



SUCCESS = POSSIBLE

FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION GUIDE

A guide for youth in Arizona foster care ages 14 and older



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of **CHILD SAFETY**

Permanency & Youth Services
State Education Specialists

with Special Thanks to the Arizona
Friends of Foster Children Foundation's
Keys to Success Program

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE TO EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS!

This guide has been put together to help YOU guide your own education, set your goals, and make sure you are on track to be successful. Being in foster care can really affect your education. Changing schools and placements often, not having the right support, or just not getting your questions answered can be tough. Our hope is this guide will help you be in charge of your own educational success, keep your information in one place, and help you set goals and stay on track every step of the way.

Whether your path leads you to college, employment, vocational programs, or the military,
YOUR EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT!

Did you know?

- ! **YOU** have the right to receive an education that fits **YOU** best.
- ! You will earn more \$\$\$ when you have a high school **DIPLOMA**.
- ! **MOST JOBS** require more than a High School Diploma to get hired.
- ! Even having **SOME** college credits helps you earn **MORE \$\$\$** from work.
- ! You need **GOOD GRADES** to be able to play **SPORTS**.
- ! Did you know having a higher GPA gets you awards, scholarships, and even **DISCOUNTS ON CAR INSURANCE?**



Let's get started...

CHECKLIST TO SUCCESS

These age based checklists are only a guide, and you may need to look ahead to the next age listed depending on what grade you are in at that age.

14 YEAR OLDS:

- Build your support system. Do you have supportive people in your life (whether at school, home or in community)? Who are they?
- If you get a good grade on a test, who would be the first person you would want to tell? If you have a question about school, who would you go to? Who are you comfortable talking to about education?
- Start researching and engaging in activities (sports/clubs at school or other groups in the community)
- Start good study habits and get good grades to continue these habits in High School
- Identify any educational barriers to your success:
 - Is your home environment disruptive? Do you need internet access and do not have access? Do you need more study time?
- Maintain educational stability:
 - Have you had to change schools because of changes in placement?

REMEMBER!!

You should have a State Identification card by age 14. Your DCS worker and placement can help you get it.

15 YEAR OLDS:

- Continue everything you started working on in previous school year (identifying interests, talking with supportive adults, engaging in activities, study habits, identify barriers.)
- Meet with school counselor about your educational goals
- Make sure you are enrolled for all the correct classes/credits (languages, Math, English, etc.)
- Start doing community service and volunteer work (and KEEP TRACK OF IT)
- Start collecting information on your awards, accomplishments, community service, etc. (Look inside for pages you can use for this!)
- Complete Career Interest Assessments (Look at later pages to see info on these.)
- Ask your DCS Specialist for money to pay for programs, clubs, sports, etc. (But remember to ask EARLY, and not at the last minute as funds can be limited and are not guaranteed.)

REMEMBER!!

You have a **RIGHT** to stay enrolled at **your school of origin**. Talk to your DCS Specialist, placement, caregiver or attorney if you want to remain at your school after you are removed from your home.

16 YEAR OLDS:

- Attend career and college fairs
- Think about selecting a school or program for post-secondary education (make a plan for AFTER high school)
- Discuss college requirements with school counselor to make sure you are on track
- Consider AP courses or dual enrollment classes (More info listed inside this guide)
- Think about joining college prep programs like TRIO/Upward Bound, Hoop of Learning, etc. (More info listed inside this guide)
- Look into vocational training programs like EVIT, JTED, etc., and apply to attend in your Junior year of high school (See info on different programs in this guide)
- Consider taking PSAT and research ACT/SAT
- Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialties that interest you
- Continue to engage in extracurricular activities and clubs and keep track of achievements, awards, and community service
- Continue requesting funding for programs and activities from DCS Specialist
- Look and sign up for Summer Youth Employment Programs (foster youth often get priority placement in these programs) or get a summer job
- START SAVING MONEY FOR COLLEGE!

