

# Achieving Increased Dual Enrollment Participation: The Economic Upside of What Voters Want

## What's the Issue?

Dual enrollment – where high school students earn college credit before graduation – helps close educational gaps and ease the transition to post-secondary education. Yet access remains limited, especially for students in underserved communities.

- In Arizona, only 48% of high school graduates pursue post-secondary education. Among dual-enrolled students, that rate nearly doubles to over 90%.
- Post-secondary completion rates also improve significantly: 42% of dual enrollment students earn a degree or credential, compared to just 30% of their peers.

**Voters across all demographics and party affiliations agree it's time to act.** According to Center for the Future of Arizona's **2024 Arizona Voters' Agenda**, 85% of voters support increasing the number of students who pursue and complete post-secondary education, and 93% support expanding access to and participation in dual enrollment.

## What Arizona Stands to Gain

By improving educational outcomes and increasing lifetime earnings, dual enrollment strengthens Arizona's workforce and economy.

- Students can complete their degrees 0.5 to 1.8 years faster, resulting in about \$12,800 in potential tuition savings per student.
- Dual-enrolled students are 1.4 times more likely to complete a credential or degree, leading to up to \$1 million in additional lifetime earnings.
- Increasing access could result in nearly 1,000 more post-secondary graduates annually, generating 160 new jobs, \$19 million in labor income, \$48 million in economic output, and \$4 million in state and local tax revenues each year.

## The Economic Case for Action on Dual Enrollment

Expanding dual enrollment access is one of Arizona's clearest opportunities to improve post-secondary outcomes, meet workforce needs, and strengthen the economy. With broad voter support and clear economic benefits, Arizona leaders have the opportunity to increase access to and participation in dual enrollment – empowering students, supporting families, reducing costs, and driving long-term economic prosperity.

**Voter-backed priorities like dual enrollment offer a high return for Arizona and a strong foundation for long-term prosperity.**

*More at [arizonafuture.org/UnlockPotential](https://arizonafuture.org/UnlockPotential)*