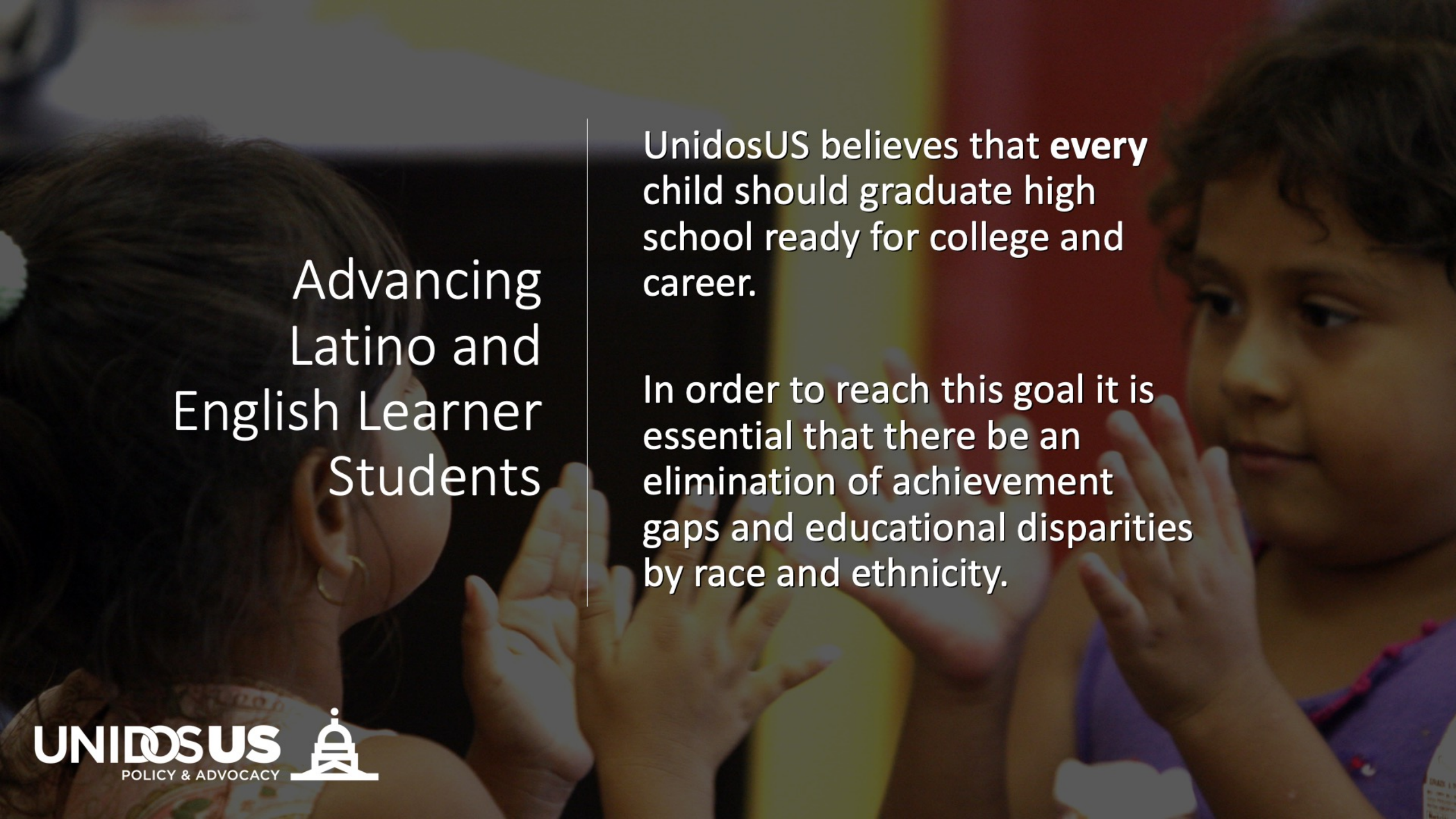




STRONGER COMMUNITIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

Advancing Latino and English Learner
Student Success in Arizona



Advancing Latino and English Learner Students

UnidosUS believes that **every** child should graduate high school ready for college and career.

In order to reach this goal it is essential that there be an elimination of achievement gaps and educational disparities by race and ethnicity.



