

School Participatory Budgeting in Arizona



School Participatory Budgeting (SPB) is an innovative civic learning process designed to build student agency, collaboration, and critical thinking skills while creating pathways and opportunities for students to contribute to their communities and civic life.

How it Works

Through SPB, students “learn democracy by doing” through a process of participating in SPB steering committees on campus, developing proposals, and voting to fund improvement projects that build stronger school communities. The school model stems from the widely adopted municipal Participatory Budgeting (PB) model - a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend a portion of the public budget. CFA provides training and support to our partners to implement a year-long process, led by students working alongside their educators and the community. Together, students curate ideas, develop proposals, and participate in a campus-wide vote.



Why it Matters

We need strong and vibrant civic health to move Arizona forward on solving problems and building a bright future for our state.

SPB builds stronger school communities and develops students who are more informed, equipped and empowered to participate in civic life. This creates a pipeline of civic leaders who are trained to be problem-solvers, innovators and critical thinkers.

Impact

70,000+ students engaged annually in civic process

students registered to vote since 2016 **6,500+**

Partners

DISTRICT PARTNERS: Chandler USD ■ Mesa Public Schools ■ Phoenix Union High School District ■ Roosevelt School District ■ Sunnyside USD ■ Queen Creek USD

ARIZONA PARTNERS: Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council ■ Arizona State University Participatory Governance Initiative

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS: Participatory Budgeting Project ■ People Powered