



**EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME**

NORTHWEST MARICOPA REGION

2018 IMPACT REPORT

90% OF A CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than any other time in life. Research shows that the quality of a child's early life experiences shape how their brain develops.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state's youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.



As a school district administrator, I see how important the early years are and how they impact school success. Parents want to do what's best for their child, but often don't know what that is. First Things First is changing this by empowering parents to become better aware of both their important role in their child's learning and development, and the value of quality early care and education."

Dr. Deborah Pischke

Early Childhood Director
Peoria Unified School District

That's why Arizonans created First Things First

HOW WE WORK



Early Childhood Funds

Allotted by FTF State Board



28 FTF Regions

represent diverse communities across AZ



Local Decision-Making

Each region has 11 volunteer regional partnership council members representing their community. Based on the area's early childhood needs, each council prioritizes goals and strategies to help children birth to age 5 and their families.

Partnerships with Local Early Childhood Providers

First Things First offers grant opportunities; providers implement programs and services in communities.



Community Collaborations

Regions also collaborate with organizations and entities to build a network of programs and services to better support young children.



THIS RESULTS IN MORE KIDS READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

FISCAL YEAR 2018 NORTHWEST MARICOPA REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few highlights of the proven programs and innovative strategies from this region.



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

54,134 Instances a family or caregiver received early childhood information and/or resources or referrals through family resource centers.

11,634 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

6,697 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

1,089 Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

746 Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

3,100 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

FAMILY, FAITH AND QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION PROVIDE GLENDALE GIRL A PATH TO SUCCESS

Maria Perez is a friendly and confident 7-year-old excited to start second grade at Saint Louis the King Catholic School in Glendale. She regularly participates in Liturgy of the Word during mass on Sundays, which Maria says is one of her favorite things to do.

“Maria’s confidence was not always present,” said Maria’s mom, Nancy Perez. “Before starting preschool, she was shy and mainly played alone with her dolls.”

Maria’s older siblings attended the church’s elementary school and Perez soon became aware of the church’s full day preschool program. The Saint Louis the King preschool program is enrolled in

First Things First’s signature program, Quality First, which supports early care and education programs as they help prepare children for success in kindergarten and beyond.



When Maria started preschool, the teachers and staff noticed she was slower to learn letters and numbers. She also had a tendency to stay to herself and was not completely comfortable being social with her classmates.

Through positive, quality learning experiences like circle time, learning centers and outdoor play, Maria began to develop ways to express herself and became more comfortable in a classroom setting.

“During circle time, she would begin to ask questions and have discussions with her teacher and classmates about what they were learning,” said preschool teacher Tanya Leonard.

Today, Maria is confident with strong social skills, her mother said.

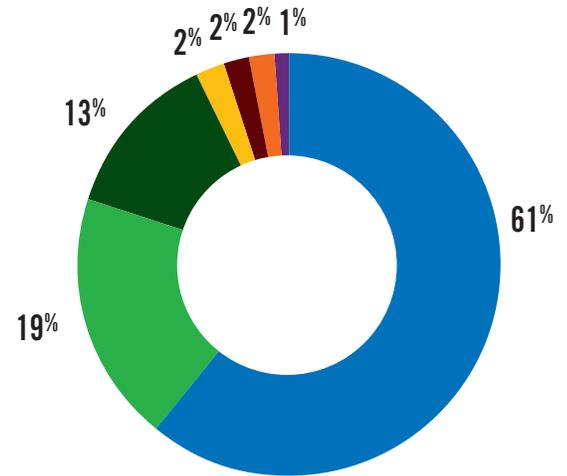
“She has participated in the preschool live nativity during Christmas, reads scripture in front of the congregation at church and easily makes friends,” Perez said. “She really likes to take care of others and enjoys school. This is something every parent wants for their child.”

NORTHWEST MARICOPA REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council is made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and decide how funds will be used to best support the development, education and health of young children birth to age 5. FTF invests in proven programs and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families.

FY18 TOTAL REGIONAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

 Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$5,956,001
 Strengthening Families	\$1,843,920
 Preventive Health	\$1,295,215
 Research and Evaluation	\$213,671
 Parent and Community Awareness	\$156,194
 Coordinating Support	\$128,051
 Workforce Development and Training	\$49,095
TOTAL	\$9,642,146



FIRST THINGS FIRST NORTHWEST MARICOPA REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jannelle Radoccia,
Chair

Erin Hart,
Vice Chair

Members

Patrick N. Contrades

Fran Pearson

Chuck Fitzgerald

Deborah Pischke

April Haning

Stephen Poling

Margaret Morales

James Scott

Christina Lyons,
FTF Regional Director

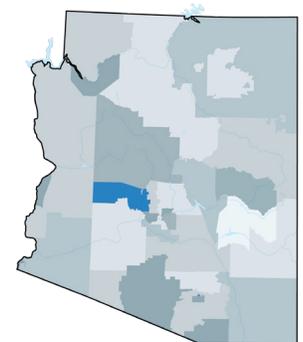
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The Northwest Maricopa Region lies entirely in Maricopa County and is densely populated in the east, but very sparsely populated in the west. It includes: six incorporated cities and towns – Peoria, El Mirage, Glendale, Surprise, Wickenburg and Youngtown; several unincorporated places – Aguila, Morristown, Sun City, Sun City West, Waddell and Wittmann; as well as small parts of the city of Phoenix. The Northwest Maricopa Region includes Legislative districts 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 29 and 30. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Northwest-Maricopa](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/Regions/Northwest-Maricopa)