

Dear Colleague,

In December 2016, the Department of Child Safety (DCS) reached out to your administration to request assignment of a local Point of Contact (POC) to coordinate with DCS on the implementation of the school stability provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), for children in foster care. Since that time the DCS has been collecting contact information for the Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) POCs across the state (public and charter LEAs). This communication is to announce that the DCS, while maintaining a state level POC, has assigned Regional Education Liaisons (see below) to provide assistance at the local level to child welfare staff and the LEA POCs. Below you will find contact information for the DCS Regional Liaisons as well as a brief summary of the role and responsibilities of the liaisons.

DCS Regional Liaisons

Northwest Region (*Mohave, Coconino, Yavapai, and La Paz Counties*): Caryn Wagner, Caryn.Wagner@azdcs.gov

Maricopa West Region (*Western Maricopa County*): George Johnson, George.Johnson@azdcs.gov

Maricopa East Region (*Eastern Maricopa County*): Valerie Silvas, Valerie.Silvas@azdcs.gov

South Region (*Yuma, Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise Counties*): Czarina Valadez, Czarina.Valadez@azdcs.gov

Northeast Region (*Pinal, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, and Apache Counties*): Victoria Mills, Victoria.Mills@azdcs.gov

Role & Responsibilities

- Liaison to state ESSA-POC (Every Student Succeeds Act-Point of Contact)
- Assist in the development and maintenance of partnerships with local school districts and agencies that provide educational supports to foster children
- Assist in the development of informational materials for DCS Specialists, caregivers and others
- Assist in coordination of training to DCS staff, dependency court staff, caregivers and others on education issues of children in foster care.
- Assist LEAs and DCS staff to address barriers to educational stability for children in foster care that are not resolved at the local level.

Additional updates on collaborative work occurring at the state level will be disseminated through this LEA POC email list. Questions may be submitted to the DCS State POC at EducationPOC@azdcs.gov.

Thank you for your time and attention to this update and have a wonderful summer!

Barbara Guillen

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[AZDCS Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | to report child abuse or neglect: 1-888-SOS-CHILD



Arizona Department of Child Safety Regional Map **April 2019**