17 YEAR OLDS:

- Research scholarships and deadlines; make a calendar
- Register to take ACT/SAT in the Spring
- Attend college fairs and gather information
- Identify schools and narrow down list and VISIT colleges/schools
- Learn about Financial Aid options and continue saving money for your future
- Check in with school counselor to ensure you are on track with credits and requirements; if not on track, work on plan to recover credits, change schedule, etc.
- Consider all other opportunities with regard to your goals, including vocational programs, military, trades, employment, as well as college
- Look at opportunities for summer programs on college campuses to get more exposure
- If you have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), be sure your accommodations are appropriate for college level (more time on test vs. modified test)
- If interested in military, talk to a recruiter and schedule to take ASVAB

REMEMBER!!

You should **get a copy of your transcript** at the end of each semester. Ask your school counselor or front desk for a copy. You should share your school information with your DCS Specialist at each home visit.

18 YEAR OLDS:

- Apply for scholarships, have a calendar with deadlines noted, gather all accomplishment information to include in applications
- Check college or program websites for requirements, deadlines, etc.
- Check with counselor to be sure you are on track to graduate on time
- Take or retake ACT/SAT or ASVAB
- Continue to speak with or follow up with recruiter if you are interested in the military
- Work on college and scholarship essays
- Start applying to colleges
- Complete FAFSA in October of Senior year
- Start asking for letters of recommendation
- Create/update a resume
- If you are a student athlete and plan to play in college, register with NCAA clearinghouse
- Attend a financial aid workshop
- Start talking to DCS Education Specialist or DCS Specialist about Education & Training Voucher and AZ Tuition Waiver
- Consider taking ACCUPLACER assessment in Spring semester at community college to determine if you will need remedial classes or have opportunity to take test again before you register for classes
- Request GRADUATION ALLOWANCE from DCS Specialist and other Senior Year funds from Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF)

Did you know?



Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF.org) can help you pay for all of the following:

- School Pictures
- Activities
- Classes
- Lessons
- Graduation Expenses
- Tutoring
- Musical Instrument Rental
- State I.D.'s
- Summer School
- Driver Education Training
- CPR / First Aid Classes
- Prom Expenses
- Bicycles
- Yearbooks
- Camps
- Sports Equipment & Registration
- School Field Trips
- Dual Enrollment Class Tuition

WHAT TYPE OF SCHOOL IS BEST FOR YOU?

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- Attend the public school that is closest to you, or that you were attending when you were taken into DCS custody; this decision should be made by your whole team including you, your placement, DCS staff, school staff, and your family
- You can earn up to 3.5 credits per semester and 7 credits per academic year (required to earn a total of 22 by your 21st birthday to graduate)
- Public schools offer vocational and/or Advances Placement classes

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

- Charter schools are public schools run by independent groups, usually nonprofits, that have academic freedom to support students
- Some charter schools have a specific focus/target such as: arts, science and technology (STEM) and college preparation
- This link will help you look for charter schools that may interest you: <http://educationevaluator.org/>

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

There are many types of virtual (online) school options; including public schools, private companies, blended programs that are partially online and programs that offer supplemental classes to accelerate graduation.

When considering this type of learning environment, it is important to keep in mind that there are specific requirements for you to achieve academic success. This could be logging in for a certain amount of time per day or at certain times of the day. Another thing to consider is that it may be required that you have internet access at home and access to technology such as a laptop, computer or tablet to engage in classes. This type of setting requires a lot of discipline, time management, and self-accountability since there will be no teachers or staff present to encourage you to do your work. You may also need to have the ability to communicate electronically and/or by phone with your virtual instructors.

CREDIT RECOVERY

Credit recovery is a term used to describe a wide variety of educational strategies and programs that give high school students who have failed a class the opportunity to redo coursework or retake a course and avoid failure and earn academic credit. This may also be a good option for someone who has had a lot of placement changes that resulted in loss of credits that now need to be made up.

Students may take a credit-recovery course during normal school hours, after school, on vacation breaks or over the summer.

Credit recovery courses may be available online or in alternative settings and can be scheduled at different times to suit the needs of the student.

Search online to find the school or program that best fits your needs.

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RECOVERY PROGRAM

A drop out recovery program helps students to achieve their high school diploma in an alternative setting. These programs offer different options which include: online, onsite and blended classes.

