

MEMORANDUM

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board
Pima County Board of Supervisors

Date: October 15, 2025

Re: Addendum Item for 10/21/25 Meeting

From: Rex Scott
District 1 Supervisor
Pima County Board of Supervisors

Please place the following item on the addendum for the Board of Supervisors meeting October 21, 2025.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-____, A RESOLUTION AMENDING COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 1990-178 TO FORMALLY EVOLVE THE METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION INTO THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA EDUCATION COUNCIL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY OF TUCSON AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - _____

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 1990-178 TO FORMALLY
EVOLVE THE METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION INTO THE SOUTHERN
ARIZONA EDUCATION COUNCIL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY OF TUCSON AND
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

WHEREAS, on October 1, 1990, Pima County and the City of Tucson jointly adopted County Resolution No. 1990-178 and City Resolution No. 15453, establishing the Metropolitan Education Commission ("MEC") as a public body entrusted with advising on the educational welfare of the citizens of Tucson and Pima County;

WHEREAS, for more than thirty-five years, the MEC has faithfully advanced academic opportunity, civic empowerment, and regional collaboration on behalf of learners, families, and educational institutions;

WHEREAS, the evolving educational landscape requires deeper regional coordination and shared leadership to align resources, strategies, and outcomes across jurisdictions and sectors;

WHEREAS, Pima County and the City of Tucson, in partnership with Santa Cruz County, recognize the shared responsibility to support and strengthen a unified regional education strategy, and hereby seek to formally evolve the MEC into the Southern Arizona Education Council ("the Education Council");

WHEREAS, this transformation addresses a longstanding imbalance in statewide education infrastructure, wherein the Phoenix metropolitan area benefits from robust alignment and policy coordination while Southern Arizona has lacked a comparable mechanism to pursue opportunities at scale;

WHEREAS, the Education Council will provide a coordinated platform to elevate regional priorities, pursue equitable investments, and strengthen systems under a mission to empower a more educated and engaged community by connecting learners with opportunities to thrive with purpose;

WHEREAS, the Education Council shall center educational leadership—students, educators, and service professionals—while welcoming business, philanthropic, nonprofit, and civic partners to co-create and implement strategies rooted in lived experience and community needs;

WHEREAS, the Education Council is committed to overcoming fragmentation and duplication by aligning public and private efforts across education, youth development, and community well-being to achieve lasting, collective impact;

WHEREAS, the Education Council shall respond proactively to federal, state, and local challenges—including emerging threats to educational equity and access—through a regionally grounded, nonpartisan structure committed to the educational welfare of Southern Arizona;

WHEREAS, the Education Council shall operate with a designated Executive Committee responsible for organizational and fiduciary governance under Arizona Revised Statutes Title 10, Chapter 24, while the full Council shall continue to function as a public body subject to Arizona Open Meeting Law (A.R.S. § 38-431 et seq.) for matters of public interest or public fund expenditure;

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted in parallel with resolutions by the City of Tucson and Santa Cruz County, each signifying mutual commitment to the formation and governance structure of the Southern Arizona Education Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I. NAME OF THE BODY

The Metropolitan Education Commission is hereby formally evolved and reestablished as the Southern Arizona Education Council ("the Education Council"), a regional public body and coordinating organization, in partnership with Pima County, the City of Tucson, and Santa Cruz County.

SECTION II. FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSES

The Education Council shall fulfill the following regional functions under a mission to empower a more educated and engaged community by connecting learners to opportunities to thrive with purpose.

- A. Identify and develop solutions to issues of economic, political, and social importance to education, ensuring responsiveness to the needs of learners, educators, and the community;
- B. Convene and coordinate public, private, and community-based agencies to enhance the educational welfare of children, teens, and adults;
- C. Promote ideas, programs, and practices that deliver high-quality educational outcomes and expand access to learning opportunities across all ages and stages;
- D. Elevate and align the efforts of organizations engaged in education and civic development to ensure public awareness and shared pursuit of educational excellence;
- E. Advocate for sound policies, practices, and public commitments necessary to advance educational opportunity, civic engagement, and regional well-being.

