



2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

*Discover how strategic connections and thoughtful intention
made a difference in our schools and communities.*



A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

Connection with intention creates impact!

At School Connect, we believe that when schools and communities come together with purpose and intention, something truly beautiful happens. In 2025, I watched that belief become reality over and over again, in districts across Arizona.

Connecting the Village

Our CAFE (Community and Family Engagement) model expanded in reach and depth, bringing together leaders from 12 districts representing 168 schools. I witnessed partners leaning in. Principals arriving with clarity and vision. Community leaders saying, "Wow — that was the best CAFE I've ever been to." From urban to rural to tribal districts, leaders didn't just host CAFEs — together, they took ownership of what was possible and started a flywheel of momentum and growing support. In many of the schools we've been working with, we witnessed improvement in literacy, attendance, teacher retention, engagement, and even school ratings. What a joy to then celebrate those making the biggest difference at our Champions of Education Awards, where we honored leaders for showing up and giving back.

Raising the Bar

School Connect Training and Coaching programs reached new heights in 2025. Equipped with tools and perspective to engage their community, we watched principals and school teams walk into partner conversations with more confidence and clarity than ever before — empowered to bring their dreams, goals, and needs to the table and invite others to join them. In addition to training, the School Connect Summit and Classroom to Career Workshop continued to be more than skill-builders — they were places where real, strategic connections were made, and futures were reimaged.

Making a Difference

The success of our CAFEs and training programs made Love Our Schools Day feel extra special. Thanks to the growing number of trained school teams, Love Our Schools Day wasn't just a volunteer day; it became a strategic day for both service and relationship building. Volunteers and school staff showed up with big hearts and clear goals, doing work directly connected to what each school wanted to achieve. Deepened partnership connections then opened doors for year-round impact, allowing students to explore future careers and connect classroom learning to real-world possibilities.

None of what happened in 2025 would have been possible without you — our partners, volunteers, friends, donors — our village. Thank you for believing that every child, in every community, deserves people in their corner!



Tracey Beal

Founder & CEO, School Connect



Staff Team

- **Tracey Beal**, Founder & CEO
- **CC Curry**, Executive Assistant
- **Shea Duryea**, Director of Community Relations & Programming
- **Rosey LaVine**, Marketing Support
- **Danielle Lerner**, Public Relations
- **Tim Tiller, MSW**, Operations Consultant
- **Jerry Withers**, Development Manager

Governing Board

- **Dr. Jennifer Johnson**, Board Chair, Retired Superintendent
- **Dr. Carol Lippert**, Assistant Vice President, K-12 Outreach and Support, Grand Canyon University
- **Tracey Benson**, President & CEO, Arizona Business & Education Coalition
- **Dr. Susie Cook**, Retired Superintendent
- **Dr. Jen Cruz**, Superintendent, Pendergast Elementary School District
- **John Dowd**, Director of Community Engagement, CORE Construction
- **Shelly Hornback**, Owner, Hornback Communications
- **Dr. Robbie Koerperich**, Superintendent, Holbrook Unified School District
- **Zach Papuga**, Executive Pastor, CalvaryPHX
- **Jerome Parker**, Community Pastor, First Christian Church
- **Dr. Dan Steffen**, Senior Pastor, Pure Heart Church
- **Dr. Paul Tighe**, Executive Director, Arizona School Administrators

Vision

Every student in every school is actively supported by the community.

Mission

School Connect empowers schools to create lasting community partnerships that ignite every student's potential.

Arizona Impact

School Connect AZ worked with **67 school districts**, representing **776** across Arizona in 2025.