Educational Equity

UnidosUS advocates for accountability and culturally responsive policy and program solutions to:

- Ensure Latinos and English learners receive the proper support for educational success
- Prepare Latino students to be successful in college and career
- Build leadership and advocacy skills in Latino youth, parents, educators, and Affiliates



The Changing Face of America's Schools

- **46%** of all K-12 students in Arizona are Latino.
- English Learners are the fastest growing group of students nationwide.
- There are more than **75,000 ELs** in Arizona, enough to fill up the Superdome.
- **85%** ELs in Arizona K-12 schools are Latino.


Source:
Arizona Department of Education Enrollment Data SY 2018-19

English Learners

- Most ELs are Spanish speaking, Latino, and U.S. born citizens.
- Most teachers will encounter an EL in their classrooms at some point in their careers.

Largest Number of Latino Students in Arizona Counties SY 2018-19		
County	Hispanic/Latino	Latino Share of Students in County (%)
Maricopa	33,8735	44.59%
Pima	81,066	54.34%
Yuma	32,811	83.92%
Pinal	23,364	44.84%
Cochise	10,698	55.72%

Source:
Arizona Department of Education Enrollment Data SY 2018-19

A photograph of four young students of diverse backgrounds, all wearing white school uniforms. They are smiling and hugging each other in a warm, friendly manner. The background shows a wooden door and a window with a grid pattern. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image, enclosed in a white-bordered box.

Today's students of color are a large and growing share of the **next generation of American workers, taxpayers, teachers, lawyers, and scientists.**

Significant Gains and Gaps in Arizona

Gains

- The Latino 4 year high school graduation rate has improved by 8 percentage points since 2008, at 75% in 2019.*
- The 4 year English Learner high school graduation rate is at an all-time high (52%); this includes current and former ELs.*

Gaps

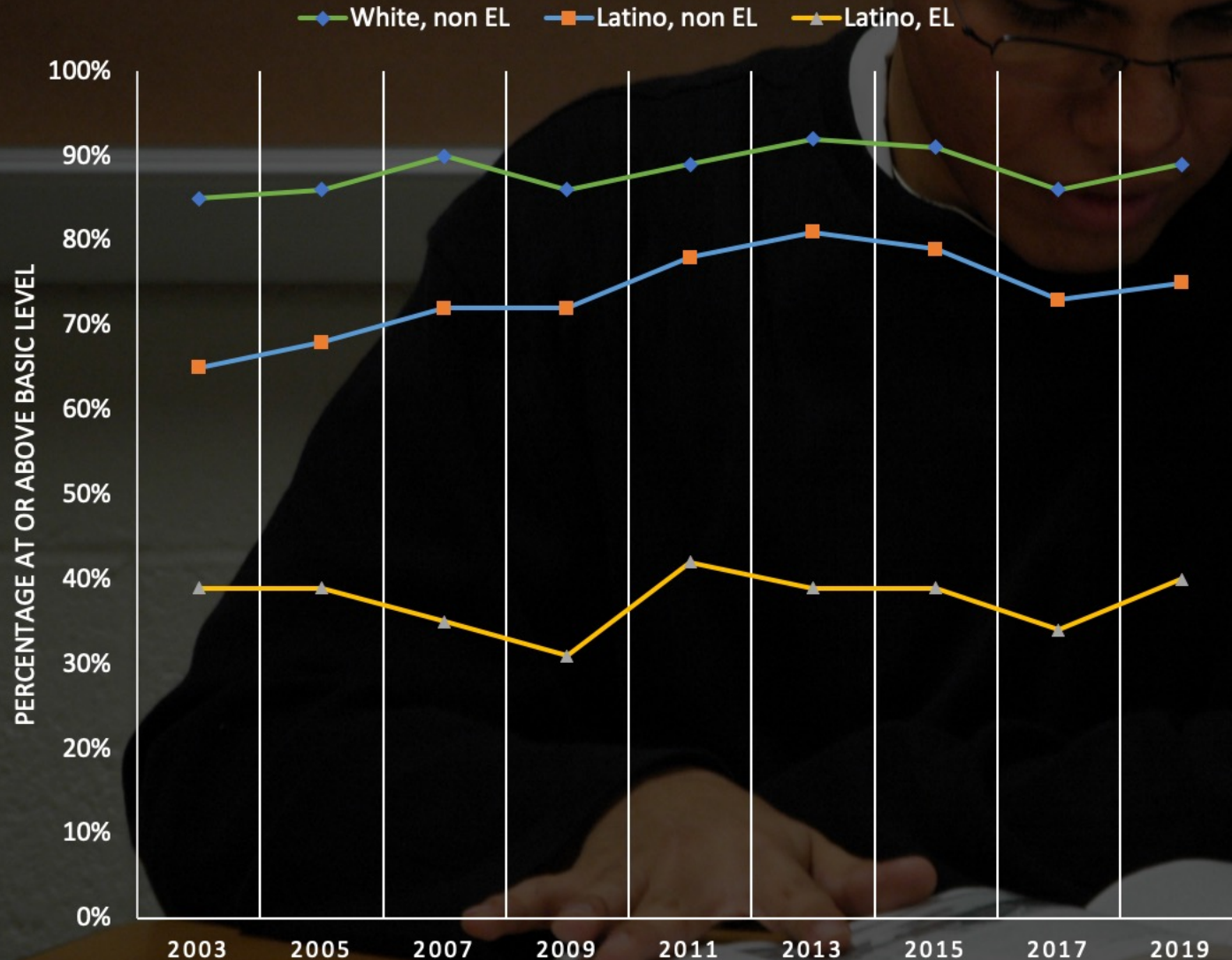
- During SY 2015-16, Arizona was one of six states in which fewer than half of all ELs graduated from high school on time.†
- In SY 2015-16, Arizona had the largest graduation gap nationwide, with ELs graduating at 48 percentage points lower than non-ELs.†