SECTION III. APPOINTMENTS, QUALIFICATIONS, AND TERM OF OFFICE

A. Appointments

The Education Council shall consist of twenty-four (24) members. Except for the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent officer, all members shall serve without compensation but may receive reasonable reimbursement for expenses as may be fixed by resolution. Membership shall be composed as follows:

- **Automatic Appointments Contingent on Employment:**
 - One (1) Chief Executive Officer, who shall also serve as President

of the Council. The President/Chief Executive Officer shall be a full voting member of the Council and an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

- One (1) Pima County Superintendent of Schools or designee
- One (1) Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools or designee
- **Appointed or Assumed by the Arizona Governor:**
 - One (1) representative of the Office of the Arizona Governor
- **Appointed by Pima County Board of Supervisors:**
 - One (1) Board Supervisor or county designee
- **Appointed by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors:**
 - One (1) Board Supervisor or county designee
- **Appointed by City of Tucson Mayor and Council:**
 - One (1) Council Member or city designee
- **Appointed by the Education Council's Executive Committee:**
 - Two (2) learners, aged 16–21
 - One (1) educator for grades K–5
 - One (1) educator for grades 6–8
 - One (1) educator for grades 9–12
 - One (1) school principal
 - One (1) school district superintendent or chief executive officer
 - One (1) representative of an organization serving children or youth
 - Six (6) at-large representative of the broader academic or civic community
- **Appointed or Assumed by Post-Secondary Institutions**
 - Three (3) Presidents or Chancellors, or their designees, representative of public postsecondary institutions.

B. Qualifications and Term of Office

All members, excluding those appointed by the Governor and Post-Secondary Institutions, in addition to At-Large Members, must reside within the jurisdictions of the appointing entities and possess demonstrated knowledge applicable to the Education Council mission. The Education Council shall strive for diversity in age, gender, ethnicity, geography, lived experience, and professional expertise.

- The Chief Executive Officer & President, or equivalent principal officer, and the County Superintendent of Schools or their designees, shall serve in continuous terms contingent upon their respective appointments or employment in such roles.
- Members who are learners shall serve one-year terms.
- All other members shall serve staggered two-year terms and may be reappointed for up to six (6) consecutive years.

SECTION IV. VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

A. Vacancies

An individual appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term. If the remainder of that term exceeds one year, it shall count as a full term for the purposes of term limitations.

B. Removal

A member who misses four (4) consecutive meetings or attends fewer than forty percent (40%) of meetings in a calendar year shall be automatically removed. For appointees of Pima County, the City of Tucson, and Santa Cruz County, termination shall comply with written directives established by the respective governing bodies. In the absence of such directives, removal shall be effectuated by the Council in consultation with the appointing body, consistent with the organization's governance procedures.

SECTION V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, RULES AND QUORUM

A. Executive Committee

The Education Council shall elect officers from among its members to form an Executive Committee, responsible for administrative and organizational governance under Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 10, Chapters 24 through 40. The Executive Committee shall include at least five (5) members, including a Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. The Executive Committee may delegate day-to-day operations to the Chief Executive Officer & President, committees, or other persons, but retains fiduciary responsibility.

The Chief Executive Officer & President shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee. The Chief Executive Officer & President shall participate in Executive Committee meetings for the purpose of providing reports, advice, and information, but shall not exercise voting authority in the deliberations or actions of the Executive Committee.

B. Rules and Policies

The Education Council shall adopt bylaws and policies aligned with this resolution and applicable law, addressing governance, ethics, conflicts of interest, non-discrimination, indemnification, and whistleblower protections. The Executive Committee shall manage the activities and affairs of the greater Education Council, subject to Arizona law governing nonprofits and public bodies.

C. Quorum and Action Without Meeting

A majority of appointed Education Council members shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Education Council, while a majority of those elected to the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for meetings of its Executive Committee. All meetings of either body are subject to Arizona Open Meeting Law.

SECTION VI. PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

To further the organization's mission of enhancing the academic and civic welfare of Southern Arizona, the Education Council may establish a structured, tiered Partner framework for individuals and organizations, designed to inform, support, and amplify its work, without conferring any governing authority or public body status.

