



## Education Contacts

### DCS Education Point of Contact

The Education Point of Contact mailbox, [educationpoc@azdcs.gov](mailto:educationpoc@azdcs.gov), is available to respond to educational questions of DCS Specialists, caregivers, youth, contractors and community partners to support the educational needs and stability for children and youth in foster care.

Statewide Coordinator Foster Care Education Partnerships	
Beverlee Kroll	<a href="mailto:Beverlee.Kroll@azdcs.gov">Beverlee.Kroll@azdcs.gov</a>

### DCS Regional Points of Contact

The DCS Regional ESSA Points of Contact can assist DCS Specialists and Supervisors to coordinate the Best Interest Determination meeting and development of the Transportation Plan (CSO-1348).

DCS Regional Liaisons	
<b>Northwest Region</b>	Caryn Wagner <a href="mailto:caryn.wagner@azdcs.gov">caryn.wagner@azdcs.gov</a>
<b>Maricopa West Region</b>	George Johnson <a href="mailto:MWEducationLiaison@azdcs.gov">MWEducationLiaison@azdcs.gov</a>
<b>Maricopa East Region</b>	Madeline Carvajal or Taylor Bigelow <a href="mailto:MaricopaEastBID@azdcs.gov">MaricopaEastBID@azdcs.gov</a>
<b>South Region:</b>	TBD
<b>Northeast Region:</b>	Brooke Soltero <a href="mailto:Brooke.Soltero@azdcs.gov">Brooke.Soltero@azdcs.gov</a>

### DCS Educational Specialists

The DCS Educational Specialists assist in preparing education plans for graduation from High School or to obtain a GED. Assistance can be provided for high school students, such as supporting problems with credit transfers when changing schools, connecting with school resources, as well as external resources for academic support, (i.e. tutoring, etc.) The Education Specialists also support youth to explore and prepare for entry into postsecondary education programs and to identify available financial aid opportunities to each youth.

DCS Educational Specialists	
<b>South/NE Regions</b>	Daniel (Danny) Dominguez <a href="mailto:Daniel.Dominguez@azdcs.gov">Daniel.Dominguez@azdcs.gov</a>
<b>Maricopa East/NW Regions</b>	Renz Narciso <a href="mailto:renz.narciso@azdcs.gov">renz.narciso@azdcs.gov</a>
<b>Maricopa West</b>	Yesenia Rivera <a href="mailto:yesenia.rivera@azdcs.gov">yesenia.rivera@azdcs.gov</a>

### Arizona Department of Education Contacts

#### Arizona Department of Education Foster Care Education Coordinator

The ADE foster care education coordinator manages the local education point of contact listing and is available to assist in identification of district and school personnel who can support the school stability of children in foster care. Provides training to DCS staff, caregivers, district, and school staff on how to implement regulations supporting the Every Student Succeeds Act.

ADE Foster Care Education Coordinator	
Joey L. Taylor	<a href="mailto:joey.taylor@azed.gov">joey.taylor@azed.gov</a> or <a href="mailto:fostercare@azed">fostercare@azed</a>
<a href="https://www.azed.gov/fostercare/lea-child-welfare-agency-points-contact">https://www.azed.gov/fostercare/lea-child-welfare-agency-points-contact</a>	

#### Arizona Department of Education: Exceptional Student Services (ESS)

ESS ensures that public education agencies in Arizona have special education programs, policies, and procedures that comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its implementing regulations, and that eligible children and youth with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). DCS Specialists, parents and caregivers can contact ESS to ask questions about the special education needs of children and youth in foster care. Contact via phone at (602) 542-4013 or via email at [ESSInbox@azed.gov](mailto:ESSInbox@azed.gov).

**Surrogate Parents:** Surrogate parents may be needed to ensure a child's educational needs can be met when there is no parent involved in a case and the child resides in a group home setting. You can contact ADE to inquire about a surrogate parent being assigned to your student.

Contact info: Stefanie Sharkey, [Stefanie.Sharkey@azed.gov](mailto:Stefanie.Sharkey@azed.gov)

### Community Education Contacts

#### FosterEd Arizona

FosterEd provides services in Maricopa, Pima, and Yavapai Counties which collaborate with DCS Specialist, DCS Supervisors, school staff, caregivers, and community partners to resolve difficult issues at school, and to remove barriers to school success. The FosterEd contacts can provide specific details as to what supports their Educational Liaisons can provide, and if they can extend those services outside the identified areas.