- Agua Fria Union High School District
- Alhambra Elementary School District
- Apache Junction Unified School District
- Amphitheater Public Schools
- ASU Prep Academy
- AZ Aspire Academy
- Avondale Elementary School District
- Balsz School District
- BASIS Ed Arizona
- Beaver Creek School District
- Bisbee Unified School District
- Buckeye Elementary School District
- Buckeye Union High School District
- Cartwright School District
- Casa Academy
- Cave Creek Unified School District
- Chandler Unified School District
- Chinle Unified School District
- Creighton School District
- Deer Valley Unified School District
- Edison School of Innovation
- Elfrida Elementary School District
- Empower College Prep
- Florence School District
- Fowler Elementary School District
- Gadsen Elementary School District
- Gateway Academy
- Genesis Academy
- Gilbert Public Schools
- Glendale Elementary School District
- Glendale Union High School District
- Great Hearts Academy
- Hermosa Montessori
- Higley Unified School District
- Holbrook Unified School District
- Isaac School District

- JO Combs Unified School District
- Kyrene Elementary School District
- Laveen School District
- Liberty Elementary School District
- Litchfield Elementary School District
- Littleton Elementary School District
- Madison Elementary School District
- Marana Unified School District
- Maricopa Unified School District
- Mohawk Valley School District
- Murphy Elementary School District
- New Cross Roads Academy
- North Valley Christian Academy
- Paradise Valley Elementary School District
- Pendergast Elementary School District
- PPEC Tec High School District
- Peoria Unified School District
- Phoenix Elementary School District
- Phoenix Union High School District
- Queen Creek Unified School District
- Roosevelt School District
- Saddle Mountain Unified School District
- Scottsdale Unified School District
- Sierra Vista Unified School District
- Tempe Elementary School District
- Tolleson Elementary School District
- Tombstone Unified School District
- Washington Elementary School District
- Wickenburg School District
- Wilson Elementary School District
- Vail School District

Program Impact: CAFES, Training & Coaching

→ **20**

CAFE Events

→ **12**

Districts Involved

→ **168**

Schools Impacted

→ **117,824**

Students Impacted

→ **1,150**

Partners Involved

CAFES

These round table events took place throughout the year, allowing principals to host community stakeholders at their school to discuss strategic goals and mutually beneficial partnership initiatives.



Explore
CAFES

→ **8**

Districts Trained

→ **137**

Schools Impacted

Training & Coaching

Our various training and coaching programs equipped and inspired educators and school champions to implement creative strategies that engaged their communities in service and mentorship opportunities.



Explore
Training
& Coaching



Program Impact: Love Our Schools Day

→ **27**
Districts Involved

→ **178**
Schools Served

→ **37**
Project Grants Given

→ **4,000**
Volunteers Involved

→ **89,000**
Students Impacted

Love Our Schools Day

This annual fall event included project-based volunteer days throughout the season, during which the community worked with schools to provide support where it was needed most. From gardening, painting, rebuilding, cleaning, and more, Love Our Schools Day 2025 let students and school teams know how much they matter!



Explore
Love Our
Schools Day



Program Impact: The School Connect Summit

→ **40**

Districts
Represented

→ **632**

Schools
Represented

→ **114**

Partners & Sponsors
Represented

The School Connect Summit

This annual event empowered educators and community leaders to connect, grow, and discover how we can work together to support schools through strategic partnerships. Highlights include an inspiring keynote by Chris Singleton, an informative superintendent panel, uplifting student performances, and conversations designed to spark new connections and ideas.



Program Impact: The Classroom to Career Workshop

Classroom to Career Workshop

This annual event brought together industry leaders and educators to form partnerships to carve out pathways for students from the classroom to career.



→ **30**

Districts
Represented

→ **345**

Schools Impacted



Program Impact: Champions of Education Awards

The Champions of Education Awards

This annual event honored leaders, educators, and students for going above and beyond to create a brighter future for Arizona youth. Together we celebrated over breakfast, student performances, and many inspiring stories!