- Serve in an advisory, supportive, or investment capacity;
- Are not members of the public body or eligible to vote on Council matters;
- May be appointed to committees or task forces by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall maintain and oversee this framework, ensuring inclusive and equitable representation aligned with the region's educational landscape.

SECTION VII. ADVOCACY, LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

The organization may engage in advocacy activities to inform and educate the public and policymakers on issues related to its mission. Such activities include, but are not limited to, public campaigns, outreach, dissemination of research, and participation in forums.

A. Advocacy Permitted

The Education Council may conduct educational and advocacy activities consistent with its mission and legal status.

B. Limited Lobbying Activities

Limited lobbying is permitted within IRS thresholds for 501(c)(3) organizations and must be approved by its Executive Committee and disclosed in reporting.

C. Prohibition on Political Activity

The Education Council shall not support or oppose any candidate for elected office. Members and partners may engage in personal political activity, provided it is separate from their Council role and resources.

D. Guidance and Compliance

Its Executive Committee shall issue policies and oversight procedures to ensure lawful and ethical conduct.

SECTION VIII. AMENDMENTS

This resolution may be amended by joint action of the three founding jurisdictions upon recommendation of the Education Council and adoption of parallel resolutions by all parties.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Pima County and the City of Tucson, in joint and parallel action with Santa Cruz County, hereby adopt this resolution establishing the Southern Arizona Education Council, effective immediately.

All provisions of County Resolution No. 1990-178 inconsistent with this resolution are hereby repealed. All remaining provisions, as otherwise amended to date, shall remain in full force and effect.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Rex Scott, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board



Bobby Yu, Deputy County Attorney



METRO EDUCATION COMMISSION

Resolution No. 2025-005

A RESOLUTION OF THE METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDING THE CITY OF TUCSON AND PIMA COUNTY AMEND CITY RESOLUTION NO. 15453 AND COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 1990-178 TO ENABLE ITS TRANSFORMATION INTO THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA EDUCATION COUNCIL

WHEREAS, on October 1, 1990, the City of Tucson, through the leadership of Tom Volgy, then Mayor of Tucson, and Pima County, through the leadership of Raúl Grijalva, then Pima County Supervisor, jointly adopted City Resolution No. 15453 and County Resolution No. 1990-178, establishing the Metropolitan Education Commission ("MEC") as a public body entrusted with advising on the educational welfare of the citizens of Tucson and Pima County;

WHEREAS, the founding functions and purposes of the MEC are summarized as follows:

- Identify issues of economic, political, and social importance to education, seek to frame and resolve these issues in a manner helpful to education and the public, and inform interested parties of its work;
- Coordinate collaborations among agencies that support education for the common purpose of enhancing the educational welfare of our constituencies;
- Articulate ideas, programs, and innovative practices that increase access to the very best concepts and programs, and ensure that the many agencies, districts, and organizations that engage in education are aware of one another and endeavoring to achieve the highest possible educational benefit;
- Advocate for sound and wise educational policies, practices, and legislation, as well as for the commitments necessary to raise the highest possible levels of interest in, and support for, education;

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Education Commission seeks to evolve under a new, unifying a mission to empower a more educated and engaged community by connecting learners to opportunities to thrive with purpose;

WHEREAS, this transformation aims to correct a longstanding imbalance in Arizona's education landscape, where the Phoenix metropolitan area has benefited from concentrated infrastructure

and policy coordination, while Southern Arizona has lacked a similarly unified vehicle to pursue large-scale educational initiatives, funding, and representation;

WHEREAS, evolving into the Southern Arizona Education Council will allow the region to consolidate and elevate efforts across jurisdictions—providing a shared table for diverse sectors to align priorities, invest in equity-driven strategies, and deliver on the promise of opportunity for all learners, as outlined in our Strategic Imperatives for Academic and Civic Empowerment;

WHEREAS, this new structure will bring coherence to a fragmented nonprofit and education ecosystem, foster authentic engagement with educators, students, and practitioners, and invite business, philanthropic, and civic leaders to champion solutions led by those closest to the classroom and community;