FosterEd Contacts	
<b>Maricopa County</b>	Ashely Dickerson <a href="mailto:adickerson@youthlaw.org">adickerson@youthlaw.org</a>
<b>Pima and Yavapai Counties</b>	Jennie Hedges <a href="mailto:jhedges@youthlaw.org">jhedges@youthlaw.org</a>

## Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF)

<https://www.affcf.org/>

AFFCF provides funding to assist the educational and social activities that may not be funded through DCS. DCS Specialist and caregivers can make a request at: <https://affcf.knack.com/awards#caregiver-dashboard/>.

### AFFCF Focus Forward Fund

Provides financial assistance for post-secondary education students in foster care, or aged out of foster care in Arizona, ages 16 to 26 years. The intention of this funding is to overcome emergency expenses that derail their education. DCS Specialists, caregivers and young adults can apply for these funds at: <https://www.affcf.org/focusforward/>

### Raising Special Kids:

<https://raisingspecialkids.org/start-here/programs-services> provides information, training, resources, and support to families of children with disabilities and special health care needs in Arizona. Excellent resource for DCS Specialist to provide to families and caregivers.

## Post-Secondary Education Contacts

### Bridging Success at ASU

ASU's Bridging Success program is designed to specifically help foster youth (and their support team) with the admission process and throughout the young person's college experience at ASU. Support is available with applying to ASU, financial aid, and ongoing support.

### Bridging Success +

The Department of Child Safety and ASU partnered to create a new summer program for continuing ASU students who are also participating in the Extended Foster Care program. Bridging Success + students will be a part of the larger Bridging Success community, take a 1 credit summer class, be matched with a coach for guidance throughout the year, and have summer housing. Participants will also receive a monthly allowance from the Department (in lieu of any other payment from the Department).

#### Bridging Success Coordinator Senior

Justine Cheung	<a href="mailto:justine.cheung@asu.edu">justine.cheung@asu.edu</a>
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<https://fosteryouth.asu.edu/bridging-success>

### Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Foster Youth Student Success Initiative

MCCCD Bridging Success program is designed to increase college attendance and completion rates among students aging out of the foster care system. The program includes Educational Champions at most of the community college locations.

#### Bridging Success Contact

Allison Goodwin	<a href="mailto:allison.goodwin@domail.maricopa.edu">allison.goodwin@domail.maricopa.edu</a>
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<https://my.maricopa.edu/support/foster-youth>

## Fostering Success- U of A

A community on the UA campus for students who have experienced foster care or housing insecurity; Youth on Their Own participants are also eligible. Each student is connected with a peer mentor who has similar lived experiences for ongoing support. Full-time staff members are also available for added support and resource referrals.

#### Fostering Success Program Coordinator

Dani Carrillo	<a href="mailto:danicarrillo@arizona.edu">danicarrillo@arizona.edu</a>
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Anna Vindiola	<a href="mailto:avindiola@arizona.edu">avindiola@arizona.edu</a>
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<https://fosteringsuccess.arizona.edu/>

### Foster Success: Education and Training Voucher Provider

Foster Success is the contracted agency providing Arizona's Education and Training Vouchers (ETV). Students enrolled in college, university and vocational training programs may receive up to \$5,000 a year based on their cost of attendance. Funds may be used for tuition, dorm fees, books, student loan repayments and qualified living expenses. [www.ArizonaETV.org](http://www.ArizonaETV.org).

For more information, please call 317-917-8940 or email [AzETV@fosteredservices.org](mailto:AzETV@fosteredservices.org).

### Pima for Youth- Pima Community College

*Pima Community College Workforce Development and Continuing Education Department*

Pima for Youth believes in helping connect youth who have experienced foster care to campus and community resources. If you are trying to understand how to navigate college processes and resources and would like help connecting to the campus services and community partners please reach out to Pima for Youth [pcc-youth@pima.edu](mailto:pcc-youth@pima.edu).

#### Pima for Youth Program Manager

Robert M. Ramirez	<a href="mailto:rmm Ramirez@pima.edu">rmm Ramirez@pima.edu</a>
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## Fostering Futures at GCU

### Fostering Futures – GCU

GCU's Fostering Futures program is dedicated to ensuring the success of students transitioning out of foster care. GCU offers a support team that assists with the admissions process and a student services counselor that provides continued support throughout a student's college experience at GCU. Fostering Futures offers community, mentorship, resources, life skills programming, tutoring, and student worker opportunities.

#### Fostering Futures at GCU Contacts

Brady Farup	Admissions Counselor
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Brandi Turner	Fostering Futures Student Administrator
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[FosteringFutures@gcu.edu](mailto:FosteringFutures@gcu.edu)

<https://www.gcu.edu/blog/gcu-experience/helpful-scholarships-foster-youth>