Current Dropout Recovery programs operating in Arizona:

- Grad Solutions
- Queen Creek Unified District
- Arizona Call-a-Teen Youth Resources, Inc.
- Tucson Youth Development/ACE Charter High School
- Maricopa Unified School District
- Prescott Unified District
- Eastpointe High School, Inc.
- Career Success Schools
- North Star Charter School, Inc.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GRADUATE?*

English or English as a Second Language (ESL)	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	3 credits
History & Social Science	3 credits
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education (CTE)	1 credit
Electives	7 credits

*According to Arizona Department of Education

CIVICS TEST

Beginning with the graduating class of 2017, high school graduates are required to pass (60/100) a civics test identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. As a courtesy, the Arizona Department of Education, with help from the Maricopa County Education Service Agency and Arizona educators, has developed a mostly multiple choice version of the required test.

AZMERIT

Passing AzMERIT is not a state requirement for graduation; however, local schools may choose to develop their own academic requirements related to the AzMERIT assessment. AzMERIT is part of the Menu of Assessments that a school district or charter school may choose to administer to high school students. Communication on which assessment the system has chosen to administer to high school students will be communicated by the school district or charter school to parents. See the AzMERIT webpage for more information about this state level summative assessment.

PLANNING TO ATTEND A UNIVERSITY?

FOREIGN/SECOND LANGUAGE

You will also need 2 credits of a foreign/second language in order to gain admission to a University. Some examples of this can be Spanish, French, German, Italian, or Chinese.

Be aware that not all colleges/universities will accept American Sign Language (ASL) as a qualified foreign/second language.



MY EDUCATIONAL GOALS

List all your courses and the grade you want in each one.

Make note of assignments and activities due in your classes and set goals for each one.

Want a 90% or higher on that class project? Need an 85% on a test to get an A in the class? WRITE IT DOWN!

That way, you have a visible goal and a list of tasks you will need to do to accomplish that goal. It is also a great way to keep track of due dates.

8th GRADE COURSE NAMES	GRADE YOU WANT	GRADE YOU RECEIVED

FRESHMAN YEAR COURSE NAMES	GRADE YOU WANT	GRADE YOU RECEIVED

SOPHOMORE YEAR COURSE NAMES	GRADE YOU WANT	GRADE YOU RECEIVED

JUNIOR YEAR COURSE NAMES	GRADE YOU WANT	GRADE YOU RECEIVED

SENIOR YEAR COURSE NAMES	GRADE YOU WANT	GRADE YOU RECEIVED

REMEMBER!!

You can do whatever you put your mind to!

SETTING ACADEMIC GOALS

Semester:

Class:

Desired Grade in Class for Semester:

Activity / Assignment	% of Final Grade	Due Date	What I Have To Do	Actual Semester Grade
Example: Midterm Exam	50%	10/18	1. Study Group 2. Meet with tutor 3. Flash Cards	

****TAKE THIS SHEET OUT AND COPY IT TO USE FOR EACH OF YOUR COURSES.****

MY EDUCATIONAL GOALS

I am very interested in _____

My favorite subjects are _____

I want to join these clubs _____

I want to play these sports _____

I think about doing this when I am older _____

A college I might want to go to is _____

I want a summer job at _____

I want to have a career as a _____

I'd like to volunteer at _____

I want to have this GPA every year _____

I want to go to this high school _____

I want to learn this language _____

I want to take these elective classes in high school _____

As soon as I graduate high school I want to _____

My favorite place to study and do homework is _____

I want to join these college prep programs _____

I want to sign up for these vocational programs while in high school _____

I want to apply for these summer workshops/programs _____

I want to visit these colleges/universities _____

I want to ask these people for letters of recommendation _____

I want to have this much money saved before I graduate _____

I want to do better in these subjects _____

I want to learn more about these types of jobs _____

I want to work on these things to do my best in school _____

WHERE DO I GO FOR HELP?

There are people ready to help you on your educational journey. All you have to do is reach out and ask for help. Here are some examples of who can help you:

TEACHERS

- Approach teachers when you need to talk about any school issues. Teachers are happy to help you.
- A teacher won't think it's strange that you want to talk. **Teachers are actually there to help you.**
- Let your teacher know when you begin to struggle or fall behind. The teacher will be supportive of your needs.
- Let your teacher know the support you are getting at home or your placement. The teacher can help you receive additional academic support during or after school hours through tutoring, mentoring, or partnerships.