Sources:

**Arizona Department of Education Graduation Data 2008-18*

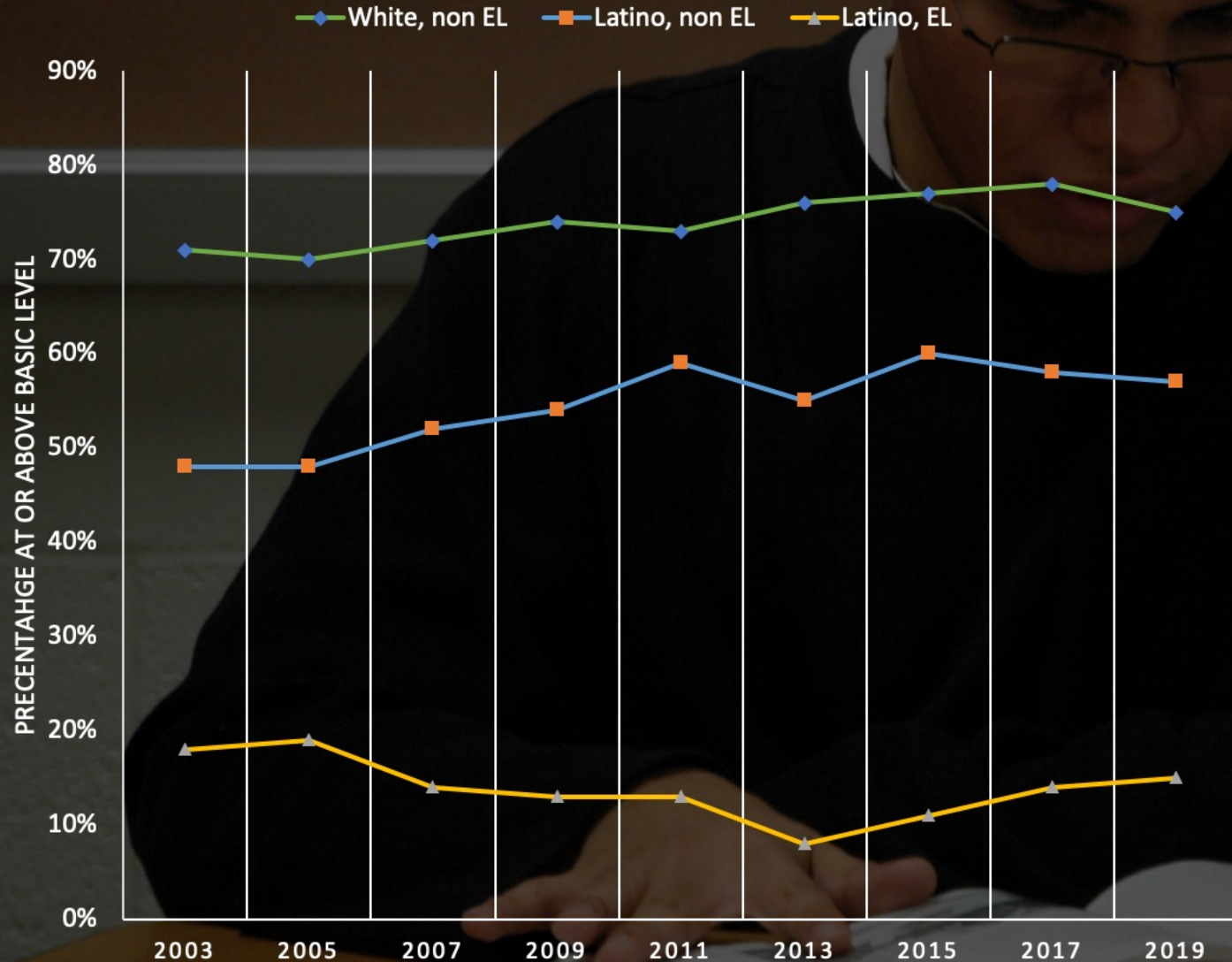
†US Department of Education, Academic Performance and Outcomes for English Learners

