



Education Contacts

DCS Education Point of Contact

The Education Point of Contact mailbox, 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	Beverlee.Kroll@azdcs.gov

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	
Northwest Region	Caryn Wagner caryn.wagner@azdcs.gov
Maricopa West Region	George Johnson george.johnson@azdcs.gov
Maricopa East Region	Skylar Anderson skylar.anderson@azdcs.gov
South Region:	Czarina Valadez czarina.valadez@azdcs.gov
Northeast Region:	Sarah LaRue Sarah.LaRue@azdcs.gov

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	
South/NE Regions	Eva Pena eva.pena@azdcs.gov
Maricopa East/NW Regions	Renz Narciso renz.narciso@azdcs.gov
Maricopa West	Yesenia Rivera yesenia.rivera@azdcs.gov

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	joey.taylor@azed.gov or fostercare@azed
https://www.azed.gov/fostercare/lea-child-welfare-agency-points-contact	

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.

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

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	
Maricopa County	Ashely Dickerson adickerson@youthlaw.org
Pima and Yavapai Counties	Jennie Hedges jhedges@youthlaw.org

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 Safety Net Fund

Provides financial assistance for post-secondary education students in foster care, or aged out of foster care in Arizona, ages 18 years through the student's 27th birthday. 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/safetynetfund/>.

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	justine.cheung@asu.edu
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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	allison.goodwin@domail.maricopa.edu
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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	danicarrillo@arizona.edu
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Anna Vindiola	avindiola@arizona.edu
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<https://fosteringuccess.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.

For more information, please call 317-917-8940

or email 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.

Pima for Youth Program Manager

Robert M. Ramirez	rmm Ramirez@pima.edu
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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

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