



AZ OnTrack



INITIATIVE REPORT



Cover Photo Courtesy of Camp Geronimo. Inside Cover Photo Courtesy of Camp Grace



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 FAST FACTS**
- 3 INTRODUCTION**
- 4 THE VISION**
- 5 THE GOALS & THE PLAN**
- 6 THE INVESTMENT**
- 8 THE RESPONSE**
- 9 WHAT DID AZ ONTRACK CAMPS OFFER?**
- 11 WHO DID AZ ONTRACK SERVE?**
- 14 THE AZ ONTRACK DIFFERENCE**
- 24 CAMPER WITH DISABILITIES**
- 26 MORE THAN JUST SUMMER CAMP**
- 29 BRIGHT SPOTS**
- 33 WHAT'S NEXT?**

(Top) Photo Courtesy of Camp Catanese. Photo Courtesy of OS3 Movement – Nogales. Photo Courtesy of Topock Elementary School District. (Bottom) Photo Courtesy of Camp Catanese

AZ ONTRACK FAST FACTS

WHAT WAS AZ ONTRACK?

AZ OnTrack was a first-of-its-kind effort launched by Governor Doug Ducey to support Arizona children in making up some of what was lost during Covid-19 school closures and remote learning.

Through a \$100 million investment of ARPA dollars, AZ OnTrack funded 685 summer camps to offer 110,016 camp opportunities across the state.

Camps addressed literacy, math, civics, credit recovery, and attitudes and behaviors that support learning within fun, engaging settings that were packed with adventure and enrichment.



WHO DID AZ ONTRACK SERVE?

- AZ OnTrack served at least **70,616** unique children across Arizona's 15 counties.
- **68%** of the children served were from Title I schools.
- **88%** of camp leads reported that their camp served campers with disabilities.



WHAT DIFFERENCE DID AZ ONTRACK MAKE?

Opportunities provided by AZ OnTrack helped campers make up some of the learning that was lost during the last two years.

- Campers made significant gains toward their learning goals.
 - Campers demonstrated positive outcomes on **86%** of learning goals set for them.
 - Campers who participated in credit recovery programs earned over **5,593** credits toward graduation.
 - **80%** of camp staff who participated in the AZ OnTrack survey said that camp helped them address some what kids lost over the last two years.

(Top) Photo Courtesy of the Ducey Administration. (Bottom) Photo Courtesy of Camp Geronimo

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID AZ ONTRACK MAKE?



AZ OnTrack built mindsets and skills in campers that support learning.

- AZ OnTrack helped campers build the mindsets, skills, and connections that will help advance their learning now and well into the future.
- 75% of campers said they made new friends at camp.
- 70% of campers said camp helped them identify the things they should work on in order to improve.
- 84% of campers said camp helped them realize they should keep trying even when something is hard.

AZ OnTrack helped families.

- 86% of parents who completed the AZ OnTrack camp survey said that camp helped their family. This help included assisting them in getting ready for the new school year, saving money, and worrying less.

AZ OnTrack supported the development of teachers and staff.

- 88.8% of staff said that camp helped them try new strategies or practices for supporting students' learning.
- 85.8% of staff said that camp helped them become more comfortable integrating academic instruction and fun.
- 85.7% of staff said that camp helped them expand their toolkits for working with all kinds of kids.
- 85% of parents said their child wants to return to a camp like the one they attended this summer and 80% of parents reported that they would recommend their child's camp to other parents.

When asked to describe Camp in two words or less, campers, parents, staff, and camp leads said it best. AZ OnTrack was...



WHAT'S NEXT FOR AZ ONTRACK?

After such a successful inaugural year, AZ OnTrack will be back in summer 2023 for another round of learning and adventure!

Photos Courtesy of Dysart Community Center

¹ Word clouds were generated based on the responses of campers, parents, and staff on the AZ OnTrack camp survey. The larger the word the more frequently it was used to describe Camp.



To meet the needs of Arizona's children and help them prepare for the school year, Gov. Ducey and his team did what's never been done before and launched...

“ARIZONA ONTRACK”

THIS INITIATIVE PROVIDED RIGOROUS, ENGAGING, FUN, AND FREE SUMMER LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO CHILDREN THROUGHOUT ARIZONA IN RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC-RELATED LEARNING LOSS AND DISTANCE LEARNING.

BY ALL MEASURES, THE EFFORT WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS.

Photo Courtesy of Camp Geronimo

THE VISION

Gov. Ducey launched AZ OnTrack to ensure Arizona's children have the resources and support they need to learn, grow, and succeed.

"ARIZONA ONTRACK SUMMER CAMP WILL HELP OUR KIDS REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL," SAID GOV. DUCEY. "THIS IS FAR MORE THAN JUST SUMMER SCHOOL. IT'S CAMP WITH A PURPOSE."

Research supports the idea that providing extended learning opportunities is critical to Arizona's post-pandemic recovery. For example, the Wharton School suggested extending school by one month for children in the United States could yield a net gain of over **\$1 trillion in GDP** over the next 15 years, representing a potential return on investment of **\$15 for every \$1 spent**. Another report by UNICEF said that, "**learning losses due to school closures are one of the biggest global threats to medium- and long-term recovery,**" from the pandemic (UNICEF, 2022).

The research made a strong case for additional instruction, yet after two years of grueling pandemic conditions, we knew our children needed more than that. We also knew Arizona could rise to the challenge, which is why we wanted AZ OnTrack to be much more than just summer school. By providing education in engaging and fun camp experiences, we were certain children would begin to make up some of the academic ground they lost and reconnect with their love of learning — all while improving their outlook on the 2022-2023 school year.



"WE KNEW FROM THE START THAT SETTING A SHARED EXPECTATION WITH OUR CAMPS FOR FUN, CHALLENGE, GROWTH, AND THE JOY OF BEING TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS AND TEACHERS WAS CRITICAL. WE NOW KNOW THAT CAMPS DELIVERED ON THIS FOR FAMILIES, AND ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THAT NEEDED IT MOST. I COULD NOT BE MORE GRATEFUL." - LISA GRAHAM KEEGAN

Photo Courtesy of Camp Catanese

THE GOALS

THE AZ ONTRACK CAMP INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN MARCH 2022 WITH FIVE GOALS:

1

Open access to engaging learning and fun camp experiences for children across the state with a specific emphasis on serving children from low-income communities and children with disabilities.

2

Address learning loss that occurred during remote learning and Covid-19 related school closures.

3

Build children's mindsets and skills to support learning.

4

Maximize learning time in the 2022-2023 school year by shortening the get-to-know-you-time for children and teachers.

5

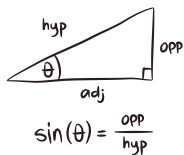
Improve children's and teachers' outlook on the 2022-2023 school year.

THE PLAN

To achieve these goals, AZ OnTrack offered all public schools, including A, B, or C rated districts and charters, colleges, universities, and youth-serving nonprofits the opportunity to design and implement camps statewide. Public schools with D or F ratings were also welcome to apply in partnership with A, B, or C rated institutions or high-quality nonprofits with youth serving missions. All camps had to include adventure or enrichment programming as well as instruction related to at least one of following academic areas: literacy, math, civics, attitudes and behaviors that support learning, credit recovery.