WHEREAS, the need for such a coordinated and regionally responsive body is further underscored by national threats to educational equity—including efforts to weaken the U.S. Department of Education and erode protections for vulnerable students—making it imperative that Southern Arizona speak with unified purpose to protect and advance the rights, resources, and opportunities our learners deserve;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The proposed amendments to City Resolution No. 15453 and County Resolution No. 1990-178, attached hereto as *Exhibit A*, is approved for distribution.
2. The requested Authorizing Document for adoption by Santa Cruz County, attached hereto as *Exhibit B*, is approved for distribution.
3. The outlined Strategic Imperatives for Academic and Civic Empowerment, attached hereto as *Exhibit C*, is approved for adoption and development.
4. The Board of Directors, including the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent principal officer as may be designated by the Council, and designated staff, is authorized and directed to perform all acts necessary to give effect to this resolution, including augmentation, communication and collaboration with affiliated governmental bodies.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Metropolitan Education Commission on this 22 day of August, 2025, with 7 yays, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

A RESOLUTION AMENDING [COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 1990-178 / CITY RESOLUTION NO. 15453] TO FORMALLY EVOLVE THE METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION INTO THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA EDUCATION COUNCIL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH [CITY OF TUCSON / PIMA COUNTY], AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

WHEREAS, on October 1, 1990, Pima County and the City of Tucson jointly adopted County Resolution No. 1990-178 and City Resolution No. 15453, establishing the Metropolitan Education Commission ("MEC") as a public body entrusted with advising on the educational welfare of the citizens of Tucson and Pima County;

WHEREAS, for more than thirty-five years, the MEC has faithfully advanced academic opportunity, civic empowerment, and regional collaboration on behalf of learners, families, and educational institutions;

WHEREAS, the evolving educational landscape requires deeper regional coordination and shared leadership to align resources, strategies, and outcomes across jurisdictions and sectors;

WHEREAS, Pima County and the City of Tucson, in partnership with Santa Cruz County, recognize the shared responsibility to support and strengthen a unified regional education strategy, and hereby seek to formally evolve the MEC into the Southern Arizona Education Council ("the Council");

WHEREAS, this transformation addresses a longstanding imbalance in statewide education infrastructure, wherein the Phoenix metropolitan area benefits from robust alignment and policy coordination while Southern Arizona has lacked a comparable mechanism to pursue opportunities at scale;

WHEREAS, the Council will provide a coordinated platform to elevate regional priorities, pursue equitable investments, and strengthen systems under a mission to empower a more educated and engaged community by connecting learners to education, service, and the opportunity to thrive with purpose;

WHEREAS, the Council shall center educational leadership—students, educators, and service professionals—while welcoming business, philanthropic, nonprofit, and civic partners to co-create and implement strategies rooted in lived experience and community needs;

WHEREAS, the Council is committed to overcoming fragmentation and duplication by aligning public and private efforts across education, youth development, and community well-being to achieve lasting, collective impact;

WHEREAS, the Council shall respond proactively to federal, state, and local challenges—including emerging threats to educational equity and access—through a regionally grounded, nonpartisan structure committed to the educational welfare of Southern Arizona;

WHEREAS, the Council shall operate with a designated Executive Committee responsible for organizational and fiduciary governance under Arizona Revised Statutes Title 10, Chapter 24, while the full Council shall continue to function as a public body subject to Arizona Open Meeting Law (A.R.S. § 38-431 et seq.) for matters of public interest or public fund expenditure;

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted in parallel with resolutions by [Pima County / the City of Tucson], and Santa Cruz County, each signifying mutual commitment to the formation and governance structure of the Southern Arizona Education Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE [PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS / CITY OF TUCSON MAYOR AND COUNCIL], AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I. NAME OF THE BODY

The Metropolitan Education Commission is hereby formally evolved and reestablished as the Southern Arizona Education Council ("the Council"), a regional public body and coordinating organization, in partnership with Pima County, the City of Tucson, and Santa Cruz County.

SECTION II. FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSES

The Council shall fulfill the following regional functions under a mission to empower a more educated and engaged community by connecting learners to opportunities to thrive with purpose.

