

Office of the Maricopa County
School Superintendent
Steve Watson

Maricopa County School Superintendent Steve Watson Partners with Grad Solutions to Launch Innovative Drop Out Recovery Program

Maricopa County, July 18, 2023 - Maricopa County School Superintendent Steve Watson today announced a partnership with Grad Solutions, a private sector education solutions provider, to introduce a comprehensive Drop Out Recovery Program in Maricopa County.

"Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed academically and realize their full potential. This partnership will help us reach out to those students who have faced challenges in their educational journey and provide them with the tools, resources, and support necessary to rejoin the path to success," said Superintendent Watson.

The initiative aims to tackle the challenge of high school disconnection by providing innovative educational opportunities and support to help students reclaim their academic journey.

Recognizing the significant impact that leaving high school before graduation can have on individuals and communities, Superintendent Watson has made it a priority to address this issue head-on. By collaborating with Grad Solutions, Maricopa County is taking a significant step towards empowering students to re-engage with their education and build a brighter future.

Through this program, students will have access to dedicated educators who specialize in dropout recovery and alternative education. They will benefit from a blended learning model that combines online coursework, personalized instruction and mentorship, ensuring that each student receives the attention and guidance they need to thrive. Furthermore, Grad Solutions' will be partnering with the Maricopa County Accommodation school, Hope College and Career Readiness Academy to address not only academic needs but also the overall well-being of previously disengaged youth.

Grad Solutions' CEO, Jim Lee, shared his excitement about the partnership, stating, "I am excited about the partnership with the Maricopa County School Superintendent to provide educational services to students that previously dropped out of high school. We believe this is going to be an amazing opportunity to serve the students in Maricopa County and help them get back on the path to graduation and beyond! We are projecting that we can reconnect thousands of Maricopa County disconnected youth back into school and into the workforce by joining hands with many organizations focused on improving outcomes for our youth."

The Drop Out Recovery Program is set to launch in the coming academic year, and the Maricopa County School Superintendent's Office will work closely with Grad Solutions to identify eligible

students, engage community partners, and establish a robust support system to ensure the success of participants.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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About the Office of the Maricopa County School Superintendent: The Office of the Maricopa County School Superintendent is led by elected Superintendent Steve Watson. The office is statutorily responsible to provide services supporting school governing board elections, bond and override elections, appointments, school finance, and maintain homeschool and private school records. The superintendent leverages the office to strengthen teacher voice, increase respect for the education profession, and create resources that expand the capacity of teachers, administrators, and support staff. The superintendent also oversees the Maricopa County accommodation school.

About Grad Solutions: Grad Solutions is an Arizona-based education service provider that partners with school districts, charter schools, and County Superintendents to help reconnect and empower students to customize their educational journey. By utilizing the expert support systems available through Grad Solutions, students are able to create their own schedules and work on their classes anytime or anywhere through the online learning platform. Grad Solutions provides an individualized learning plan for each student, a personalized mentor team, rockstar instructors certified in their content area, and barrier-busting wraparound services to help guide students on their path to graduation, all at no cost to the student or their families.

- Designed for students between 16-21 years of age that reside in Arizona and have been out of school for more than 30 days.
- Individual learning plans are based on each student's personal progress within courses as they make their way toward graduation.
- Award-winning curriculum that is available to students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and is supported by a team of certified and highly qualified Arizona-based instructors.
- Each student's personal mentor works with them every step of the way toward earning their diploma and setting them up for their next steps.
- Numerous HUB (Helping Undo Barriers) locations provide in-person resource spaces where students receive support to accomplish their goals.
- For more information visit: iwantmydiploma.com