LITERACY



MATH



ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS THAT SUPPORT LEARNING



CIVICS

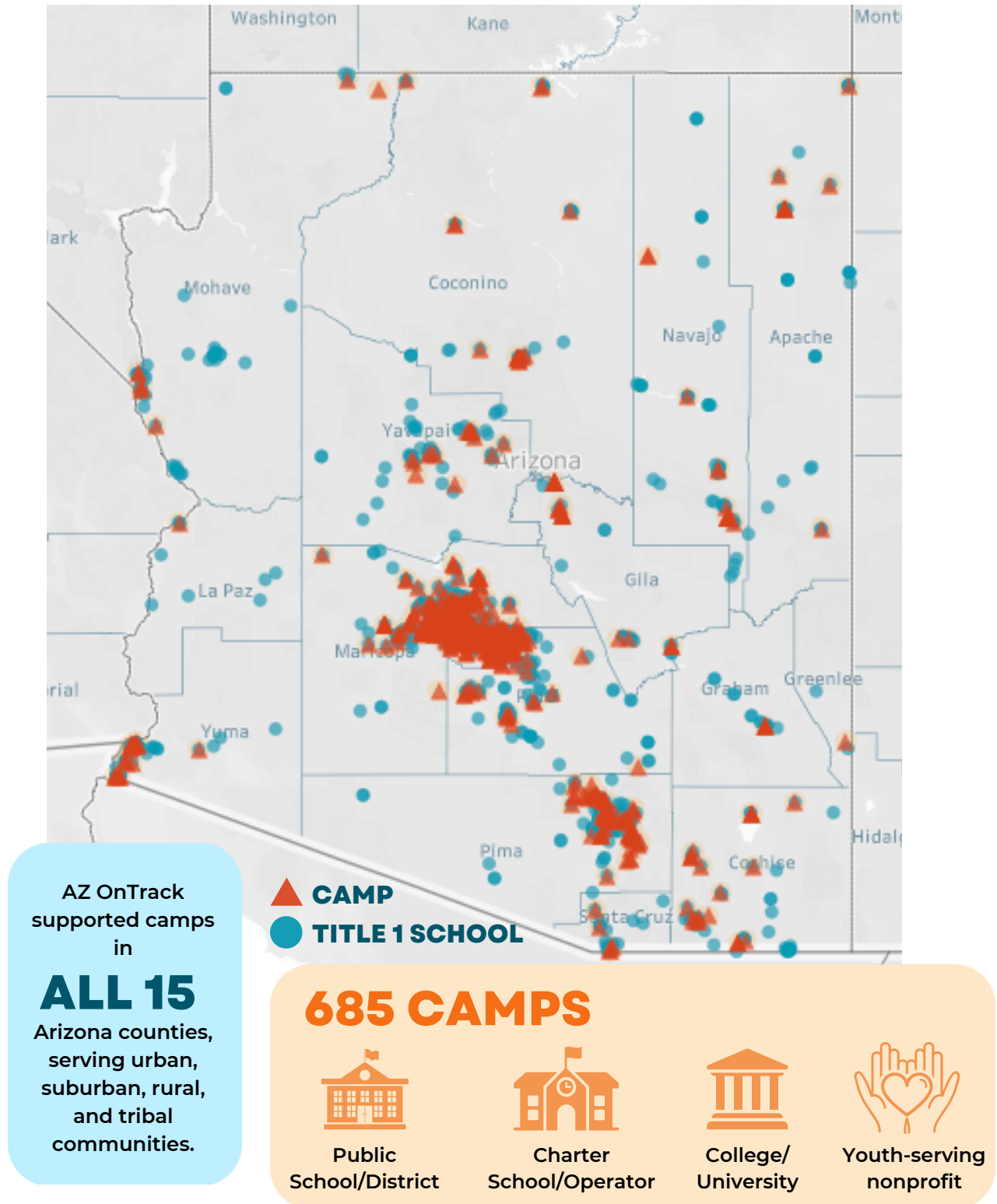


CREDIT RECOVERY

Additionally, AZ OnTrack camps were expected to engage the best teachers and staff possible and were encouraged to compensate them at a rate of at least 20% more than the average rate of pay for their position.

THE INVESTMENT

Camp operators and Gov. Ducey rose to the challenge and distributed \$75,351,187 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to 165 camp operators hosting 685 camps statewide.



AZ OnTrack supported camps in **ALL 15** Arizona counties, serving urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities.

This investment gave Arizona's children a fighting chance to make up lost ground while maintaining fiscally responsible practices. In the 2022 AZ OnTrack program, the average cost per camp experience, which included a median average of 15 in-person camp days, was \$684.91.²

THIS INVESTMENT BENEFITTED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGHOUT ARIZONA.

87%

of families who completed the AZ OnTrack camp survey said the

AZ ONTRACK CAMP HELPED THEIR FAMILY.

WHEN ASKED TO RANK THE BENEFITS AZ ONTRACK PROVIDED THEIR FAMILIES, 21.8% REPORTED THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT THEY RECEIVED WAS THE SAVINGS AZ ONTRACK OFFERED THEM.

"I am single and take care of my grandson full time. Sometimes it can be a struggle to get payments covered with other responsibilities that I have and especially with inflation. When [Wesley Community Center] made me aware of the summer program paying for [my grandson's] tuition for the summer of 2022, it made me so happy and gave me great relief that I would not have to worry about affording the program for that time. I hope the program continues to support Wesley Community Center because it is a huge asset!

-Thank you again for valuing our community and especially for valuing [my grandson's] safety and family."

² This value represents the median average number of camp days across all AZ OnTrack camps.

THE RESPONSE

From saving money to getting ready for the new school year, AZ OnTrack camps were a welcome support for families.

Of the **110,016 CAMP OPPORTUNITIES** funded by the initiative, **96,914** were used by children across the state.

This represents an impressive

88%

UTILIZATION RATE.



IN FACT, PARENTAL RESPONSE WAS SO POSITIVE THAT MANY CAMPS EXPERIENCED HIGHER DEMAND THAN THEY ANTICIPATED. DEMAND FOR ONTRACK CAMPS WAS SO HIGH THAT 25.5%³ OF CAMP OPERATORS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO EXPAND THEIR PROGRAMMING.

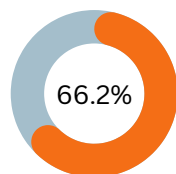
IN TOTAL, AZ ONTRACK CAMPS OFFERED 11,648 DAYS OF IN-PERSON LEARNING AND FUN TO AT LEAST 70,616 CHILDREN STATEWIDE.

This means 27.2% of AZ OnTrack campers benefitted from more than one camp experience, meeting or exceeding thresholds suggested for catching up on lost learning.

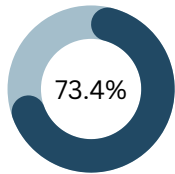
³ Expansion of camps includes opening additional seats within an existing camp, adding a new camp(s), or adding days to an existing camp.

WHAT DID AZ ONTRACK CAMPS OFFER?

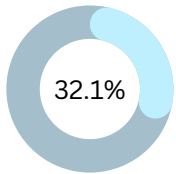
AZ OnTrack camps offered a wide variety of programs and experiences to campers throughout Arizona. All camps directly addressed at least one required academic area of math, literacy, civics, attitudes and behaviors that support learning, or credit recovery.



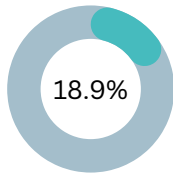
LITERACY



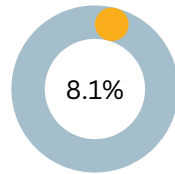
MATH



ATTITUDES AND
BEHAVIORS THAT
SUPPORT LEARNING



CIVICS



CREDIT
RECOVERY



TWO ACADEMIC AREAS

74.1%



THREE OR MORE ACADEMIC AREAS

16.8%

All camps also included adventure or enrichment programming. Adventure programming was featured in 45% of camps and included activities like biking, fishing, drone flight, and field trips. Enrichment programming was featured in 55% of camps and included offerings such as performing arts exhibitions, advanced curriculum, engineering design challenges, and STEM projects. Over 8% of camps included **both** adventure and enrichment programming.



Photos Courtesy of Camp Grace, AZ OnTrack's top performing camp of 2022.

The camp experience was rounded out by an array of support services to meet the needs of campers and their families.



Free meals and/or snacks were provided for campers in all camps.

Free transportation was offered to campers who needed it in all camps.



In camps serving PreK through fifth grade campers, 42% offered before and after care. Within the camps offering before and after care, nearly half provided these services at no cost to families.

A variety of services were integrated to ensure that all students had access to AZ OnTrack camps and that the camps had the resources and information they needed to support all campers. For parents, these services included an ombudsman service in both English and Spanish. For camps, these supports included access to additional funding to cover the costs of necessary resources and expert special education advisors through a partnership between AZ OnTrack and Raising Special Kids. Using these supports and their in-house expertise, camps provided specialized resources to meet the needs of the unique campers they served. Some examples of these resources included behavior coaches, certified special education teachers, individual aids, specialized materials, and accessible transportation to meet the needs of campers with disabilities and other special needs (e.g. older campers from refugee communities with limited formal learning experiences).



Raising Special Kids (RSK) is an Arizona nonprofit with a mission to strengthen families and systems of care to improve outcomes for children with disabilities and special health care needs. RSK rose to the challenge when the governor's AZ OnTrack team asked them to assist camps in understanding the needs of campers with disabilities and to offer suggestions and support for how to best meet those needs.

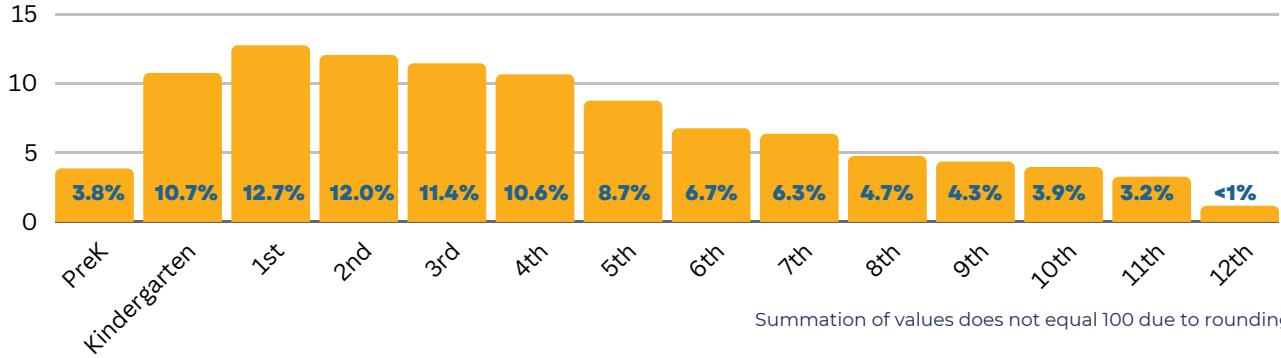


Raising
Special
Kids

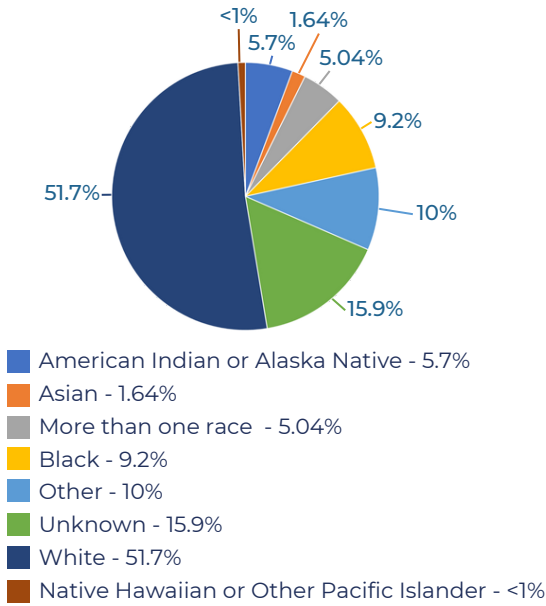
WHO DID AZ ONTRACK SERVE?

