



February 29, 2016

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

Arizona Revised Statute § 8-521 requires the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) to prepare a report by March 1 of each year that contains the following information for the youth served through the Independent Living Program during the previous calendar year:

- The number of children in the program.
- The number of children in the program by age and grade.
- The number of children in the program by county of residence.
- The number of children in the program who graduated from high school.
- The number of children in the program who received a general equivalency diploma.
- The number of children in the program enrolled in postsecondary education.

In accordance with this requirement, the Department is pleased to submit the enclosed report. If you have any question, please contact me at (602) 255-2500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. McKay". The signature is written over a large, empty oval shape.

Gregory McKay
Director

Enclosure

cc: President Andy Biggs, Arizona State Senate
Speaker David M. Gowan, Sr., Arizona State House of Representatives
Michele Reagan, Secretary of State
Joan Clark, Director, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM / EDUCATION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Arizona Revised Statutes § 8-521 establishes Arizona's Independent Living Program and the supporting Educational Case Management Unit within the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS).

The Independent Living Program and the Educational Case Management Unit provide important services that assist foster youth in setting and meeting educational and life skills goals and outcomes. These services are available to both teens that are currently in foster care as well as young adults, ages 18-20 years, who were in foster care when they were adolescents. Young adults over 17 years of age in the Independent Living Program may be continuing enrollment in a traditional or alternative secondary education program, enrolled in postsecondary education, or have completed graduation or attained a general equivalency diploma and chosen to work full-time rather than pursue secondary education.

As required by A.R.S. § 8-521 (J), the following information is provided for calendar year 2015:

The number of youth in the Independent Living Program: On December 31, 2015, there were 1,717 youth in the Independent Living Program.

The number of children in the program by age:

Age	Number of Children
Under 13	0
13	2
14	5
15	26
16	222
17	530
18	461
19	276
20	195
TOTAL	1,717

The number of children in the program by grade:

Grade	Number of Children
Below 7	0
7	2
8	5
9	26
10	222
11	524
12	426
Secondary Programs ¹	116
Post-Secondary ²	270
Not in School ³	126
TOTAL	1,717

The number of children in the program by county of residence:

County	Number of Children
Apache	2
Cochise	24
Coconino	65
Gila	6
Graham	2
Greenlee	0
La Paz	3
Maricopa	1,130
Mohave	18
Navajo	4
Pima	309
Pinal	95
Santa Cruz	5
Yavapai	19
Yuma	35
TOTAL	1,717

Number of youth in the program who graduated from high school in 2015: 268

Number of youth in the program who received a general equivalency diploma in 2015: 50

Number youth in the program that are enrolled in post-secondary education: 270

¹ *Secondary Programs* includes 19 and 20 year olds enrolled in secondary level alternative, credit recovery, charter schools and GED Programs.

² *Post- secondary* education includes youth enrolled in colleges, universities, community colleges, and trade/technical schools.

³ *Not in school* includes youth who have completed graduation, attained a general equivalency diploma, or chose to work full-time rather than pursue post- secondary education.