→ 24

Districts Represented

→ 15

Awards Given

→ 250

Attendees



GOING BEYOND ARIZONA



National Impact

14

Cities

- Little Rock, AK
- Orange County, CA
- Colorado Springs, CO
- Golden, CO
- Columbia, IN
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Warsaw, IN
- Louisville, KY
- Lafayette, LA
- Charlotte, NC
- Oklahoma City, OK
- Omaha, NE
- San Antonio, TX
- Appleton, WI

35

Districts

342

Schools

168,238

Students Impacted

*“What feels worth celebrating is the **growing alignment of generosity**. Instead of people guessing what a school might need, more leaders, churches, businesses, and volunteers are beginning to respond to what schools are actually saying.”*

Samantha Johnson, Omaha, NE



2025 Outcome Highlights



Partnership Inspires Reading Across the Valley

In 2025, the Phoenix Suns/Phoenix Mercury Foundation partnered with Arizona schools to encourage student reading through the Valley Readers Program. Over 20,000 students logged an incredible 9,638,457 reading minutes, averaging 8 hours per student!



Partnership Revitalizes High School Atrium

Thanks to support from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the dedicated efforts of local engineering and construction companies working alongside the class of 2025, the Cactus High School atrium has been completely revitalized. The new atrium features a pond, paths, native plants, and enclosures for a desert tortoise and rabbits. It will serve as both an outdoor classroom—supporting lessons in biology, ecosystems, and the environment—and a peaceful spot where students can unwind and recharge. Beyond the construction, students had the chance to learn firsthand about careers in engineering and construction while hearing stories and advice from the experts. Several volunteers even offered to continue mentoring students and opening doors to future opportunities!

2025 Outcome Highlights



[Read Full Story >](#)

Love Our Schools Day Makes an Impact

At Faith North Early Childhood Learning Center in central Phoenix, volunteers and early-learning experts designed a sensory walk tailored to young learners and students with disabilities. Shea Duryea with School Connect said volunteers from Childsplay Theatre, ASU and Advanced Autism Services helped maximize developmental benefits by designing bright, playful pathways that support motor skills, balance and sensory regulation.



Miami Students and Staff Rise After Devastating Floods

The floodwaters damaged six classrooms, the library, gym, cafeteria, auditorium and administrative offices. Hundreds of students were forced to relocate as crews worked to clear debris and repair the campus. “At one point, we had 300 volunteers here helping us shovel mud, clean pathways and move books and materials to higher ground,” Ramos said. “It took all those hands to make it happen.”

Among them was School Connect, a Valley-based nonprofit that usually focuses on helping education leaders with professional development. After the flooding, the group stepped in to help coordinate volunteers and replace supplies.

Thank You to Our Partners!

It takes a village!



Legacy Partners

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
- CHASSE Building Team
- CORE Construction
- First Christian Church
- Grand Canyon University
- GenTech
- Jack Ingebritson Foundation, Inc.
- Dr. Jennifer Johnson
- Dr. Kent & Linda Livermore Fund
- McCarthy Building Companies
- Pure Heart Church
- Schumacher Foundation
- Scottsdale Bible Church
- Valley Schools Management Group (VSMG)
- Blake Williams

Event Sponsors & Vendors

- 1GPA
- 4U Electric
- All Pro Dad
- Alliant School of Nursing
- American Council of Engineering Companies of Arizona (ACEC Arizona)
- AmTrust Financial Services
- Arizona PTA
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
- CHASSE Building Team
- Concord General Contracting
- CopperPoint Insurance Co.
- CORE Construction
- Danson Construction
- Day and Zimmermann
- Edward Jones
- EMC2
- Fiesta Sports Foundation
- Gateway Academy
- GenTech
- Global Roofing
- Grace Design Studios
- Grad Solutions
- Graduation Alliance
- Grand Canyon University
- Junior Innovators
- Kairos Health AZ
- Learn Fresh
- McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
- Mental Health Centers of America
- Mohave
- Phoenix Youth and Education Commission
- +Shop
- Progressive Roofing
- Pueblo Mechanical
- Renaissance
- Right at School
- Rytan Construction
- Scholastic Book Fairs
- Scottsdale Bible Church
- Scouting Arizona
- Serena English
- SitelogIQ
- SPS+ Architecture
- STEM Sports
- STIIX
- Sun Valley Builders
- Sun Valley Masonry
- Sunland Asphalt
- Tempe Mechanical
- The Learning Engineering Institute at Arizona State University
- The SPEAK Center
- Thrivent
- Tonto Rim Christian Camp
- United Portraits
- Uptown Jungle Fun Park
- Valley Schools Management Group (VSMG)
- Victory Schools AZ
- Vitalant
- Zero Eyes