AZ OnTrack served campers of all ages with a variety of backgrounds statewide.

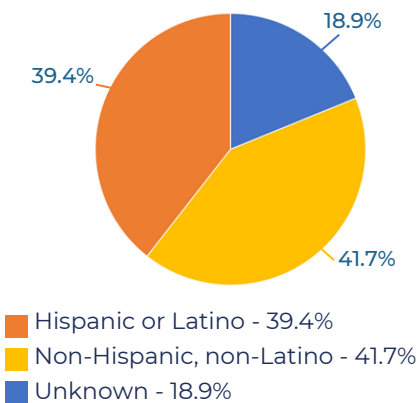
GRADE LEVEL



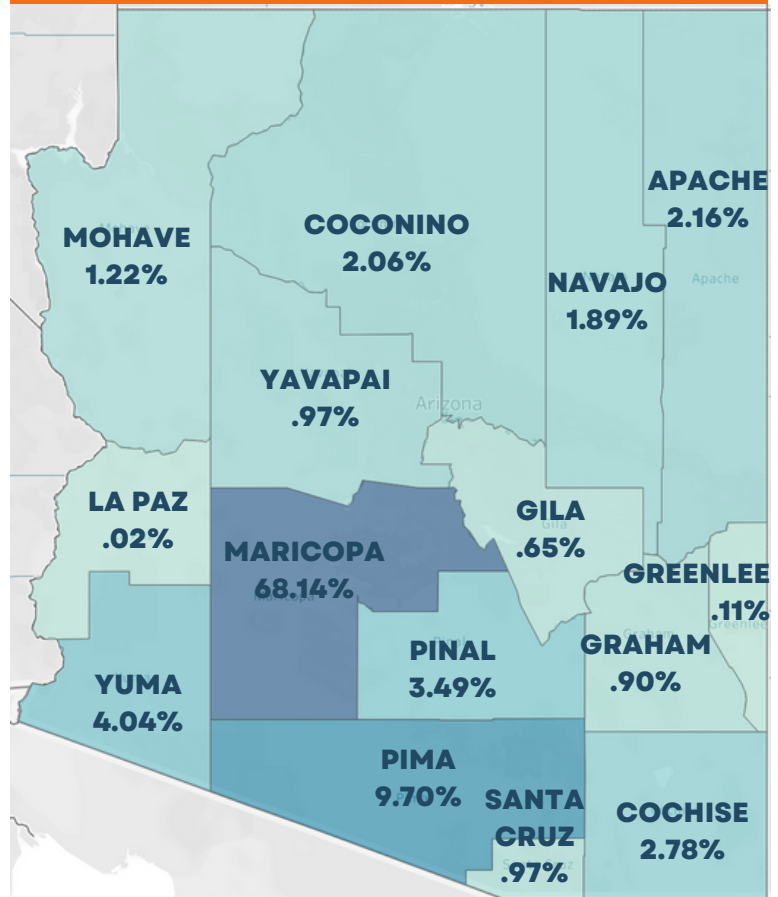
RACE



ETHNICITY



AZ ONTRACK SERVED CAMPERS IN ALL 15 COUNTIES.



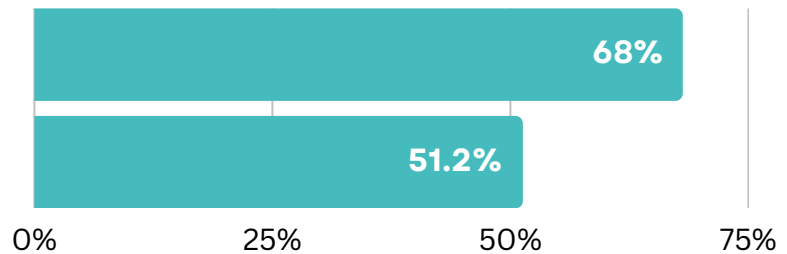
AZ ONTRACK SERVED THE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES WHO NEEDED IT MOST.

The goal of the initiative was to serve as many children and families as possible, including those from low-income communities and those with special needs. AZ OnTrack prioritized creating camps in low-income communities and providing the resources and support needed to ensure children with disabilities could benefit from camp experiences.

68% of camp experiences were utilized by campers from **TITLE I SCHOOLS.**

Percent of children from Title I schools served by Arizona OnTrack

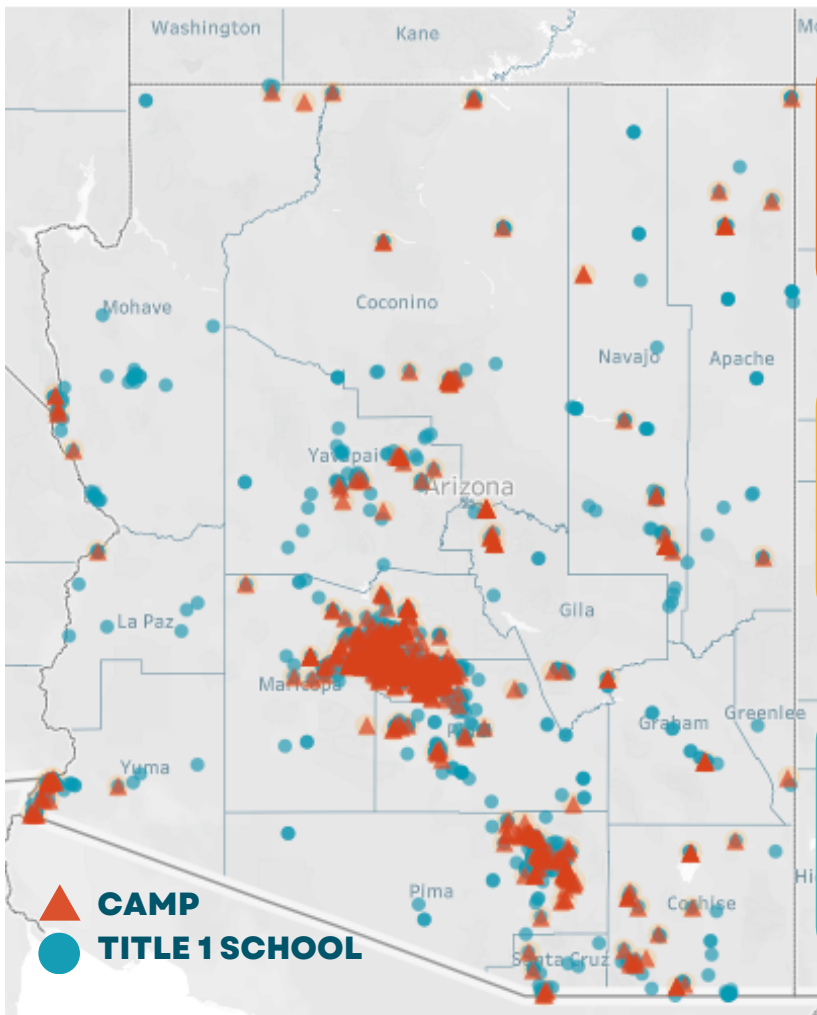
Children that qualify for FRL ⁴



12.5% of parents who completed the AZ OnTrack camp survey reported their **CAMPER HAS A DISABILITY.**

Ensuring all kids were welcome at AZ OnTrack camps was an expectation set by Gov. Ducey from the outset, with the understanding that camps needed to prioritize serving kids most in need. To achieve this, the AZ OnTrack team worked closely with camps to enroll and support any camper who wanted to participate and did strategic outreach to camp operators to support them in serving families from low-income backgrounds.

⁴ National Center for Education Statistics 2019-2020 (https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d21/tables/dt21_204.10.asp).



88%
of reporting camp leads/administrators said their camp(s)
SERVED CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES.

99%
of OnTrack Camps were located within a five mile radius of a
TITLE I SCHOOL.⁵

93%
of reporting camp leads/administrators said their camp(s) served campers from
LOW-INCOME BACKGROUNDS.

In addition to campers from low-income backgrounds and campers with disabilities, AZ OnTrack camps also served campers with other unique needs. This includes campers who are learning English as a second language, campers experiencing homelessness, campers who are refugees, and campers who are working to overcome traumas.

78% of reporting camp leads/administrators said their camp(s) served campers who
SPEAK ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

51% of reporting camp leads/administrators said their camp(s) served
CAMPERS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

⁵ Title I schools are schools with at least 40% of the student body qualifying for the federal free and reduced lunch program. In Arizona, 56.5% of schools are classified as Title I, meaning that they are situated within low-income communities.

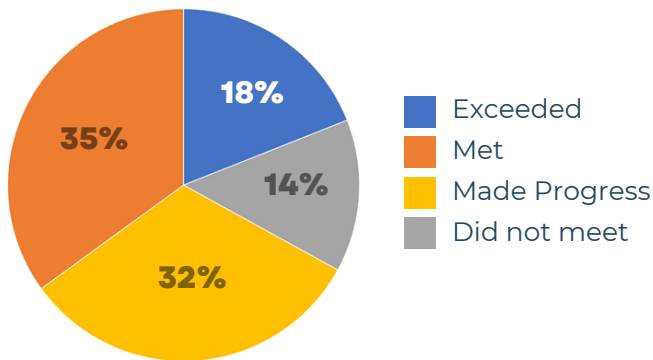
WHAT DIFFERENCE DID AZ ONTRACK MAKE?