- A. Identify and develop solutions to issues of economic, political, and social importance to education, ensuring responsiveness to the needs of learners, educators, and the community;
- B. Convene and coordinate public, private, and community-based agencies to enhance the educational welfare of children, teens, and adults;
- C. Promote ideas, programs, and practices that deliver high-quality educational outcomes and expand access to learning opportunities across all ages and stages;
- D. Elevate and align the efforts of organizations engaged in education and civic development to ensure public awareness and shared pursuit of educational excellence;
- E. Advocate for sound policies, practices, and public commitments necessary to advance educational opportunity, civic engagement, and regional well-being.

SECTION III. APPOINTMENTS, QUALIFICATIONS, AND TERM OF OFFICE

A. Appointments

The Council shall consist of twenty-four (24) members. Except for the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent officer, all members shall serve without compensation but may receive reasonable reimbursement for expenses as may be fixed by resolution. Membership shall be composed as follows:

- **Automatic Appointments Contingent on Employment:**
 - One (1) Chief Executive Officer, who shall also serve as President of the Council. The President/Chief Executive Officer shall be a full

voting member of the Council and an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

- One (1) Pima County Superintendent of Schools or designee
- One (1) Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools or designee
- **Appointed or Assumed by the Arizona Governor:**
 - One (1) representative of the Office of the Arizona Governor
- **Appointed by Pima County Board of Supervisors:**
 - One (1) Board Supervisor or county designee
- **Appointed by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors:**
 - One (1) Board Supervisor or county designee
- **Appointed by City of Tucson Mayor and Council:**
 - One (1) Council Member or city designee
- **Appointed by the Council's Executive Committee:**
 - Two (2) learners, aged 16–21
 - One (1) educator for grades K–5
 - One (1) educator for grades 6–8
 - One (1) educator for grades 9–12
 - One (1) school principal
 - One (1) school district superintendent or chief executive officer
 - One (1) representative of an organization serving children or youth
 - Six (6) at-large representative of the broader academic or civic community
- **Appointed or Assumed by Post-Secondary Institutions**
 - Three (3) Presidents or Chancellors, or their designees, representative of public postsecondary institutions.

B. Qualifications and Term of Office

All members, excluding those appointed by the Governor and Post-Secondary Institutions, in addition to At-Large Members, must reside within the jurisdictions of the appointing entities and possess demonstrated knowledge applicable to the Council mission. The Council shall strive for diversity in age, gender, ethnicity, geography, lived experience, and professional expertise.

- The Chief Executive Officer & President, or equivalent principal officer, and the County Superintendent of Schools or their designees, shall serve in continuous terms contingent upon their respective appointments or employment in such roles.
- Members who are learners shall serve one-year terms.
- All other members shall serve staggered two-year terms and may be reappointed for up to six (6) consecutive years.

SECTION IV. VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

A. Vacancies

An individual appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term. If the remainder of that term exceeds one year, it shall count as a full term for the purposes of term limitations.

B. Removal

A member who misses four (4) consecutive meetings or attends fewer than forty percent (40%) of meetings in a calendar year shall be automatically removed. For appointees of Pima County, the City of Tucson, and Santa Cruz County, termination shall comply with written directives established by the respective governing bodies. In the absence of such directives, removal shall be effectuated by the Council in consultation with the appointing body, consistent with the organization's governance procedures.

SECTION V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, RULES AND QUORUM

A. Executive Committee

The Council shall elect officers from among its members to form an Executive Committee, responsible for administrative and organizational governance under A.R.S. §10-24-40. The Executive Committee shall include at least five (5) members, including a Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. The Executive Committee may delegate day-to-day operations to the Chief Executive Officer & President, committees, or other persons, but retains fiduciary responsibility.

The Chief Executive Officer & President shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee. The Chief Executive Officer & President shall participate in Executive Committee meetings for the purpose of providing reports, advice, and information, but shall not exercise voting authority in the deliberations or actions of the Executive Committee.

