2014-15 Middle Grade Initiative Highlights
- based on the EXPLORE test results from 2161 8th graders (19 MGI Super Schools).*

**Student educational aspirations**

Graduate or professional degree, 29%
4-yr college, 24%
2-yr college, 6%
OJT or technical school, 8%
Military, 9%
HS or less, 2%
Undecided, 13%
Other, 9%

**Student career interests**

Science & Technology (e.g., pharmacist, physician, astronomer) 28%
Technical (e.g., computer programmer, mechanic) 20%
Arts (e.g., writer, photographer, reporter) 18%
Social Service (e.g., dental hygienist, teacher, social worker) 16%
Administration & Sales (e.g., manager or purchaser) 16%
Business Operations (e.g., accountant, secretary) 2%

**Academic readiness**

% of students who met EXPLORE benchmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Met</th>
<th>Not met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Four Subjects</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Perceived need for help**

% of students who expressed a need for additional help in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Met</th>
<th>Not met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-HS Planning</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Speaking</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Skills</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Self-reported positive support from adults and peers at school**

**Peer support**

- Most of my close friends want to go to college after high school (N=1744).
- My close friends encourage me to do well in my classes (N=1687).
- My close friends and I spend time talking about our future after high school (N=1748).

**School support**

- There is at least one adult at my school who believes that I will be successful (N=1741).
- There is at least one adult at my school who really cares about me (N=1743).
- There is at least one adult at my school who will listen to me when I need to talk to someone (N=1738).

*Results excluded students who do not have a composite score or had extended hours for the test.
Statewide EXPLORE Program Highlights (2014-15)

304... schools participated in the EXPLORE program in 2014-15, up from 18 schools when the program was initiated in 2009.

41,158... 8th and 9th graders took the EXPLORE test in 2014-15.

% of 8th graders, by county, that took the EXPLORE test in 2014-15

12... of the 15 counties in Arizona were represented in the 2014-15 EXPLORE program.

48%... of all Arizona 8th graders participated in the EXPLORE program in 2014-15.

EXPLORE Use by Students

97% of participant students attended sessions on interpreting their EXPLORE results.

98% of participant students received their EXPLORE Score Reports and the booklets “Using Your EXPLORE Results.”

EXPLORE Use by Schools

The 8th grade Language Arts teachers had their students write a research paper on their desired future occupation. This information was helpful in discussing the students’ need to utilize their strengths and consider their weaknesses when deciding on a future occupation.

-- J. O. Combs Middle School J. O. Combs School District

The 8th grade team works to include college and career-related activities in our curriculum to inform our students of the variety of opportunities available to them as well as the necessary education for these careers.

-- Catalina Ventura School Alhambra Elementary School District

The Student Connections Committee will work together to find ways to ensure all students feel accepted into the school community and feel a part of the decision-making.

-- Sunset Hills Elementary School Dysart Unified School District

Math and English teachers took an active role in incorporating the EXPLORE material into daily lessons to strengthen the students’ skills.

-- AZ Compass Prep

We also look to bridge the knowledge gap for parents in how to help students make sense of the data.

-- Coyote Hills Elementary School Peoria Unified School District

I would like to develop an elective that allows our students to research colleges and occupations. It’s never too early to start thinking about what you want to do with your future.

-- Desert Thunder Elementary School Avondale Elementary School District

With high school counselors, we have discussed a way to transition their career choice to the high school that will allow the future counselor easy and quick access to helping direct the student with their elective choices and plan post high school goals.

-- Anderson Junior High School Chandler Unified School District

*Results based on 186, or 61%, of the 304 participant schools’ final reports as of May 4, 2015.