AZ OnTrack has met or exceeded each of the goals set forth for the initiative. Participation data for all campers, including campers from low-income backgrounds and campers with disabilities, has demonstrated the initiative’s success in providing access to engaging learning and fun camp experiences for children statewide, with a specific emphasis on children who need it most.

DATA FROM CAMPERS’ LEARNING GOALS AND AZ ONTRACK CAMP SURVEYS DEMONSTRATE THAT AZ ONTRACK HAS SUCCEEDED IN ADDRESSING PANDEMIC-RELATED LEARNING LOSS.

Academically, campers made significant progress on their learning goals. Camps were expected to set learning goals for each camper that could be assessed with locally selected, objective measures. These measures included pre/post, standardized, and screening test tools such as NWEA MAP, Galileo, DIBELS, curriculum aligned pre/post measures, and observational checklists.

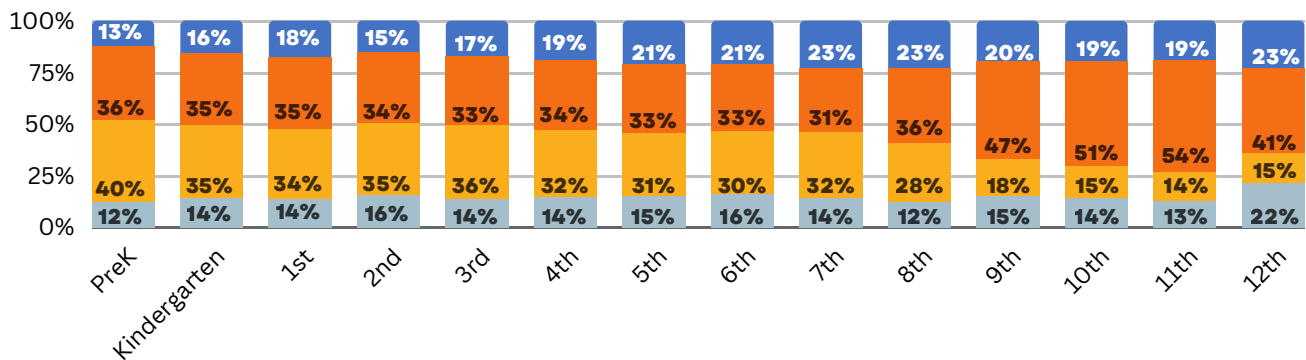
USING THESE TYPES OF ASSESSMENTS, CAMPS REPORTED THAT 86% OF THE LEARNING GOALS SET FOR CAMPERS HAD POSITIVE OUTCOMES.



CAMPERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY AZ ONTRACK GAINED A TOTAL OF 5,593⁷ CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION.

Learning goals spanned a wide range of topics, skills, and standards that allowed children to stay on track and make the most of their classroom experiences. Positive performance held true across grade levels, academic focus areas, and subgroups of campers.

GOAL ATTAINMENT BY GRADE LEVEL⁸

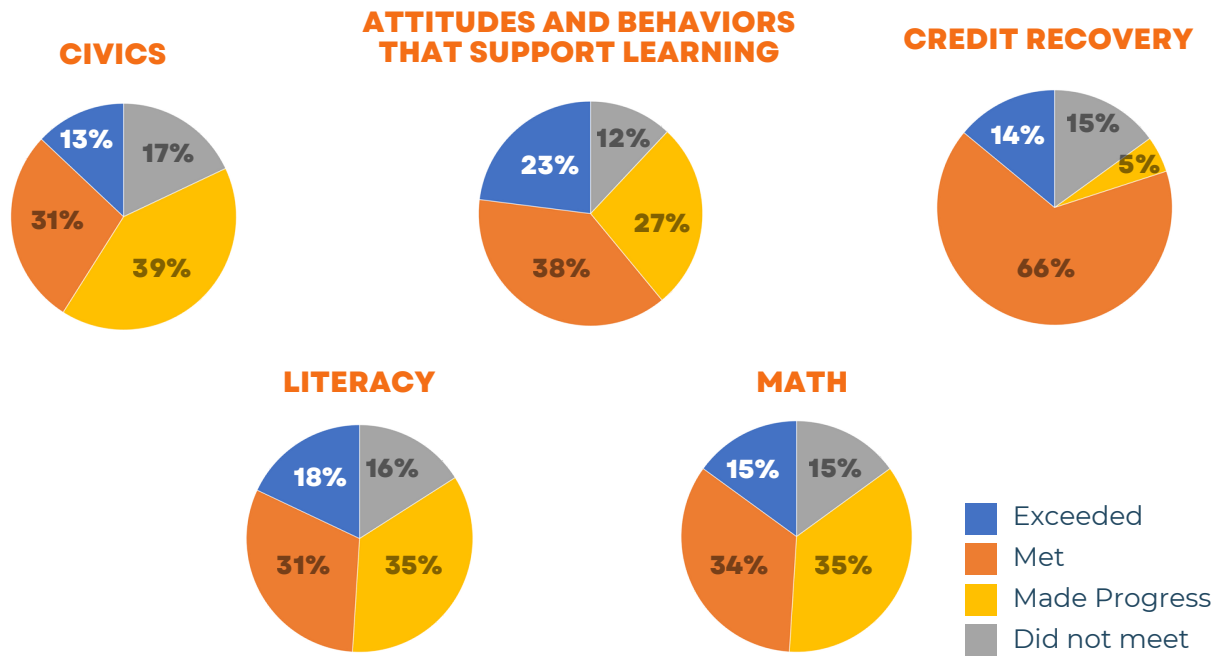


⁶ Positive outcomes include making progress toward, meeting, or exceeding learning goals.

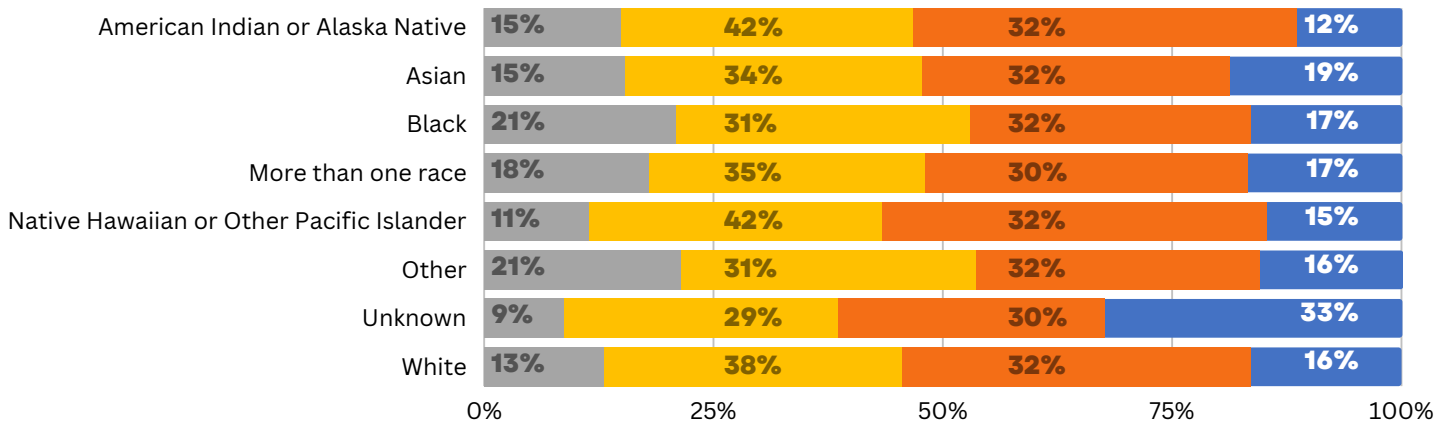
⁷ This value has increased from initial reports due to trailing data submissions.

⁸ Summation of values for goal attainment figures may not equal 100% due to rounding.