Fourth Grade Math Basic Level Attainment, Arizona 2003-2019



- Although we have seen growth for Latino students, **25%** of Latino 4th graders remain below basic in math.
- **60%** of English Learners score below basic in math.
- From 2003 to 2019, English Learners have seen an increase of only **1%** in 4th grade math basic level attainment.

Fourth Grade Reading Basic Level Attainment, Arizona 2003-2019



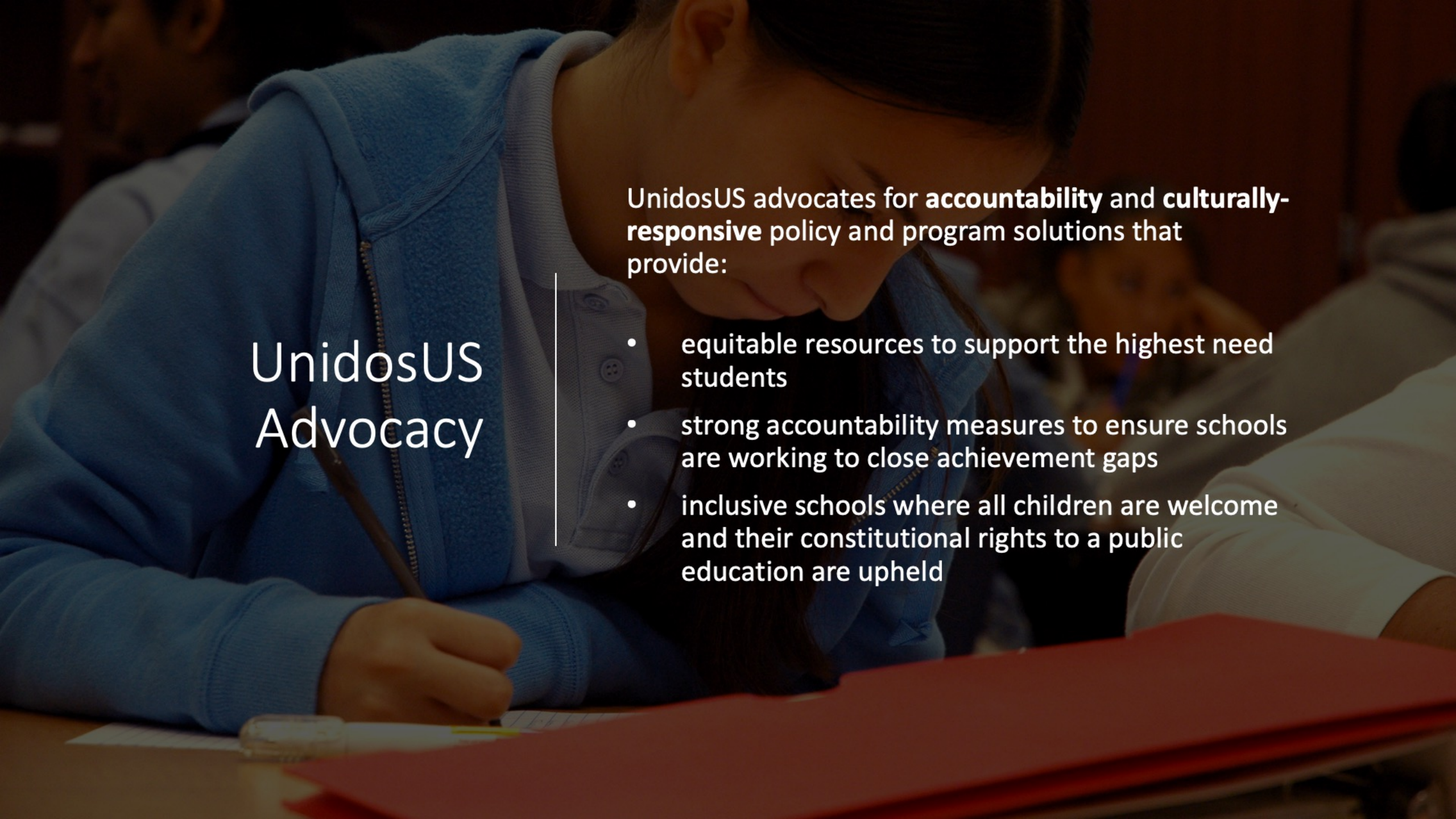
- **43%** of Latino 4th graders remain below basic in reading.
- **85%** of 4th grade English Learners score below basic in reading.
- From 2003 to 2019, 4th grade reading basic level attainment for ELs **decreased** by 3 percentage points.