B. Rules and Policies

The Council shall adopt bylaws and policies aligned with this resolution and applicable law, addressing governance, ethics, conflicts of interest, nondiscrimination, indemnification, and whistleblower protections. The Executive Committee shall manage the activities and affairs of the greater Council, subject to Arizona law governing nonprofits and public bodies.

C. Quorum and Action Without Meeting

A majority of appointed Council members shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Council, while a majority of those elected to the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee. All meetings of either body are subject to Arizona Open Meeting Law.

SECTION VI. PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

To further the organization's mission of enhancing the academic and civic welfare of Southern Arizona, the Council may establish a structured, tiered Partner framework for individuals and organizations, designed to inform, support, and amplify its work, without conferring any governing authority or public body status.

- Serve in an advisory, supportive, or investment capacity;
- Are not members of the public body or eligible to vote on Council matters;
- May be appointed to committees or task forces by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall maintain and oversee this framework, ensuring inclusive and equitable representation aligned with the region's educational landscape.

SECTION VII. ADVOCACY, LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

The organization may engage in advocacy activities to inform and educate the public and policymakers on issues related to its mission. Such activities include, but are not limited to, public campaigns, outreach, dissemination of research, and participation in forums.

A. Advocacy Permitted

The Council may conduct educational and advocacy activities consistent with its mission and legal status.

B. Limited Lobbying Activities

Limited lobbying is permitted within IRS thresholds for 501(c)(3) organizations and must be approved by the Executive Committee and disclosed in reporting.

C. Prohibition on Political Activity

The Council shall not support or oppose any candidate for elected office. Council members and partners may engage in personal political activity, provided it is separate from their Council role and resources.

D. Guidance and Compliance

The Council's Executive Committee shall issue policies and oversight procedures to ensure lawful and ethical conduct.

SECTION VIII. AMENDMENTS

This resolution may be amended by joint action of the three founding jurisdictions upon recommendation of the Council and adoption of parallel resolutions by all parties.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Pima County and the City of Tucson, in joint and parallel action with Santa Cruz County, hereby adopt this resolution establishing the Southern Arizona Education Council, effective immediately.

MEC Resolution No. 2025-005 | Exhibit A

All provisions of City Resolution No. 15453 and County Resolution No. 1990-178 inconsistent with this resolution are hereby repealed. All remaining provisions, as otherwise amended to date, shall remain in full force and effect.

Strategic Imperatives for Academic and Civic Empowerment

Our Shared Mission

The Southern Arizona Education Council empowers a more educated and engaged community by connecting learners to education, service, and the opportunity to thrive with purpose. This mission anchors our regional strategy, advancing equity and access across systems so that all learners—regardless of background—can grow academically, contribute civically, and live with meaning.

Purpose of This Framework

These Strategic Imperatives serve as a guiding framework for our advocacy, investment, and programmatic efforts. They articulate our shared priorities as a cross-sector coalition committed to equitable outcomes for learners of all ages and identities throughout Southern Arizona.

Each Imperative defines a critical area of focus through which we pursue our mission—from foundational academic readiness and postsecondary success to civic engagement and student well-being. Together, they support a unified vision: a region where learning is accessible, service is valued, and opportunity is pursued collectively.

The Council will work in partnership with staff, member jurisdictions, and community allies to translate each Imperative into concrete strategies. These will include measurable goals, timelines, and shared indicators of progress. Implementation will be adaptive and responsive, ensuring alignment with evolving needs, policies, and opportunities across the region.

- **Imperative One | Foundational Learning and Academic Readiness**

We believe early access to quality education lays the groundwork for lifelong success. Our region must close persistent equity gaps in early childhood education, reading proficiency, and mathematics achievement to ensure every learner is prepared to thrive academically.

This imperative includes:

- Quality early learning and expanded access to preschool and full-day kindergarten
- Literacy and language development, especially third-grade reading proficiency
- Middle-grade math readiness as a pathway to high school success and STEM opportunities
- Alignment of evidence-based instructional practices, educator professional development, and family engagement

- **Imperative Two | Pathways to Postsecondary and Workforce Success**

We believe every learner deserves a clear, supported path to postsecondary education,

vocational training, or meaningful employment. Our region must address disparities in high school graduation rates, college-going, and adult credential attainment while re-engaging disconnected youth.