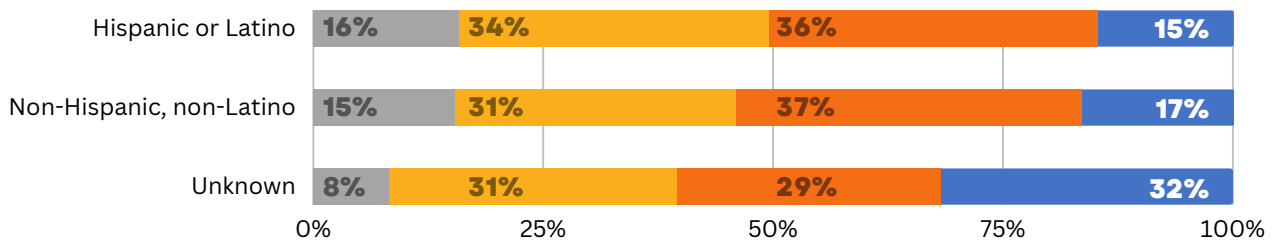
GOAL ATTAINMENT BY ACADEMIC FOCUS⁹



GOAL ATTAINMENT BY RACE



GOAL ATTAINMENT BY ETHNICITY



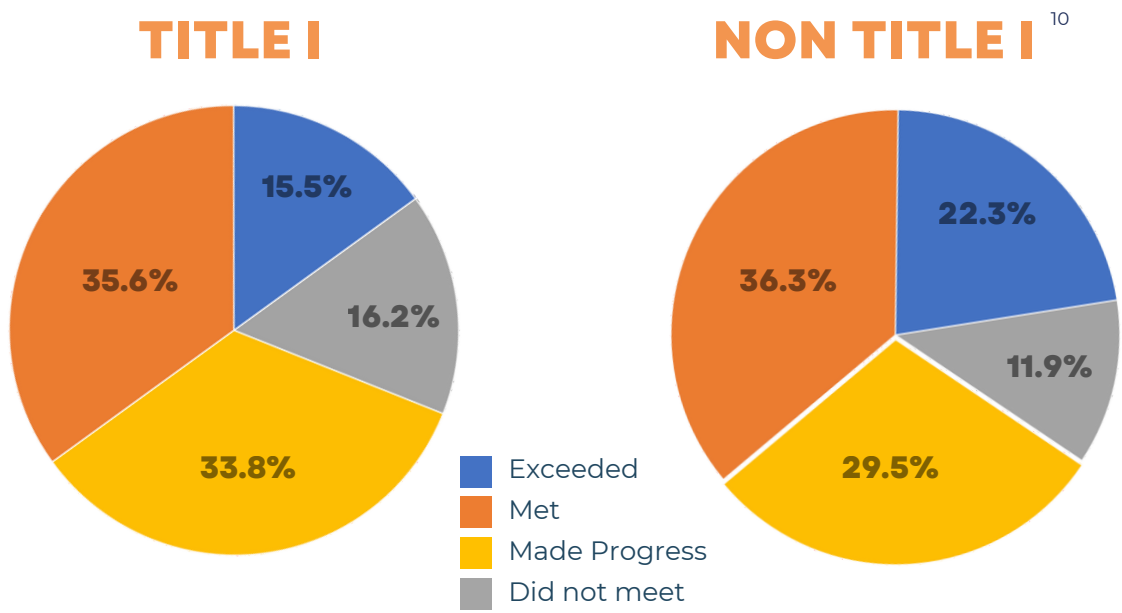
⁹ Summation of values for goal attainment figures may not equal 100% due to rounding.

These exceptional results parallel the expectations set forth in research on highly effective instruction and addressed a variety of outcomes across subject areas. Because of AZ OnTrack, campers started the 2022-2023 school year with stronger foundations, having made up lost ground in math, literacy, and civics, and having more of the credits they need to graduate.

80% OF SURVEYED CAMP STAFF REPORTED THAT CAMP HELPED THEM ADDRESS SOME OF WHAT KIDS LOST OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.

Subgroup analysis showed that the academic gains demonstrated by campers overall extends to specific subgroups of campers as well. Campers who attended Title I schools performed exceptionally well. These campers were likely hit hardest by school closures and distance learning, and AZ OnTrack helped them regain some of what they lost. These improvements will assist them in entering the 2022-2023 school year performing more closely to their higher-income peers. The figure below shows goal attainment levels for all goals for campers from Title I schools compared to goal attainment on all goals set for campers from non-Title I schools.

GOAL ATTAINMENT FOR CAMPERS WHOSE APRIL 2022 SCHOOL WAS A TITLE 1 SCHOOL COMPARED TO GOAL ATTAINMENT FOR CAMPERS WHOSE APRIL 2022 SCHOOL WAS NOT A TITLE 1 SCHOOL.



¹⁰ Summation of values for goal attainment figures may not equal 100% due to rounding.

In addition to academic gains, campers made critical social connections, and grew mindsets, behaviors, and skills that will support their learning in the years to come.

The AZ OnTrack camp survey was the primary vehicle for assessing the impact of camp. The survey was administered to campers, parents, camp staff, and camp leads/administrators and addressed five major areas:



The areas of Connection, Growth Mindset, and Self-efficacy were specifically selected because they mitigate learning loss and strengthen students' ability to make academic gains. The Camp Experience and 2022-2023 Outlook were selected due to the connection between greater gains occurring when students are highly engaged and the connection between children's outlooks and their level of engagement. The definition of each of these areas and their impact on learning can be found on the table on the following page.

OUTCOME AREAS



The Camp Experience understands how key stakeholders viewed camp and the extent to which camp was enjoyable and meaningful for them.

Learning should be fun and being with people from different backgrounds prepares youth for all levels of education and work.



Connection explores the essential social skills needed to form strong, positive relationships with others.

Strong, positive relationships help to mitigate effects of poverty, distance learning or other hardships. Children with strong connections are more likely to ask for the help they need to learn.



Growth Mindset understands the extent to which an individual focuses on effort over ability and their demonstration of a strong work ethic and goal-centric outlook.

Strong work ethic is essential to both short- and long-term success in school and work. Strong growth mindset leads to willingness to work hard when learning new things.



Self-efficacy explores an individual's awareness of their own strengths and weaknesses, their comfort in doing things they are good at, and their willingness to continue trying to become better at other tasks and skills.

Learning how to apply one's talents to new endeavors will lead to life-long success. Self-efficacy helps children focus, continue trying when things are difficult, and use their strengths to learn new things.



2022-2023 Outlook assesses the extent to which camp has impacted how stakeholders are feeling about heading back to in-person learning this fall.

Families and teachers know that kids who are excited to go to school are more likely to be engaged and make progress.

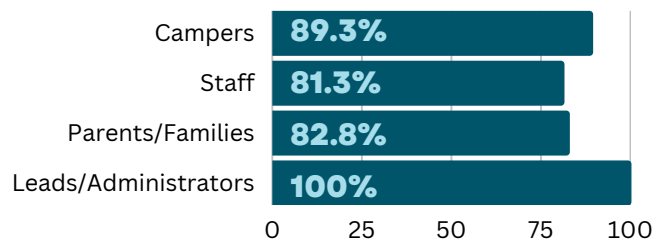
Outcomes related to Connection, Growth Mindset, Self-efficacy, the Camp Experience, and 2022-2023 Outlook were assessed through the AZ OnTrack camp survey. The AZ OnTrack camp survey produced data that has never been seen before in Arizona with results that include the perspectives of 22,054 preK-2nd grade campers, 17,203 3rd-12th grade campers, 11,185 parents, 5,639 staff members, and 755 camp leads/administrators.

56,836

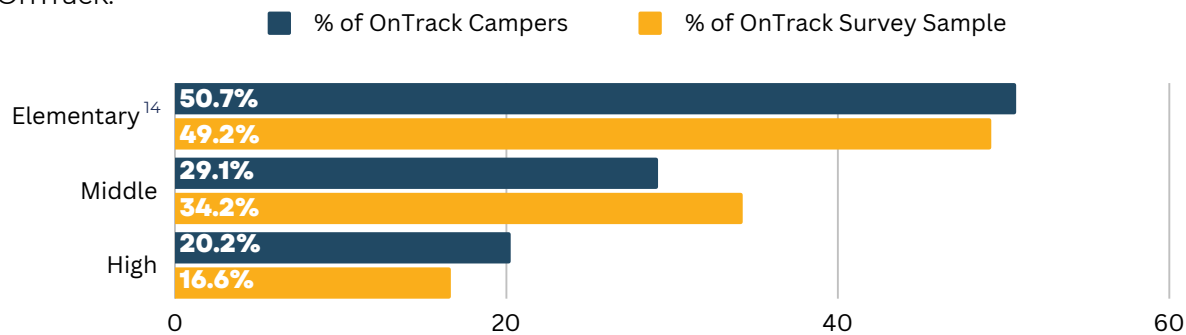
voices gave feedback on the **IMPACT OF THEIR EXPERIENCES** with AZ OnTrack camps.

Camps provided access to the AZ OnTrack camp survey via a unique link to their campers, families and staff. Response rate was calculated by comparing the number of surveys opened with the number completed. Using this formula, the AZ OnTrack camp survey yielded a response rate of 87.8%.¹¹

RESPONSE RATE BY RESPONDENT CATEGORY



This unprecedented data is highly representative of the AZ OnTrack initiative. Campers completed parallel versions of the survey that were modified for reading and developmental levels for PreK-2nd grade¹², elementary (3rd-5th grade), middle school (6th-8th grade), and high school. The data collected from these, as well as the staff and parent surveys, generated a representative sample¹³ of data that paints a powerful picture of the benefits provided by AZ OnTrack.



¹¹ In this context with distributed survey administration, response rate is calculated as the percent of surveys opened that were completed or partially completed.

¹² The preK-2nd grade survey was administered by a camp staff member to campers as a group. Staff reported the number of children present at the time of administration.

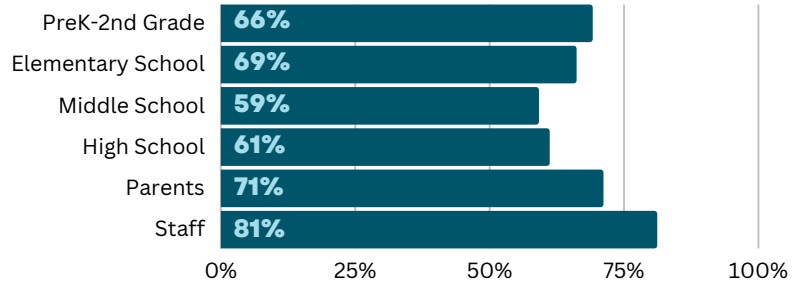
¹³ Distribution of campers' responses in the survey sample is parallel to the distribution of campers' grade levels in the OnTrack initiative

¹⁴ PreK-2nd grade data has been excluded due to the group administration of that instrument. In this figure, the total count for campers and survey responses is limited to 3rd-12th grade campers/respondents.

The benefits of AZ OnTrack camps span all five key focus areas of Connection, Growth Mindset, Self-efficacy, 2022-2023 Outlook, and Experience.



