still a lot of work to be done.
In 4th grade reading and 8th grade math, results for Native students improved slower than overall averages.

Source: NCES, NAEP Data Explorer, 2018
About 1 in 10 Native 4th graders score proficient in reading and less than 1 in 5 Native 8th graders score proficient in math.

Source: NCES, NAEP Data Explorer, 2018
Arizona’s state assessment – AZMerit – shows similar results.
While the state gets about 40 percent of students to proficiency in English Language Arts, it does so for less than 20 percent of Native students.

Source: AZMerit Assessment results, 2018; https://azreportcards.azed.gov/state-reports.
Math outcomes show similar patterns.

AZMerit 2018 - Math

Source: AZMerit Assessment results, 2018; https://azreportcards.azed.gov/state-reports.
Only 12% of Native graduating seniors met college-ready benchmarks in reading on the ACT. In math, only 16% of Native students met the benchmark.

Only 67 percent of Native students in Arizona graduation high school on time.

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate, 2017

- All students: 78%
- Native: 66.8%
- Latino: 74.5%
- Black: 73.8%
- White: 82.8%

Source: NCES, Table 1. Public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR), by race/ethnicity and selected demographic characteristics for the United States, the 50 states, and the District of Columbia: School year 2016–17
Arizona demonstrates some of the lowest graduation rates for Native students nationwide

4-Year cohort graduation rates for Native students, by state

Source: NCES, Table 1. Public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR), by race/ethnicity and selected demographic characteristics for the United States, the 50 states, and the District of Columbia: School year 2016–17
Arizona has one of the lowest higher education enrollment rates among all states.

Disparities in achievement are a direct result of gaps in opportunity.

What do we know about opportunity to learn in Arizona?
Arizona’s highest poverty districts receive about the same amount in state and local funds as the state’s lowest poverty districts.

State and local revenue per student by district poverty level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Level</th>
<th>Revenue per Student</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest Poverty Districts</td>
<td>$7,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartile 2</td>
<td>$7,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartile 3</td>
<td>$7,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Poverty Districts</td>
<td>$7,577</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: The Education Trust, Funding Gaps 2018.
Arizona spends less per student than most other states in the country.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Table 236.65. Current expenditure per pupil in fall enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by state or jurisdiction: Selected years, 1969-70 through 2014-15
Arizona ranks second from the bottom in “fiscal effort” put into education.

Dollars spent on education per $1,000 of gross state product, by state

Schools with the most students of color in Arizona have more inexperienced teachers.

Percentage of teachers considered inexperienced

- Schools with the lowest SOC enrollment: 16%
- Schools with the highest SOC enrollment: 28%


Note: “Inexperienced” is defined as being in the first or second year of teaching.
Schools with the most students of color also have the most teachers rated “ineffective” – and the fewest rated “highly effective.”

Only 1% of teachers in Arizona are Native.

Student Demographics

Teacher Demographics

Native students in Arizona are more likely than their peers to be identified for special education services.

Source: Arizona 2017 Indian Education Annual Report
Native students in Arizona make up 5% of high school students and only 1% of AP test takers.

Source: NCES, Common Core of Data 2016-17; College Board AP State Reports 2018
Nearly 1 in 10 Native students has been suspended

Source: Civil Rights Data Collection 2013-14
Chronic absenteeism rates for Native students are higher than for their peers.

Source: AZ School Report Cards, State Report
Arizona has made progress, but there’s much further to go to ensure that all students get the opportunities they need to leave high school prepared for success.
Desiree Fowler & Debbie Nez Manuel

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Founder Morning Star Leaders Inc. Education, Student & Family Engagement Advocate
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