

# COVID Considerations for Students in Foster Care



**Kathy Hoffman**  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

## Educational Rights of Children in Foster Care

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# Training Link

<http://bit.ly/COVID>  
ADEFC



# Self Care



# Silver Linings

What have been the silver linings during the Pandemic?



# ADE COVID-19 Guidance

# ADHS School Re-Opening Info

# Governor's Executive Orders 41, 44, & 51

# On-Site Support Services





# On-site Support Services

## Overview:

- ❑ When public health conditions necessitate that a school district or charter school utilize distance learning, there are two priorities:
  - ❑ preventing the spread of the virus, and:
  - ❑ ensuring all students have access to the resources they need to safely engage in productive learning.
  
- ❑ EO 2020-41 requires schools to provide on-site support services so that students who need a place to go or who have specific needs are well-supported
  
- ❑ School districts and charters can prioritize and manage where and how these on-site support services are provided.

# ADE ESS Guidance

# School Meals

# Free Meals All Year

- “The flexibilities extended by the USDA will allow schools and other local program operators to continue to leverage the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to provide no cost meals to all children, available at over 90,000 [sites across the country](#), through June 30, 2021.” ([LINK](#)) Visit [www.azed.gov/HNS](http://www.azed.gov/HNS) for more information.

# Provider Indemnity Program

- [A.R.S. § 41-621\(B\)](#) State self-insurance against property damage and liability B. (In part) To the extent it is determined necessary and in the best interests of the state, the Department of Administration shall obtain insurance or provide for state self-insurance against property damage caused by clients and liability coverage resulting from the direct or incidental care of clients participating in programs of the state and its departments, agencies, boards or commissions relating to custodial care. The insurable programs shall include foster care, programs for the persons with developmental disabilities, an independent living program pursuant to section 8-521 and respite-sitter service programs. The department shall obtain insurance or provide for state self-insurance pursuant to this subsection to protect the clients participating in these programs and individual providers of these program services on behalf of the state and its departments, agencies, boards or commissions. The insurance provided under this subsection does not include medical or workers' compensation coverage for providers.

**The Every Students Succeeds Act:**  
**Foster Care Provisions**

# ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

## Two Parts:

- Part 1- SEA Portion
- Part 2- LEA Portion



# ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

## Part 1- SEA Portion





# Basically...



SEA/CWA/LEA  
Collaborate



FC children should  
remain in their school  
of origin

# Basically...



**Enroll Now**



If not in the best interest of the child to remain, immediately enroll in new school.

Enrolling school shall immediately obtain records from previous school.

# ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

## Part 2- LEA Portion



# Basically...



SEA/CWA/LEA  
Collaborate



CWA & LEA establish  
POCs

# DCS Regional Contacts

**State level POC:** Barbara Guillen, [Barbara.Guillen@azdcs.gov](mailto:Barbara.Guillen@azdcs.gov)

The 5 CWA Regional POCs are:

- **Northwest Region** (Mohave, Coconino, Yavapai, & La Paz Counties): Caryn Wagner, [Caryn.Wagner@azdcs.gov](mailto:Caryn.Wagner@azdcs.gov)
- **Maricopa West Region** (Western Maricopa County): George Johnson, [George.Johnson@azdcs.gov](mailto:George.Johnson@azdcs.gov)
- **Maricopa East Region** (Eastern Maricopa County): Valerie Silvas, [Valerie.Silvas@azdcs.gov](mailto:Valerie.Silvas@azdcs.gov)
- **South Region** (Pima, Yuma, Santa Cruz, & Cochise Counties): Czarina Valadez, [Czarina.Valadez@azdcs.gov](mailto:Czarina.Valadez@azdcs.gov)
- **Northeast Region** (Pinal, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, & Apache Counties): Victoria Mills, [Victoria.Mills@azdcs.gov](mailto:Victoria.Mills@azdcs.gov)



# LEA Foster Care Liaisons







Home / Foster Care / Welcome to Foster Care

## Welcome to Foster Care

ADE Foster Care Ed. COVID-19 Update

**The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains key provisions to promote educational stability and success for students in foster care.**

-  Children in foster care should remain in the school they attended before entering foster care or before a placement change (school of origin).
-  The transportation of a child in foster care, to their school of origin, is a shared responsibility between the LEA (public school district or public charter) & the child welfare agency.
-  The only reason a child in foster care would have to change schools is that it is in their best interest to go to a new school.
-  If it is in the best interest of a child in foster care to go to a new school, the new school would need to immediately enroll that child, even without relevant paperwork.

Law ▾

Guidance ▾

Training ▾

Resources

Contact Us

News Blog

**Foster Care Liaisons**

[www.azed.gov/fostercare](http://www.azed.gov/fostercare)



# LEA POC

The LEA designates their POC. At the LEA level, this person **can** also serve as the LEA's McKinney-Vento Liaison/Specialist.

To update your LEA's POC:

Send an email containing the POC's contact info to-

- [EducationPOC@AzDCS.gov](mailto:EducationPOC@AzDCS.gov) &
- [FosterCare@azed.gov](mailto:FosterCare@azed.gov)



# Basically...



Plans to Transport FC children to their school of origin.



Additional costs- I pay, you pay, or we pay.



# DCS Stats (as of Nov. 2020)

*0-17yrs old in out-of-home  
care: 13,597*

*18-20yrs old in out-of-home  
care: 981*



# DCS COVID-19 Resources

# Breakout Questions

- **What are the needs of students that are being brought to your attention?**
- *What currently is your LEA or organization offering right now that would benefit a child in foster care?*
- **What supports can you add to benefit students in foster care?**



# ADE Foster Care COVID Update

# Resources

[Rio Salado GED Prep](#)

[AZ Helping Hands](#)

[OCJ Kids](#)

[College Depot](#)

[AZ Youth Force \(B & G\)](#)

[Fostering Advocates AZ \(CAA\)](#)

[Keys to Success \(AFFCF\)](#)

[Find Help PHX](#)

[AZ Family Resources](#)

[Year Up](#)

[JAG](#)

[Trinity Opportunity Alliance](#)

[ASU Empower](#)

[Resilient Me](#)

[Bloom 365](#)

[Homeless ID Project](#)

[ASU Bridging Success](#)

[ASU First Star Academy](#)

[UofA Fostering Success](#)



# Resources

[ASA Now  
\(Jacob's  
Mission\)](#)

[Voices for CASA  
Children](#)

[Boost a Foster  
Family](#)

[More Than a Bed  
Care Portal](#)

[Helen's Hope  
Chest](#)

[Thrive AZ](#)

[Good Threads](#)



# Questions???



# Contact Information

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<http://www.azed.gov/FosterCare/>