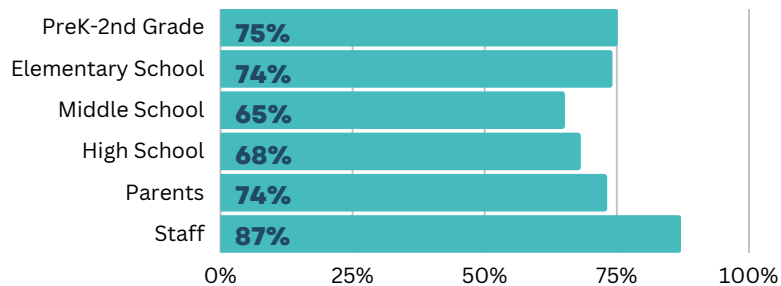
CAMPERS, PARENTS, AND STAFF AGREE



When it comes to Connection, AZ OnTrack camps helped campers engage with peers and caring adults. This area includes benefits such as making new friends, connecting with adults who care, improving listening skills, and working well with others. Campers, families, and staff agree AZ OnTrack camps directly supported campers in making social connections that will help them overcome the traumas of the Covid-19 pandemic and make greater strides in their learning.¹⁵



CAMPERS, PARENTS, AND STAFF AGREE



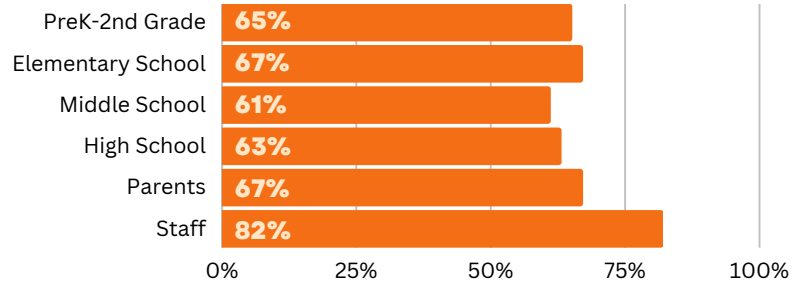
In the area of Growth Mindset, AZ OnTrack camps excelled. This was the most positively rated area by campers, who told us camps were highly effective at helping campers continue trying when things were difficult, learn from their mistakes, and connect hard work with accomplishment. A growth mindset and its accompanying skills will support campers in this school year and well into the future.¹⁶

¹⁵ Benner, A.D., & Mistry, R.S. (2020). Child Development During the COVID-19 Pandemic Through a Life Course Theory Lens. *Child Development Perspectives*, 14(4), 236-243.

¹⁶ Limeri, L. B., Choe, J., Harper, H. G., Martin, H. R., Benton, A., & Dolan, E. L. (2020). Knowledge or abilities? How undergraduates define intelligence. *CBE-Life Sciences Education*, 19(1), doi:<https://doi.org/10.1187/cbe.19-09-0169>.



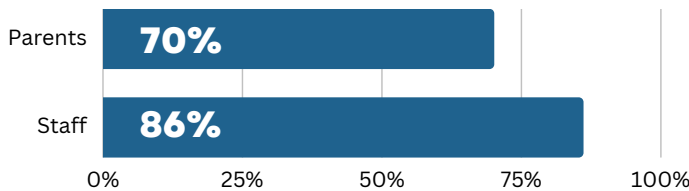
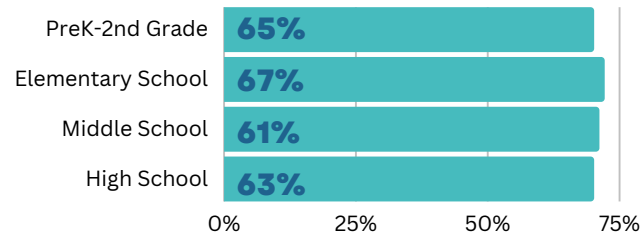
CAMPERS, PARENTS, AND STAFF AGREE



Self-efficacy describes an individual's awareness of their own strengths and weaknesses, their comfort in doing what they are good at, and their willingness to become better at the things they don't know or aren't yet good at. AZ OnTrack camps did an excellent job of building self-efficacy in campers from PreK through high school, helping them learn about their strengths, identify what they need to improve or overcome, and become more comfortable acknowledging what they don't yet know so they can learn and grow. This increase in self-efficacy will empower campers to focus and use their strengths to learn new things.¹⁷



CAMPERS LOOK FORWARD TO BEING BACK IN PERSON.



PARENTS AND STAFF AGREE THAT CAMP HELPED THEM LOOK FORWARD TO BEING BACK IN PERSON.

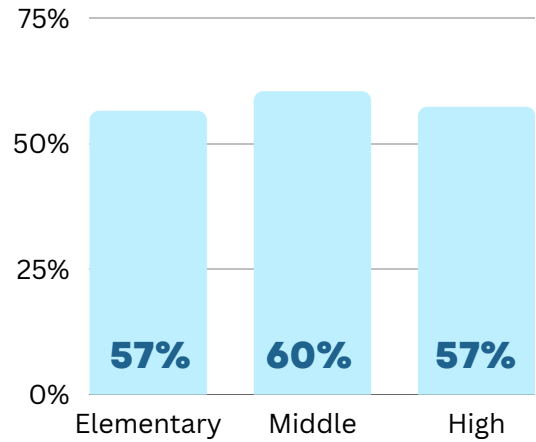
After such rich and enjoyable experiences, it's no doubt that campers are approaching the 2022-2023 school year with enthusiasm. When surveyed about their outlook on the 2022-2023 school year, 71% of campers agreed they are looking forward to being back in person for school this year and 65% hope school is a lot like camp.

¹⁷ Klootwijk, C.L.T., Koele, I.J., van Hoorn, J., Guroglu, B., & van Duijvenvoorde, A.C.K. (2021). Parental Support and Positive Mood Buffer Adolescents' Academic Motivation During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 31(3), 780-795.



So, what was it about AZ OnTrack camps that led to such tremendous academic outcomes, greater connections, increased growth-mindset, stronger self-efficacy, and an improved 2022-2023 outlook? It was likely the excellent experience campers and their families enjoyed while participating in rigorous, enriching educational activities offered by their respective camps. In fact, 95% of surveyed camp staff said camp made a positive difference for kids and campers said they wanted to come back to camp.

CAMPERS WHO AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE THAT THEY WANT TO COME BACK TO A CAMP LIKE THE ONE THEY ATTENDED THROUGH AZ ONTRACK



When surveyed, **91%** OF FAMILIES SAID THEY WOULD RECOMMEND THEIR CHILD'S CAMP TO OTHER PARENTS.

In addition to achieving the benefits expected of camps, AZ OnTrack also generated several additional benefits for children, families, and staff.

AZ ONTRACK STRENGTHENED INSTRUCTION AMONG CAMP STAFF.

88% of staff said camp helped them **TRY NEW STRATEGIES OR PRACTICES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS' LEARNING.**

85.8% of staff said camp helped them **BECOME MORE COMFORTABLE INTEGRATING ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION AND FUN.**

85.7% of staff said camp helped them **EXPAND THEIR TOOLKITS FOR WORKING WITH ALL KINDS OF KIDS.**

Exemplary Educators (EE), a nonprofit specializing in providing job-embedded support and development for teachers in Arizona classrooms, partnered with Eagle Prep Academy to offer an AZ OnTrack STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) summer camp. Using their specialized support model, master teachers from EE worked with Eagle Prep teachers and staff to deliver exemplary STEAM lessons for campers. These hands-on investigations activated campers' minds and challenged their critical thinking while building their skills in math and literacy. The campers loved it, and the Eagle Prep staff have seen tremendous benefit, too!

Photo Courtesy of Dusty Hanson

Dear Leah and Sara,
I am so honored to be selected as the Exemplary Educator Teacher for the Eagle Prep Mesa STEAM Summer Camp. I loved the experience and have been using more projects in my classroom like the Gummy Bear Experiment. What a great organization and I look forward to working with you again.
—Dusty Hanson

AZ ONTRACK HELPED FAMILIES.

86% of families said that AZ OnTrack was a help for them. When asked to share more, parents/families reported that AZ OnTrack helped them...

23.4% ¹⁸	GET READY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR
21.8%	SAVE MONEY
21.1%	WORRY LESS
16.2%	LEARN NEW WAYS TO HELP THEIR CHILD(REN)
10.2%	FOCUS MORE TIME ON FAMILY
7.3%	IN OTHER WAYS

¹⁸ Data reports the percent of parents who selected each option as the number one help for their family.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID AZ ONTRACK MAKE FOR CAMPERS WITH DISABILITIES?

AZ OnTrack was an inclusive effort dedicated to ensuring all children had the opportunity to benefit from camp experiences that met their needs. 88% of camp leads/administrators reported their camps served campers with disabilities.

"ALL TOO OFTEN, FAMILIES OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ARE TURNED AWAY FROM FUN AND ENGAGING SUMMER ACTIVITIES WHERE THEY CAN LEARN AND GROW, AND SO WE CHALLENGED OUR CAMP PROVIDERS TO RISE TO THE OCCASION AND STEP UP FOR THESE KIDS. THEIR EDUCATION MATTERS, THEIR FUTURES MATTER, AND SERVING ALL KIDS MEANS ALL KIDS. THIS IS A MODEL WE CAN BUILD ON, AND IT SHOWS THAT BEING INCLUSIVE MAKES CAMP A RICHER EXPERIENCE FOR ALL."

- KAITLIN HARRIER, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR, EDUCATION

Gov. Ducey and the AZ OnTrack team ensured campers with disabilities were enrolled, included, accommodated and successful in camps.

