



## Foster Care Education Program



### Updates

Thank you for all that you continue to do to support our students in foster care. Please be sure to visit the ADE COVID-19 guidance website for updates <http://bit.ly/AZED-COVID-19>

On March 31st, 2020, Governor Ducey and Superintendent Hoffman announced an extension of school closures through the end of the 2019-2020 School Year. During this time, the Arizona Department of Education encourages schools to continue to provide educational opportunities to students to the best of their ability. We will continue to develop and share guidance to schools regarding instructional time, statewide testing, provision of special education services, school meals, and more.

School closure is **NOT** a complete shutdown of school operations and instructional obligations to students. During school closures, staff are still expected to engage in work-related activities, and students and families are expected to meet the instructional requirements of their teachers and schools. School leaders, teachers, staff and parents must work together to plan for continuity in education and critical services during this time.

Specifically, during the closure, educators and community leaders are called on to:

- Continue to deliver educational opportunities to the extent possible through remote learning and independent study, which may or may not include online learning or printed materials, among other options
- Provide school meals
- Arrange for supervision of students during ordinary school hours.

Schools will continue to be funded as if they were in session and staff will continue to be paid. If these conditions are met, makeup days will not be necessary, and the Department is working with the Governor's Office and legislative leaders to provide clarity in the law.

This is a fluid situation and more information on the implications of school closures will be provided through the Arizona Department of Education as it becomes available.



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### EDUCATIONAL & SUPPORT SERVICES

Now more than ever, students in foster care need to maintain school stability. The [foster care provisions](#) detailed in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) are still in place during this unique time. Students in foster care still have the right to remain in their school of origin (*school attended before entering foster care or if already in foster care, school attended before changing foster care placement*).

When it is not in the student's [best interest](#) to remain in their school of origin, then the student needs to be immediately enrolled into a new school.

With distance learning becoming reality for the rest of the school year, the LEA and child welfare agency shared responsibility of transportation to school of origin may look different.

Our students in foster care are entitled to the same educational services as all Arizona students:

- Reach out to your students in foster care & their care providers to ensure they have access to an online platform if that is what your LEA is offering.
- If students in foster care do not have internet access, work with your Transportation Department to see if they can deliver educational packets when out delivering meals.
- Provide educational packets when students in foster care come to the school site to pick up sack lunches.
- Reach out to community partners to confirm services they are offering.
- Stay in contact with students in foster care & their care providers. Be sure you

have the correct contact information for students in foster care & their care providers.

Be sure to provide families the contact information for your LEA's foster care point of contact or liaison. Reach out regularly to child welfare agency staff to ensure that the needs of students in foster care are being met.

[LEA Foster Care Liaisons](#)  
[DCS Regional Contacts to Support School Stability](#)

[ADE Early Childhood Education Guidance](#)  
[ADE Exceptional Student Services Guidance](#)  
[ADE Virtual Learning Hub](#)

[FERPA & COVID-19](#)

[ASU & Maricopa Community Colleges Bridging Success Program](#)

[ASU Empower](#) (Free online course to support youth in foster care)  
[First Star Academy ASU](#)  
[University of Arizona Fostering Success](#)

### FOSTER CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT INFO

Currently, most ADE staff are telecommuting. During this COVID-19 school closure, ADE still commits to provide excellent customer service to the State of Arizona. Any missed phone calls should expect to be returned as soon as possible. As always, email is the best form of communication.

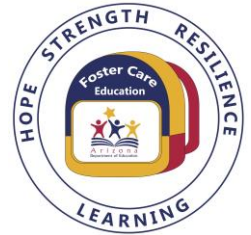
**Foster Care Education Coordinator**

Joey L. Taylor

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

p. 602.542.3569

e. [joey.taylor@azed.gov](mailto:joey.taylor@azed.gov) or  
[FosterCare@azed.gov](mailto:FosterCare@azed.gov)



## Foster Care Education Program

### **LEA FOSTER CARE LIAISON CONTACT INFORMATION**

We ask that the LEA's designated foster care point of contact (*aka foster care liaison*) send a message to [joey.taylor@azed.gov](mailto:joey.taylor@azed.gov) with the following information-

**LEA:**

**LEA Foster Care Liaison Name:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email Address:**

**Work hours during COVID-19 school closure:**

**How is your LEA continuing to provide education during the COVID-19 school closure (*work packets, online platform, independent study, etc*)?:**

**What support does your LEA provide to ensure students will be able to access education?:**

**How will you ensure students in foster care will receive that same support?:**

### **ADE PROGRAM PARTNERS**

Students in foster care may also qualify for other services. If you have any questions-

**Homeless Education**

Silvia Chavez p. 602.542.4963  
e. [silvia.chavez@azed.gov](mailto:silvia.chavez@azed.gov)

**Migrant Education**

MEP Team [MEPinbox@azed.gov](mailto:MEPinbox@azed.gov)

**Office of English Language Acquisition  
Services**

p. 602.542.3072 e. [OELASinbox@azed.gov](mailto:OELASinbox@azed.gov)

### **COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

[Arizona Together](#)

[Department of Child Safety](#)

In need of support or resources? email [volunteer@azdcs.gov](mailto:volunteer@azdcs.gov) or call 877.543.7633, Option 3

View all [DCS Contacts](#)

[Arizona Department of Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Disinfecting Products \(PDF\)](#)

[COVID-19 - Caregiver message #5 \(PDF\)](#)

[COVID-19 - CMDP FAQ's and Resources Information for Caregivers \(PDF\)](#)

[COVID-19 - Message for parents with children in DCS care](#)

[Group & Shelter Contracted Providers - FAQ's \(PDF\)](#)

[Foster and Adoption Support Providers and Therapeutic Foster Agency Providers - FAQ's \(PDF\)](#)



## Foster Care Education Program

Department of Economic Security- To apply for Nutrition, Cash, or Medical assistance, visit <https://www.healthearizonaplus.gov/>  
p. 855.432.7587

[Fostering Advocates AZ Foster Care Resources](#)

[Find Help PHX](#)

[AZ Helping Hands](#)

[Thrive Basic Needs Drive Thru](#)

[OCJ Kids](#)

[Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation](#)

[ASA Now](#)

[List of School Sites Offering Free Food](#)

Child Care list- <https://azafterschool.org/family-resources-child-care-options/>

[Think of US](#)

Free Storage for Older Youth in Foster Care  
<https://www.uhaul.com/Articles/About/20625/College-Students-U-Haul-Offers-30-Days-Free-Self-Storage-Amid-Coronavirus-Outbreak/>

[One Simple Wish](#) (support for students in foster care or former foster youth; including laptops)-  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0a11My-EGa1IGleP4bZhtC6wMwFNirsMA-yzycNloLRNG7Q/viewform>

[Arizona Broadband for Education](#) has compiled a list of WiFi providers, drive-up WiFi spots, and more.

Cox Communications is helping to get families in need connection to the internet through their [Connect 2 Compete](#) program.

[Arizona Department of Health Services](#)  
The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has a website dedicated to COVID-19 that is updated daily.

[ADE's Social & Emotional Resources](#)

[School Social Worker COVID-19 Resources](#)

[#LOVEUP Foundation](#)

[College Board Free AP Material](#)

[College Depot](#)