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

- Guidance counselors are about making your school experience the best it can be. These counselors help students handle any problems that might interfere with learning. They also guide students to productive futures and create a positive school environment.
- Guidance counselors help with reviewing your school/academic records to provide you with a clear path to graduation or getting ready for college.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

- School counselors are different than Guidance Counselors. They will help students overcome behavioral problems, improve their time management and organizational skills, establish academic goals, resolve interpersonal problems with other students or work through personal problems.
- School counselors are available to help you when you need to talk to someone regarding any issues that become overwhelming.
- School counselors are trained teachers/professionals that are qualified to help you figure things out. They will work with you to find a good solution.
- Explore the school's website. It will outline the roles of other school staff members who can help students with problems or school issues. The professional school staff includes school psychologists, school nurses, para-professionals, college or career counselors and academic tutors.
- Use the spaces below to keep track of who your counselors are and how to contact them:

Guidance Counselor: _____

School Counselor: _____

Teacher: _____

Teacher: _____

Other staff: _____

REMEMBER!!

Get these numbers
ASAP and keep
them handy!

WHAT SHOULD I ASK MY COUNSELORS?

It is always a good idea to go into an appointment prepared. Here are some suggestions on questions you can ask your counselors when you schedule a meeting:

- What is a GPA and how important is it?
- What are some dual enrollment programs offered at my high school so I can obtain college credits or certifications while I'm attending high school?
- What are some clubs or sports offered? (Tell your advisor about your interests, hobbies or abilities.)
- What if I am struggling in a class, with a teacher or fellow student? How can you help me?
- How often should we meet?
- When should I start considering college or career paths and how can you help me?
- What are some dates I should note? (FAFSA workshops, career days, SAT testing, etc.)
- What are on campus and community opportunities for volunteer work?
- Are there any programs that can assist me because I am involved in the foster care system?
- What are credits and why are they important? How many do I need to graduate?
- What is AzMERIT? What is the Civics Test? What happens if I do not pass them?
- Why is attendance important?
- Who do I speak with if I need to have a schedule change?

WHO ELSE CAN HELP ME WITH SCHOOL?

YOUR DCS TEAM

You may have different team members that can help you. These members could be your DCS Specialist, the Unit Case Aide, an Independent Living Worker, a behavioral health case manager, your juvenile court attorney, or even the DCS Unit Supervisor.

It will be important to **make sure your voice is heard** at any monthly child and family team meetings or home visits with anyone from your team.

Think ahead about what you want to say or ask. Write down the most important ideas, and consider these topics:

- What barriers are you facing that are preventing you from meeting your educational goals?
- What questions do you have regarding your educational options?
- Do you feel like you have control of your educational plan?
- Do you feel like you have the tools to be successful? If not, why?

Be as clear as you can about what you think, feel, and want. Give details that can help everyone understand your education goals. Your team members can listen better or be more helpful if they understand what's really going on.

Be honest. If you're always honest people will be likely to believe what you say. If you sometimes hide the truth or add drama, they will have a harder time believing what you tell them. If you lie, they will find it hard to trust and support the decisions you want to make about your education plans.

Remember that your team members are here to help you be successful. They can get you the materials and resources you need to do that. Be sure and ask for what you need whether that is funding, materials, information, permission, and anything else that will help you achieve your educational goals.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF) will pay for tutoring services for you. You can apply for this support through the website at www.affcf.org
- Other regions may also have programs available for free tutoring. Be sure to reach out to your resources to get more information if you need assistance with tutoring
- Many local libraries offer free tutoring as well
- High schools offer group/individual tutoring before and/or after school. Ask your teacher how to get involved
- If you are in college, all campuses have a tutoring center that you can use at no cost. Ask your professor or academic advisor where to go for this support

ALL ABOUT THE GED

The General Education Diploma (GED) can be earned by those 16 and older. It is also known as the High School Equivalency (HSE) degree.