In the AZ OnTrack camp survey, parents had the opportunity to share whether their child has a disability. If they did say they have children with a disability, they were provided an additional set of questions designed to understand the extent to which camp met the goals of inclusion, accommodation, and successful outcomes for campers with disabilities.

12.5% of families surveyed said that their camper **HAS A DISABILITY**¹⁹

When posed with these questions related to their child's disability, 90.5% of parents reported camps made their child feel welcome and 87.2% of parents reported their child felt like they were a part of the camp community. Further, 86.8% of parents reported their child experienced success at camp.

Unfortunately, experiences like these are not always the norm for children with disabilities and their families, making high expectations for service and success within AZ OnTrack Camps even more important. One mother shared her family's experience with Dysart Community Center's camp in a letter:

¹⁹ This figure is proportional to the 15% of students with disabilities in Arizona.

"As a special needs parent, you get used to getting turned down A LOT. Imagine my surprise when [Dysart Community Center] said that [my children with Autism and ADHD] could attend and that I could accompany them if needed.

From the first minutes of being at camp, [my son] was comfortable. He participated, followed directions, did exercises I didn't think he was capable of (after reading his IEP) and was smiling as he was walking the gym floor back and forth soaking up the laughter and chatter of the other kids at camp. [The instructor's] enthusiasm was like magic to [my son's] ears. He copied the exercises when [the instructor] encouraged him. I have never seen him grin from ear to ear for so long at a school activity or any activity with other kids.

[My daughter] has differences in brain processing... and has a hard time expressing herself and handling frustration. She joined [my son and me] at camp after summer school and almost immediately another little girl in camp sat next to her and they started talking and went to the gym together.

What is normal for the rest of the world is a really big deal in our little family, and I wanted to take a minute to thank you. You are making a wonderful difference for our children in facilitating their attendance and providing them this opportunity."



Photo Courtesy of Dysart Community Center

When surveyed, parents/families of campers with disabilities did not report any statistically significant differences on survey items presented to all parents/families regarding the extent to which camp helped them connect with peers and caring adults, improve listening skills, work effectively with others, identify strengths and weaknesses, get more comfortable acknowledging what they don't yet know, persist when things are difficult, and use strengths to learn new things. The lack of statistically significant differences, combined with the overwhelmingly positive responses on each of the five survey constructs, supports the inference that all campers benefitted from AZ OnTrack camps by building these valuable mindsets and skills that will help them guard against future learning loss and aid them in making up learning lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to generating lasting memories and impressive outcomes through its in-person camps, AZ OnTrack did more to support pandemic recovery. AZ OnTrack offered a variety of camp enhancements including supplemental programming provided by camp operators directly to children and families, statewide professional development with a variety of expert partners for teachers, and a parent resource guide curated by the Arizona OnTrack team in partnership with the Arizona Science Center. Each of these offerings took OnTrack to a new level by reaching children and families who did not attend in-person camps.

Supplemental programming included experiences or support provided by camps directly to their campers or their families that were meant to reach additional campers and/or to further support enrolled campers in reaching their learning goals. Supplemental programming was designed by each camp to address the needs and demands of their communities and included things such as take home reading kits, family STEM nights, back to school parent workshops, and more.

18.2% OF CAMP OPERATORS CONDUCTED SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMMING

In addition to providing extra support for campers through supplemental programming, AZ OnTrack provided professional development opportunities to teachers throughout the state. In partnership with Learning Blade, Arizona State University, and YouCubed, AZ OnTrack hosted in-person and virtual professional development sessions in STEM, civics, and math. Over 360 teachers participated, positively impacting approximately 10,620²⁰ students throughout the state this fall.



(Left) Photo Courtesy of Camp Grace. Photo Courtesy of Topock Elementary School District. Photo Courtesy of Sonoran Science Academy. (Right) Photo Courtesy of Phoenix Boys Choir

²⁰Approximate figure is based on the average class size for primary school departmentalized instruction in Arizona as measured by the 2017-2018 National Teacher & Principal Survey administered by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Finally, AZ OnTrack also directly helped parents and families get ready for a new year of in-person learning. In partnership with the Arizona Science Center, the AZ OnTrack team curated the OnTrack, *Ready to Be Back Parent Guide* in English, Spanish, and Diné. The guide has been downloaded 20,000 times. This information is assisting countless families through the guide's read-today-try-tomorrow activities that support children's learning. The guide was also circulated at in-person parent events hosted at ten libraries across the state. These events reached another 189 parents, providing them with valuable information and activities to strengthen their children's academic and social skills.



The Arizona Science Center is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to inspiring, educating, and engaging curious minds through science. With an expert staff and volunteer team, the Arizona Science Center has sparked passion and curiosity in people since the 1980's when they first formed their pilot center. The Arizona Science Center is located in downtown Phoenix and has a broad range of exhibits, activities, and information that will delight the whole family. After seeing the amazing camp experiences the Arizona Science Center was offering their campers through AZ OnTrack, the governor's office deepened partnership and worked collaboratively with them to produce the AZ OnTrack *Ready to Be Back Parent Guide*.



HAVE YOU SEEN THE AZ ONTRACK READY TO BE BACK PARENT GUIDE?

DA' AMÁ DÓÓ AZHÉ'É BIK'EHGO NAALTSOOS BIKÁÁ'ÍGIÍSH NINÍN'ŁÍÍ?

¿HAN VISTO LA GUÍA PARA LAS FAMILIAS ONTRACK READY TO BE BACK?

Every minute of instruction counts, especially after two years of pandemic conditions. Not only did AZ OnTrack provide approximately 65,655 hours of instruction — the equivalent of an additional 85 school days²¹ — but AZ OnTrack extended this impact by shortening the get-to-know-you-time for classroom teachers and their new students this school year.

62,732 HERE I COME/NEXT STEPS REPORTS WERE COMPLETED.

HERE I COME Camper Name _____

LEARN BEST WHEN...

IT REALLY HELPS ME WHEN MY TEACHER...

READY TO LEARN

CAMPER STRENGTHS

CAMPER CONTINUED FOCUS

ELEMENTARY

HERE I COME Camper Name _____

LEARN BEST WHEN...

IT REALLY HELPS ME WHEN MY TEACHER...

READY TO LEARN

CAMPER STRENGTHS

CAMPER CONTINUED FOCUS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEXT STEP Skills Report Camper Name _____

CAMPER STRENGTHS

CAMPER CONTINUED FOCUS

NEXT STEP SKILLS

HIGH SCHOOL

These research-based reports included information about the learning goals campers worked toward during camp, how they performed on their goals, their individual strengths and areas for growth, and feedback on the Ready to Learn Skills Inventory ©²². By starting the school year with additional information about the students in their care, teachers are able to hit the ground running.

²¹ Approximate figure is based on the average class size for primary school departmentalized instruction in Arizona as measured by the 2017-2018 National Teacher & Principal Survey administered by the National Center for Education Statistics. This calculation is based on the required instructional time set forth by the Arizona Department of Education in their school calendar documentation (<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/finance/files/2020/07/School-Finance-Manual-A-Defining-the-Instructional-Calendar-Posted-7.31.20.pdf>). An average of the required hours used for grades 1-12 founded the basis for the instructional hours per school day.

²² The Ready to Learn Skills Inventory © by Improvement Assurance Group is a research-based rating scale that empowers students, families, and teachers to intentionally build the behaviors and skills students need to make the most of classroom instruction.

WERE THERE ANY CAMPS THAT STOOD OUT?

With the support of our research and evaluation partner, AZ OnTrack conducted a Bright Spot analysis of all AZ OnTrack camps using data to identify the top performers.

THE ANALYSIS YIELDED A TOTAL OF 33 BRIGHT SPOT CAMPS, WITH 10 STANDING OUT AS THE HIGHEST PERFORMERS OF ALL.

METHODOLOGY:

A three-step quantitative analysis was used to identify Bright Spot camps.

Step One: Specific measures that align with each of the five goals of AZ OnTrack were identified and metrics that distinguish exemplary performance were established.

Step Two: Camp data around goal attainment, service to campers and communities who needed it most, the development of mindsets and skills that support learning, shortening get-to-know you time, and improving 2022-2023 outlook was analyzed using the thresholds established in step one. This determined Bright Spot camps.

Step Three: The Bright Spot camps were further analyzed to identify the top performing camps within that subset, highlighting the camps that exceeded the goals set forth by AZ OnTrack and also provided an exceptional experience.

The table below details the measures and metrics established in step one to assess the extent to which each camp fulfilled the goals of AZ OnTrack.

AZ ONTRACK GOAL

Open access to engaging learning and fun camp experiences for children across the state with a specific emphasis on serving children from low-income communities and children with disabilities.

BRIGHT SPOT MEASURE & METRIC

Measure: Service of campers from low-income communities

Metric: To demonstrate high performance on this goal, at least 40% of the campers served²³ by a camp had to have attended a Title I school in the Spring of 2022.

Please note camps were not assessed on the extent to which they served campers with disabilities in this dimension because families were not required to share whether or not their camper had a disability. Creating optional disclosure of disability status allows parents to choose the information they would like to share about their child, and also likely means more children with disabilities were served by AZ OnTrack camps than were reported. A separate Bright Spot analysis has been conducted to identify the camps that did an exceptional job serving campers with disabilities and some of the practices they used.

²³ The 40% threshold for this metric aligns with federal designations for Title I school status.

