

ECAP AT A GLANCE

Education and Career Action Plan

WHAT

ECAP is an ongoing process that empowers students to create a meaningful and individualized plan toward a postsecondary pathway. With support and guidance from their families, school personnel and other advisors, students undergo a process of:



ECAP personalizes the education experience, empowering students to align coursework and extracurricular activities with a career pathway that reflects individual interests, skills, and values.

ECAP develops the awareness, knowledge, and skills necessary for students to make informed decisions for maximized lifetime employability in living-wage careers.

ECAP is a tool that connects students to the multiple resources and initiatives in Arizona that provide support and guidance for career and college readiness.

WHY

By the year 2020, 68% of all jobs in Arizona will require postsecondary education or training.

A high school diploma is no longer sufficient to meet the demands of the 21st century economy.

Many Arizona students are not prepared for college and careers.

Nearly 60% of students that attend Arizona community colleges require remediation courses and only 47% of high school grads qualify to enroll in our public universities. Arizona industries also report a shortage of qualified workers.

Arizona's four-year high school graduation rate is declining.

Compared to the rising national average of 81%, Arizona only graduates 75% of our students on time.

Results of a Quality ECAP Process

- Increases student motivation and goal setting
- Improves grades & attendance
- Helps students see the connection between coursework & future success
- Guides students toward rigorous coursework
- Increases communication between schools & Families
- Creates a talented & qualified workforce



HOW

The ECAP process results in a student portfolio.

Students outline their secondary and postsecondary plans aligned to their career aspirations. They will also collect artifacts and documents that reflect the activities completed and the skills and knowledge developed throughout their ECAP process.

An ECAP process portfolio has four attributes:

Academic	Career
Postsecondary	Extracurricular

Information about each attribute should be documented, reviewed and updated, at minimum, annually.

This is noted in the 2008 Arizona State Board of Education rule that requires all Arizona students grades 9-12 to have an ECAP.

The ECAP process takes collaboration.

Students complete the ECAP process with the guidance of their families and a supportive adult at their school.

An ECAP does not replace an IEP or a CTE-POS.

ECAP complements other individual plans such as an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in Special Education or a Programs of Study (POS) in Career Technical Education. The ECAP process is a whole-school effort that includes all students and all school staff.

LEARN MORE

Visit the Arizona Department of Education ECAP website at:

<http://www.azed.gov/ecap>

Helpful links, supporting research, informational videos, and more are available for students, families, and community partners. Resources for counselors and educators such as ECAP templates, examples from various schools, professional development opportunities and tools developed by the Arizona Department of Education are updated regularly.

Explore the Arizona Career Information System and its ECAP process at:

<https://azcis.intocareers.org>

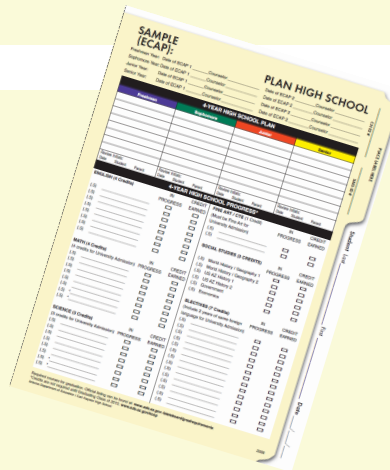
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