Are Schools Serving Latino and EL students?

- Enrollment
- Achievement Gap
- Access to Advanced Coursework
- Graduation Rates
- Teacher Shortages

The demographic makeup of an **F rated** school in Arizona was on average **63% Latino**, while the typical A school was 27% Latino.

Nearly **40%** of **targeted support schools** in Arizona were identified due to low performance of **English Learners**.

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a blue zip-up hoodie, is focused on writing in a notebook. She is sitting at a desk in what appears to be a classroom, with other students and desks visible in the background. The image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay with white text.

UnidosUS Advocacy

UnidosUS advocates for **accountability** and **culturally-responsive** policy and program solutions that provide:

- equitable resources to support the highest need students
- strong accountability measures to ensure schools are working to close achievement gaps
- inclusive schools where all children are welcome and their constitutional rights to a public education are upheld

A photograph of two young girls, likely of Latino descent, running and smiling. They are wearing white short-sleeved polo shirts with dark collars. The girl in the foreground has long, curly brown hair and is pointing her right index finger towards the left. The girl behind her has dark hair styled in braids. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a dark sky, suggesting a park or schoolyard at dusk or dawn. The overall tone is positive and energetic.

Adopting Policies to Advance Latino and English Learner Student Success

Targeting Additional K-12 State Funding



- 67% of Latino Arizona voters surveyed would support a presidential candidate who supports increasing K-12 funding
- Arizona uses a weight of 11.5% for ELs for its funding formula to districts. Even with weighted funding, Arizona's low-funding levels provide a key barrier to making a substantial investment in ELs to close persistent achievement gaps.
- Arizona's overall per pupil funding is insufficient to serve the needs of all students.
- Arizona should increase overall spending in education, use the state's accountability system to identify schools in need of additional resources for ELs, and target funds to those districts and schools to be used on research-based practices in attaining English language proficiency and content mastery.

Source:
UnidosUS, 2020 National Latino Electorate Survey
Poll conducted from June 1-14, 2019. State samples at least N=300. Margin of error: +/-2.3 percentage points

Repeal Proposition 203 and discontinue structured/sheltered English immersion model (SEI)



- By 2013, fewer than 8% of the state's ELs had met basic level attainment in 4th grade reading.
- SEI inappropriately pulls EL students away from their content area courses and segregates them from other students for a significant part of the school day.
- There is a large body of research that has documented the negative impacts of SEI and its focus on achieving English Language Proficiency in just one year (or as quickly as possible). SEI is counter to what research and best practice suggest.

Expand High Quality Dual Language Programs



- **6 in 10** Arizona voters support dual language education
- In a growing global economy, bilingualism is more valuable than ever.
- Beyond being an asset on the job market, dual language programs promote biliteracy, academic content knowledge and cross-cultural competency in students.
- Arizona should invest in quality dual language programs that will better prepare its students to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Source:

UnidosUS & Helios Education Foundation, Arizona Statewide Survey

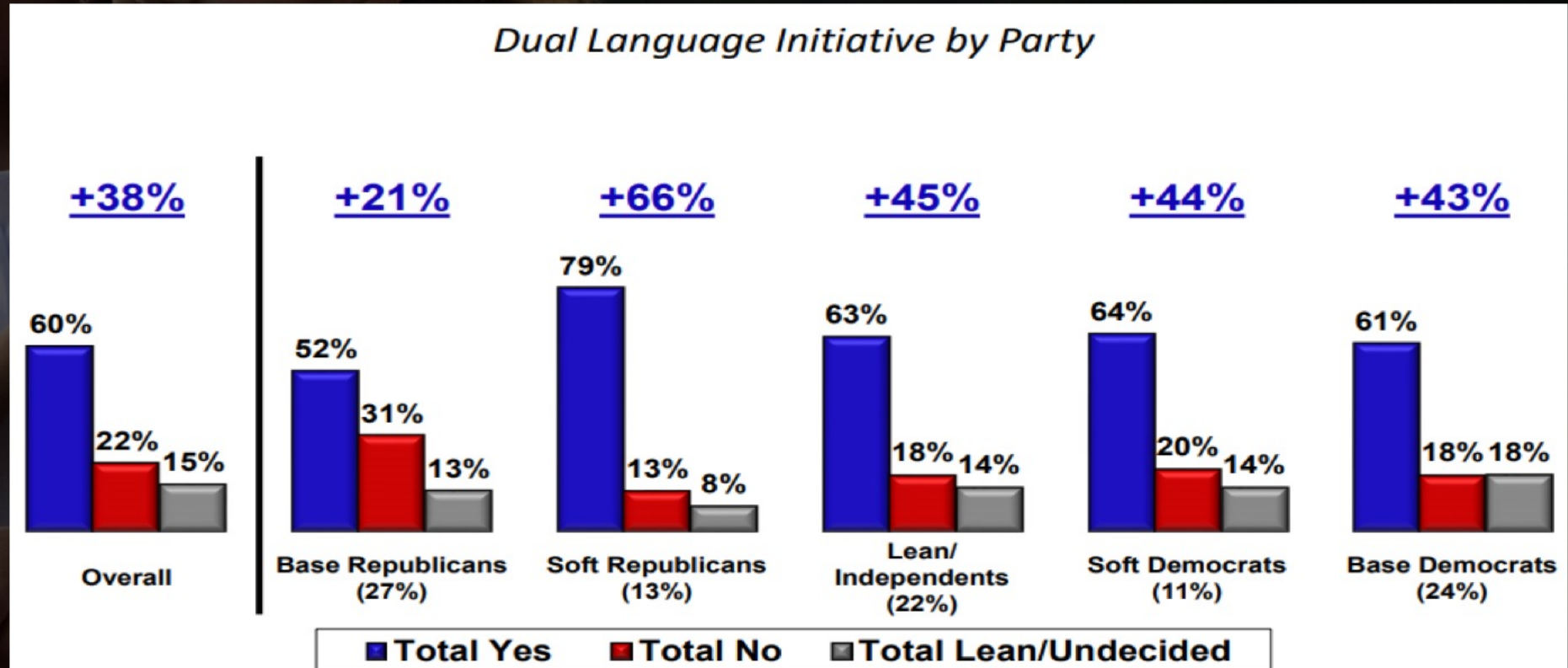
Poll conducted from April 23-25, 2019. State sample N=600. Margin of error: +/- 4.0 percentage points

Dual Language Programs in Arizona



6 in 10

Arizona voters support dual language education, with high levels of support across party.



PROGRESS

Defending Equal Access to
Quality Education

REPORT

Progress Report

Progress Report brings a Latino focus to state and national education issues.

You can find information about UnidosUS's advocacy and policy work, the activities of UnidosUS Affiliates, and read stories and perspectives from Latino educators from around the country. Find out more at

progressreport.co

Destination Homestead: Rice University Students on an Alternative Spring Break Engage in a Rural Florida Exchange

If College is Essential, It Should be Affordable, Say Latino Youth, UnidosUS Staff at Capitol Hill Briefing

Arizona Voters Believe
How an Arizona Roadmap will help alleviate the achievement gap

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

APRIL 23, 2019

Could a Bill for Full-Day Pre-K in Texas Benefit Latinos, English Learners, and the State Economy? UnidosUS Has the Data.

Publications and Toolkits: publications.unidosus.org

- Educational Equity: Latino and English Learner Success in Arizona (December 2019)
- Native Language Assessment White Paper (October 2019)
- The 2020 National Latino Electorate Survey (June 2019)
- Arizona Statewide Survey (May 2019)
- The state of Public Education for Latino Students: A Qualitative Research Project (May 2019)
- Arizona Educational Fairness White Paper (March 2019)
- English Learners and ESSA (Spring 2018)
- English Learner Goals in ESSA State Plans (April 2018)
- Advocate Questions to Protect English Learners (Feb 2018)



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