AZ ONTRACK GOAL

Address learning loss that occurred during remote learning and Covid-19 related school closures

BRIGHT SPOT MEASURE & METRIC

Measures:

- Camper goal attainment as reported by camps on Here I Come reports
- Staff's report of the extent to which camp helped them address the learning kids lost during the last two years
- Campers' report of the extent to which they learned new things at camp
- Parents' report of the extent to which their child learned new things at camp
- Staff's report of the extent to which campers learned new things at camp

Metrics: To demonstrate high performance on this goal, camps had to meet two thresholds: (A) demonstrate camper goal attainment by two-thirds of their campers meeting or exceeding their learning goals or by two-thirds of camp staff reporting that camp helped them address some of what kids lost during the last two years and (B) demonstrate camper learning by at least two-thirds of parents, campers, or staff attesting to the fact that campers learned new things at camp.

Build campers' mindsets and skills that support learning

Measure: AZ OnTrack camp survey

Metrics: Two-thirds or more of campers expressed agreement or strong agreement on two of the three key constructs — Connection, Growth Mindset, and Self-efficacy — assessed by the survey.

Maximize learning time in the 2022-2023 school year by shortening the get-to-know-you time for students and teachers

Measure: Here I Come/Next Steps reports

Metric: Completion of Here I Come/Next Steps reports for two-thirds or greater of the campers served.

Improve campers' and teachers' outlook on the 2022-2023 school year

Measure: AZ OnTrack camp survey 2022-2023 Outlook items

Metric: Two-thirds or more of parents or campers reported camp positively impacted campers' outlook on the 2022-2023 school year.

Analysis completed in step two using the aforementioned methodology highlighted 33 Bright Spot camps.

THESE ARE THE CAMPS WHO DEMONSTRATED HIGH PERFORMANCE ON ALL FIVE OF THE GOALS ESTABLISHED FOR AZ ONTRACK.

Arizona Alliance of YMCAs

- Watts Family Maryvale YMCA
- Triangle Y Ranch Camp

Boys & Girls Club Arizona

- BGC Tucson 2022 Summer Camp - Jim & Vicki Click Clubhouse
- BGC Tucson 2022 Summer Camp - Pascua Yaqui Clubhouse

Buckeye Elementary School District

- Sundance Elementary Summer Camp

Cartwright Elementary School District

- Theater Camp

Chinle Unified School District

- Chinle Wildcats On Track Summer Camp - MVES Campus

Desert Sonora Elementary School

- Desert Sonora Elementary School

East Mesa Charter Elementary School, Inc.

- Acceleration Academy

Exemplary Educators in Partnership with Caurus Academy

- EAGLE Prep STEAM Summer Camp: Maryvale
- EAGLE Prep STEAM Summer Camp: South Mountain
- Career Success Schools STEAM Summer Camp 7th and 8th Grade

First Star ASU Academy

- First Star ASU Academy

Fredonia-Moccasin USD

- Summer Success in the Parks

Isaac School District

- Esperanza Elementary School Extended Learning Program Summer 2022

Laveen Elementary School District

- Laveen Elementary School District Estrella Foothills
- Laveen Elementary School District Paseo Pointe
- Laveen Elementary School District Trailside Point

Marana Unified School District

- Estes Summer Success
- Picture Rocks Summer Success
- Quail Run Summer Success

Morrison Education Group, Inc.

- Fun in the Sun Summer Camp

Camp Grace

- Around the World Day Camp - 6/6-6/13
- I like PIE/PI Day Camp - 7/5-7/8
- Camp Grace Overnight Camp - 6/6-6/13
- Camp Grace Overnight Camp - 6/16-6/18
- Kick It Day Camp - 7/25-7/28

Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office

- The Universe Within Corrugated Headgear and The Art of Kinetics

Self Development Academy

- Self Development Summer Camp - Phoenix

Sonoran Science Academy Phoenix

- SSA PHX Enrichment Summer Camp

The Land School

- The Land School Summer Camp

Tuba City Elementary School; Tuba City Unified School District

- TCUSD Summer Camp

Washington Elementary School District

- WESD Summer Academy at Alta Vista Elementary School
- WESD Summer Academy at Shaw Butte Elementary School

Step three took a deeper look at these Bright Spot camps and identified 10 that rose to the top as AZ OnTrack’s highest performing camps. Not only did these camps meet the required criteria to be designated a Bright Spot, but they also delivered an exceptional experience to campers and their families. Specifically, within these Bright Spot camps the top performers met two additional criteria:

- Two-thirds of the parents or campers expressed that they would want to return to the camp or would recommend the camp to others.
- Their overall ratings were strongly positive for at least two-thirds of respondents across all items on the AZ OnTrack survey related to the camp experience.

THIS LAYERED METHODOLOGY ENSURED THAT BRIGHT SPOT ANALYSIS IDENTIFIED THE TOP PERFORMERS AS CAMPS THAT BOTH MET THE GOALS OF AZ ONTRACK AND DELIVERED AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE.

THE AZ ONTRACK TOP PERFORMERS OF 2022 WERE:



CAMP GRACE

- Around the World Day Camp- 6/6-6/13
- I like PIE/PI Day Camp - 7/5-7/8
- Camp Grace Overnight Camp - 6/6-6/13
- Camp Grace Overnight Camp - 6/16-6/18
- Kick It Day Camp - 7/25-7/28



ASU FIRST STAR ACADEMY

- First Star ASU Academy



SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY PHOENIX

- SSA PHX Enrichment Summer Camp



THE LAND SCHOOL

- The Land School Summer Camp



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

- The Universe Within Corrugated Headgear and The Art of Kinetics

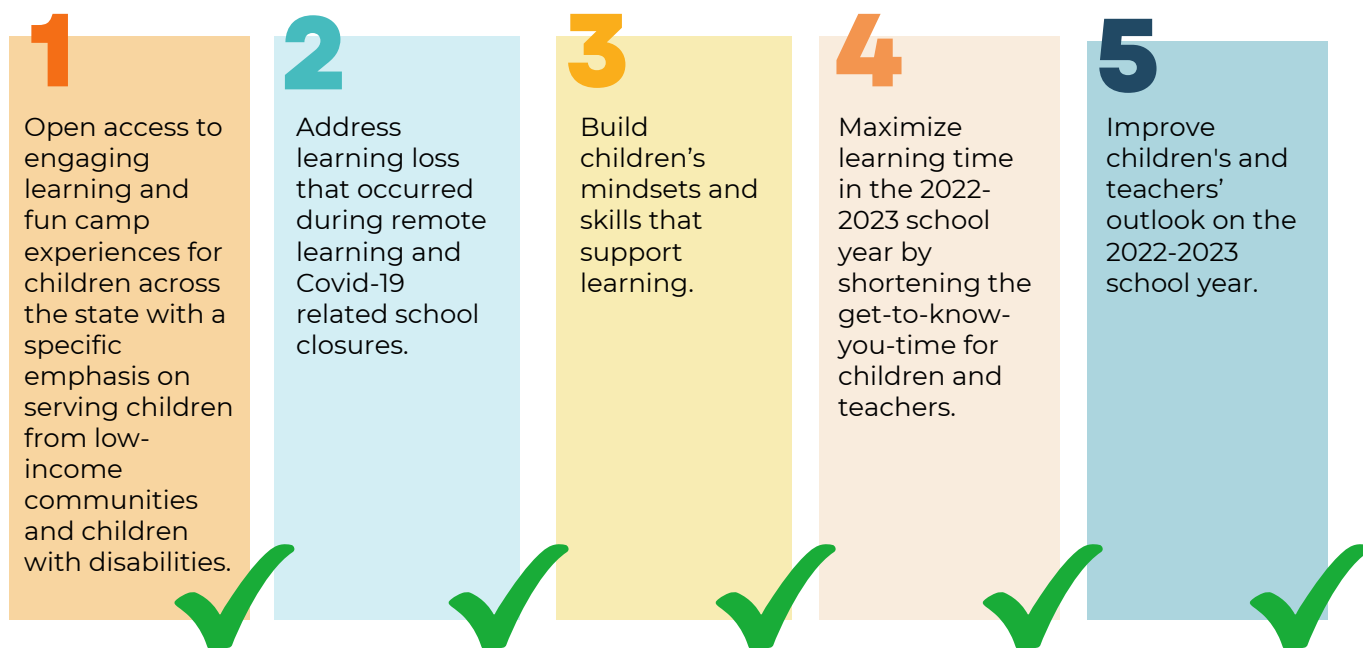


ARIZONA ALLIANCE OF YMCAS

- Watts Family Maryvale YMCA

WHAT'S NEXT FOR AZ ONTRACK?

After such a successful inaugural year in which AZ OnTrack exceeded expectations on all five goals set for the initiative, Gov. Ducey has allocated funding for a second year of AZ OnTrack in summer of 2023.



Perhaps our Masada camp said it best: "Reaching beyond state politics to help schools and the residents of our state" was the right thing to do. Thanks to the leadership of Gov. Ducey for dedication to do whatever it took to support the camp, our OnTrack Team and strategic partners, and our camp operators, over 70,000 Arizona children are back in classrooms reinvigorated for learning, more connected to peers and caring adults, and having made up vital learning lost during the Covid-19 pandemic.

THANKS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF GOV. DUCEY, THE DEDICATION OF OUR ONTRACK TEAM AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS AND THE DILIGENCE OF OUR CAMP OPERATORS, OVER 70,000 ARIZONA CHILDREN ARE BACK IN CLASSROOMS REINVIGORATED FOR LEARNING.



AZ OnTrack



Data collection, analysis, and reporting for
AZ OnTrack 2022 was powered by
IMPROVEMENT ASSURANCE GROUP
[improvementassurance.com](https://www.improvementassurance.com)