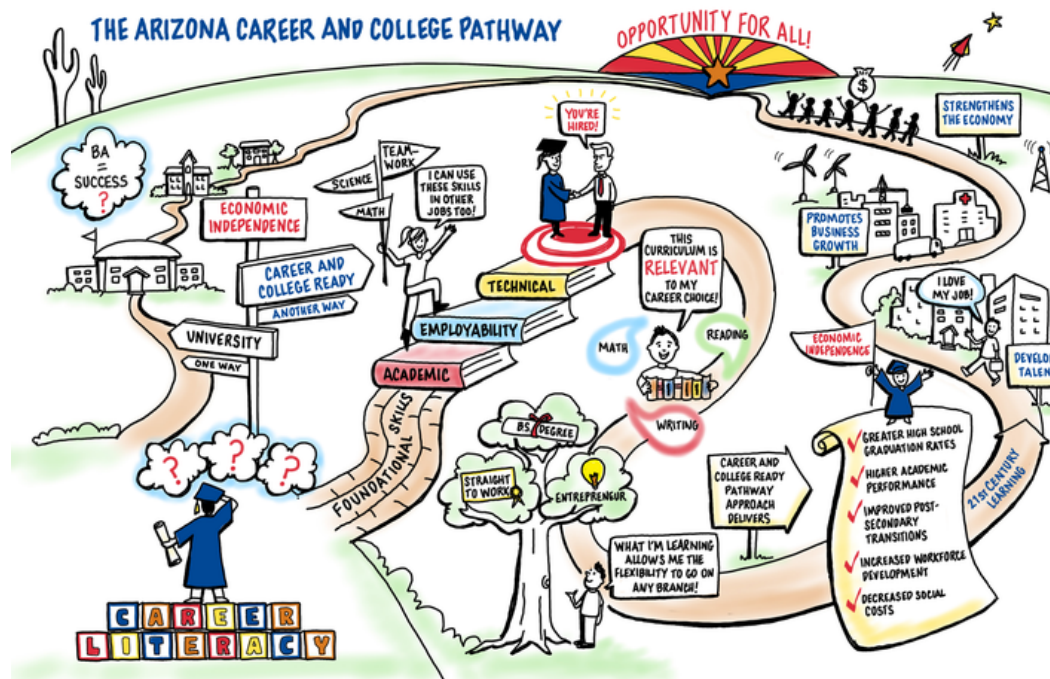


CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION POLICY BRIEF

Arizona Career and College Pathway

The Arizona Career and College Pathway is designed to expand the educational options available to Arizona students to gain a high school diploma. The present high school system is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills for one major objective, entry into a baccalaureate degree program. The current high school graduation requirements reflect that objective, and diminish the capacity for students to participate in other education pathways. However, less than 30% of all careers require a baccalaureate degree or higher. This means that upon completion of high school, most Arizona high school graduates do not have the specific skills required for the majority of careers. These careers offer students some of the best opportunities to escape poverty and gain economic independence. In addition, additional career pathways such as this engage students and improve graduation rates, bring relevance to academic content, improve the quality of the workforce and reduce

the cost of social programs.



This Pathway is rigorous and includes competencies in three equally important categories - Academic Core, Technical Skills and Employability Skills which, when mastered,

insure the student is both career and college ready. The Mathematics and Language Arts competencies and related assessments have been determined by ACT research to provide pathway participants with skills for entering college without remediation, or to fully participate in the vast majority of occupations found in America. Other academic content is derived from the existing state standards approved by the Arizona State Board of Education for Science and Social Studies. The technical and workplace skills have been validated by representatives of Arizona Business and Industry, and related certification of technical skills is provided by the Arizona Department of Education.

The State Board of Education is being asked to approve this Pathway for use by schools and districts on a discretionary basis to expand educational program choice for Arizona high school students. A detailed description of the Career and College Competency Based Pathway can be found at www.azcareerpathways.com.