This imperative includes:

- High school graduation, dropout prevention, and alternative diploma pathways
- Postsecondary enrollment, FAFSA completion, and scholarship access
- Vocational training, apprenticeships, and dual enrollment
- Targeted re-engagement of Opportunity Youth and expanded career-connected learning

- **Imperative Three | Civic Engagement and Youth Empowerment**

We believe informed civic participation is essential to a thriving democracy. Our region must empower young people with the tools, experiences, and support to lead, serve, and advocate for their communities.

This imperative includes:

- Expansion of youth-led civic programs such as the Teen Town Hall and parallel year-round initiatives like the Tucson and Nogales-based Teen Congresses
- Civic education, voter registration, and broader community participation embedded in youth-serving engagements
- Opportunities for young people to engage with local, state, and federal policymakers through coordinated advocacy efforts and regional convenings
- Creation of service pathways and recognition of youth leadership

- **Imperative Four | Student Well-Being and Safe, Supportive Schools**

We believe student wellness is inseparable from academic achievement. Schools must provide environments where young people feel safe, supported, and equipped with the tools to navigate adversity.

This imperative includes:

- Access to school-based mental health professionals and trauma-informed practices
- Social-emotional learning and resilience education
- Prevention of youth substance misuse, vaping, and suicide
- Community wraparound supports that address housing, food security, and transportation barriers

Implementation Process

This framework is adopted as a living document. Staff and partners will develop a coordinated work plan aligning each Imperative to specific goals, data indicators, and timelines within affiliated jurisdictions. These strategic elements will be submitted to the Board of Directors for formal adoption and shared with the full Council for discussion, alignment, and accountability.

RESOLUTION NO. 1990- 178
AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, a number of issues relating to education have been identified which represent the interests of the community and its citizens in the education of children, youth and adults in the metropolitan Tucson area and surrounding areas within Pima County; and

WHEREAS, Pima County and the City of Tucson desire to jointly establish and empower a commission on education which would act to advise and make recommendations on all of the areas as they affect the educational welfare of the citizens of the city and county; and

WHEREAS, Pima County has determined that input from members of the public will assist the Board of Supervisors in exercising its authority, pursuant to ARS Sections 11-801 et seq and 11-901 et seq, Title 15 and Title 36; and

WHEREAS, the name of this joint commission will be the Metropolitan Education Commission; and

WHEREAS, this Commission shall be constructed as follows:

I. APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATIONS AND TERM OF OFFICE

A. Appointment

The Commission shall consist of thirty-one (31) members. All members of the Commission, other than the Executive Director, shall serve without compensation. Membership of the Commission shall consist of the following representation:

Five (5) members appointed by the Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors who meet the following qualifications:

One (1) appointee shall be a parent, one (1) appointee shall be a member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, one (1) appointee shall be a representative of the health care community, one (1) appointee shall be affiliated with a social service agency serving children and youth, one (1) appointee shall be a member of the religious community representing social services and benefit programs at metro-area churches and synagogues.

Five (5) members appointed by the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson who meet the following qualifications:

One (1) appointee shall be a parent, one (1) appointee shall be a member of the Tucson City Council, one (1) appointee shall be affiliated in some regard with parks, recreation or housing, one (1) appointee shall be affiliated in some regard with libraries, museums or the arts, one (1) appointee shall be affiliated with a social service agency serving youth and children.

Three (3) members appointed by the Arizona Education Association who meet the following qualifications:

One (1) appointee shall be a teacher from Grades K-6, one (1) appointee shall be a teacher from Grades 5-9, one (1) appointee shall be a teacher from Grades 9-12.

One (1) member appointed by the Arizona School Administrators Association shall be a building principal.

One (1) member appointed by the Greater Tucson School University Partnership shall be a superintendent.

One (1) member appointed by the Arizona School Boards Association shall be a school board member.

One (1) member appointed by the President of the University of Arizona shall be a representative of the University of Arizona.

One (1) member appointed by the President of Pima Community College shall be a representative of Pima Community College.

One (1) member appointed by the Metropolitan Tucson Chamber of Commerce shall be a representative of the business community.

