Phoenix, AZ

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

PhotnixMitAm

Wsdntsdiy 0486,131

DEC 17, 2003

l!!i i llil !lf I III! I iiil III ilil III III!
P1176

LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS

Phoenix joins Latino student study
Aim is to boost

graduation rate
By Yvonne Wingett
The Arizona Republic

PHOENIX — The city will
pay $40,000 to participate in a
study that examines the high
dropout rate among Latino stu-
dents.

The Latino Education Study,
a joint project of Arizona State
University's Morrison Insti-

tute and the Center for the Fu-
ture of Arizona, will explore
education practices among
high-performing schools that
enroll high numbers of poor
and Latino children.
"We just have to keep these
kids in school, get tliem back in
school, engage them in school
and make sure they stay in
school," said Deborah Dillon,
director of the city's youth and
education programs.
The $380,000 project will ex-
plore teaching methods that

help make those schools so
successful, said Lattie Coor,
chairman and CEO of the Cen-
ter for the Future of Arizona
and former president of Ari-
zona State University.
Researchers will look for
common practices and policies
among high-performing
schools, such as class sizes,
pre-K programs and teacher
credentials.
"We're trying to determine
what those practices are that
make them successful so we

can pass that on to other
schools," he said.
It is estimated that as many
as half of all first-generation
Latinos drop out of school,
Coor said.
Family goals, student pre-
paredness and strength of edu-
cation could be some of the is-
sues that play into the high
dropout rate, he said.

Reach the reporter at
yvonne.wingett@arizona
republic.com or (602) 444-4712.