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It takes a village!



All Partners & Donors

- 1GPA
- 4U Electric LLC
- American Council of Engineering Companies of Arizona (ACEC Arizona)
- Alliant School of Nursing and Health Sciences
- AmTrust Financial Services
- Anne M McNamara
- Arizona Community Foundation
- Arizona PTA
- Arizona Sustainability Alliance
- Tacy Ashby
- David and Tracey Beal
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
- Burton Family Foundation
- CHASSE Building Team
- City of Phoenix
- Concord General Contracting
- Copper Point Insurance Companies
- Susan Cook
- CORE Construction
- Danson Construction
- Day and Zimmermann
- Shea and Daniel Duryea
- Serena English
- EMC2
- Fiesta Sports Foundation
- First Christian Church
- Gateway Academy
- GenTech
- Girl Scouts Cactus Pine Council
- Global Roofing
- Grace Design Studios
- Grad Solutions
- Graduation Alliance
- Grand Canyon Education
- Jack Ingebritson Foundation
- Jefferson County School District
- Edward Jones
- Dr. Jennifer Johnson
- Junior Innovators
- Kairos Health AZ
- Shelly and Todd Hornback
- Kent and Linda Livermore Fund
- Learn Fresh
- McCarthy Building Companies
- Mental Health Center of America
- Scott Menzel
- Mohave
- Navi Nurses
- Northeast Christian Church
- Jerome Parker
- Phoenix Suns / Mercury Foundation
- Phoenix Youth and Education Commission
- +Shop
- Pueblo Mechanical & Controls
- Pure Heart Church
- Marilyn & Randy Reiff
- Relatrix Corporation
- Renaissance
- Mike Richardson
- Right At School
- RYTAN Construction
- Scholastic Bookfairs
- Schumacher Foundation
- Scottsdale Bible Church
- Scouting Arizona
- Nedda Shafir
- SitelogIQ
- Southwest Horizon Real Estate Services
- SPS+Architects
- STEM Sports
- STIIX
- Alison & Paul Stone
- Sun Valley Builders
- Sun Valley Masonry
- Sunland Asphalt
- Tempe Mechanical
- The Learning Engineering Institute at Arizona State University
- The SPEAK Center
- Thrivent
- Tonto Rim Christian Camp
- Trellis
- United Portraits
- Uptown Jungle
- US Charitable Gift
- Valley of the Sun United Way
- Valley School Management Group (VSMG)
- Valley Schools
- Victory Schools AZ
- Vitalant
- Blake Williams
- Zero Eyes



FOLLOW FOR THE LATEST STORIES & UPDATES!

The Flywheel is Turning!

The challenges facing our students and educators are real. Achievement gaps, chronic absenteeism, teacher retention, engagement, the long road from a classroom to a fulfilling career — these are not small things. *But neither are we!*

We have spent years believing that the village is the missing piece for so many of our students. And in 2025, we saw that belief confirmed in ways that took our breath away. When schools and communities move together with intention, with strategy, and with genuine love for kids, students don't just survive — they thrive. They begin to believe what we have always known to be true: that they are capable, they are strong, and there are no exceptions.

Our hope for 2026 is to keep building. To keep deepening partnerships. To keep showing up — for every child, in every community. *It takes a village!*

School Connect is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
To see our 990 financial information, please email
us at info@schoolconnectaz.org