Two (2) members appointed by the Greater Tucson Economic Council shall be representatives of commerce, business or industry.

One (1) member shall be appointed by the Tucson Urban League.

One (1) member shall be appointed by the Hispanic Community Forum.

One (1) member shall be appointed by the Metropolitan Tucson Commission on Urban Native American Affairs.

One (1) member appointed by an organization designated by the Commission shall be a representative of the Asian American community.

Four (4) members appointed by the Commission who meet the following qualifications:

One (1) appointee shall be a representative of the disabled community from nominations received, one (1) appointee shall be a teacher or administrator from a regionally accredited private institution from nominations received, two (2) at-large appointees shall be decided by the Commission.

Two (2) members, the Pima County Superintendent of Schools and the Executive Director of the Commission, will serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Commission.

B. Qualifications

Members should be residents of Pima County and should possess knowledge of issues and concerns related to education. Representation on this Commission shall, in every way possible, represent different segments of the community, including age, gender and ethnic groups.

C. Terms

The terms of the members of the Commission appointed by the Chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors shall expire with the Chairman's term of office. The terms of the members of the Commission appointed by the Mayor and Council shall be four years, except for the initial terms, which shall be staggered as follows: by such means as the Executive Committee shall determine, one-third of such Commissioners shall serve two years, one-third shall serve three years, and one-third shall serve for four years. Commission members may be reappointed subject to an eight year continuous service limitation.

II. VACANCIES, REMOVAL AND QUORUM

A. Vacancies

Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled by appointment in the same manner in which members are initially appointed. Appointments to fill vacancies caused by expiration of terms shall be filled no more than thirty (30) days after the expiration of the term. Appointments to a vacated position shall be for the unexpired portion of the term.

B. Removal

A member of the Commission who misses four (4) consecutive meetings for any reason or who fails to attend for any reason at least forty percent (40%) of the meetings called in a calendar year shall be automatically terminated, or in the case of appointees of Pima County or the City of Tucson, in accordance to written directives regarding joint Board, Committee and Commission appointments as established by the individual governing bodies.

C. Quorum

A majority of the voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

III. COMMISSION'S OFFICERS AND RULES

The Commission shall elect its own officers and may adopt rules and regulations in relation to its functioning consistent with this resolution and other laws. The Commission shall meet at such times and places as it determines.

IV. FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSES

A. The Commission shall identify issues of economic, political, and social importance to education, seek to frame and resolve these issues in a manner helpful to educational units and the public, and inform interested parties of its work.

B. The Commission shall coordinate the work of the many agencies that support education, by encouraging agencies and units to work together for the common purpose of enhancing the educational welfare of the citizens of the County and the City. These agencies and units include schools, religious organizations, business, social services, cultural organizations,

health care systems, museums, libraries, the arts, and such other organizations as may be constituted for the educational benefit of the citizens of the County and the City.

- C. The Commission shall articulate ideas, programs, and innovative practices in ways that increase access to the very best concepts and programs, and ensure that the many agencies, districts, and organizations that are engaged in education are aware of the mission and work of other units and are endeavoring to achieve the highest possible educational benefit.
- D. The Commission shall advocate for sound and wise educational policies, practices, and legislation, as well as for the commitments necessary to raise the County, State and City to the highest possible levels of interest in, and support for, education.

V. BUDGET AND FUNDING

On or before March 1 of each year, the Commission shall submit to the governing bodies a detailed budget requesting funds for the next fiscal year. Funds for the Commission staff and expenses of the Commission shall be supplied equally by the County and the City.

- VI. The various County officers and employees are authorized and directed to perform all acts necessary or desirable to give effect to this Resolution.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to preserve the peace, health, welfare and safety of the County, an emergency is hereby declared to exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA that there is hereby established in concert with the City of Tucson an organization to be called the Metropolitan Education Commission, and this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of OCT 2 1990, 1990.

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Reg T. Morrison
Reg T. Morrison, Chairman

OCT 2 1990

ATTEST:

Jane S. Williams
Jane S. Williams, Clerk of
the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Mark [Signature]
Civil Deputy County Attorney