

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

Northern Region (Mohave, Coconino, Yavapai, Apache and Navajo Counties): Mary Prince, Mary.Prince@azdcs.gov

Southwest Region (Yuma, La Paz and Western Maricopa Counties): George Johnson, George.Johnson@azdcs.gov

Central Region (Eastern Maricopa and Pinal Counties): Jennifer Farrish, Jennifer.Farrish@azdcs.gov

Pima Region (Pima County): Czarina Balderrama, Czarina.Balderrama@azdcs.gov

Southeast Region (Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Gila counties): Sharon Travis, Rebecca.Travis@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

Department of Child Safety Education POC

PO Box 6030

Site Code 010-22

Phoenix, AZ 85005-6030

602-255-2609

Barbara.Guillen@azdcs.gov

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