Deciding to take the GED instead of earning your HS diploma is a BIG DECISION. It may be great for some, but is not the best plan for everyone. It can affect your future path and goals as well. Some programs, including some branches of the military, do not accept the GED and do not see it as equal to a high school diploma. It is also not always the easiest path as some may think or tell you. It could take you just as long to complete a GED as it would to complete your high school credits. Please keep these things in mind as you make the decisions about your education that could affect your future.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- To be eligible for the GED tests in Arizona, you must be 18 years of age or older and not enrolled in high school OR
- You may also take the test if you are 16 or 17 and meet additional requirements. You must present the two documents listed below and a current government-issued ID to any authorized testing location or to the Arizona State Office
 - Official withdrawal from the last school attended
 - Notarized and dated permission letter from a parent or guardian

SCORING REQUIREMENTS

- To earn the GED credential in Arizona, you must score at least 145 on each test and have a combined score of at least 580 on all four tests
- If you receive scores of 165-174 on each test you may not need to take placement tests for college entrance
- If you do not pass a GED test in any subject, you may retake the test. However, after three (3) times, there is a 60 day waiting period before retesting. There is no limit on the number of times you can take the exam in any year.

GED TESTING FORMAT

- The GED test measures an individual's ability to understand and use different kinds of facts and information in five categories of knowledge. These subjects are:
 - Language Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Civics
- You do not have to take all of the tests at one time.
- GED tests are available in English and Spanish

TYPES OF GED PREP

- In-Class/in-person
- Online through GED Ready
- Individually

FUNDING RESOURCES

- GED testing may be free and paid for if you are taking prep classes through a State-funded Adult Education Program.
- GED test can be paid for by DCS or other community partners
- Re-testing can be paid for by Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF)

RECOMMENDED STUDY TECHNIQUES TO PREPARE FOR THE GED

In-person/online Classes

State funded Adult Education programs offer classes that are designed to help prepare for the GED test. You must contact the programs directly to obtain information on registration and classes. Find a program by county here: <http://www.azed.gov/adultedservices/program-locations-by-county/>

There are also community programs that can help you get your GED including at all the community colleges, Goodwill METRO in Tucson, and Real World Job Development through Jewish Family Children's Services in the Phoenix area.

Study on Your Own

For studying on your own, recommended study materials can be found at The GED Marketplace. Local public libraries may also have the latest recommended GED study books that are designed to prepare you for the 2014 version of the GED test.

GED Ready Official Practice Test

The 2014 GED official practice test is called GED Ready and is available at GED.com. Create and log into your GED account and then click on the Study tab. The practice test is designed to assess how likely you are to pass the test including personal feedback and recommendations to improve your score.

TAKING THE GED TEST

Register by creating your test-taking profile at: www.GED.com

For additional information and to find testing locations go to the Arizona Department of Education website: <http://www.azed.gov/adultedservices/hse/>

REMEMBER!!

State funded Adult Education programs offer classes that are designed to help prepare for the GED test.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

WHAT IS VOCATIONAL TRAINING/SCHOOL?

Vocational education provides the training necessary to become a qualified professional in a variety of trades. This type of learning, also known as career and technical education (CTE), blends academic and technical instruction to prepare graduates for direct entry into the workforce.

Some vocational programs take less time than traditional post-secondary programs like college/university. Some vocational programs can be free. Others though can be even more expensive than community college or university tuition. If you are really interested in vocational programs as a starting point for your career, be sure to start looking at programs EARLY IN HIGH SCHOOL. There are MANY high school level vocational/CTE programs available. You could graduate from high school with your diploma and a career certificate.

Vocational training can be offered by vocational, technical, and trade schools in addition to public and private community colleges and four-year institutions. But what makes each program different?

VOCATIONAL AND TRADE SCHOOLS

Vocational schools are traditionally government-recognized and supported and provide a range of training programs lasting between one and two years.

Example: Medical and Technical Institutes, Cosmetology and Beauty Schools

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

These two-year institutions offer an array of academic credentials such as associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in different vocational tracks.

Example: Phoenix College, Glendale Community College, Pima Community College, Central Arizona College, Arizona Western College, Scottsdale Community College, Cochise College, Yavapai College, Coconino Community College, Tohono O'odham Community College, and many more!

CAREER COLLEGES

Typically operated by for-profit institutions, career colleges offer a variety of training programs typically completed within 12 months but could be more expensive than community colleges.

JOB CORPS

Administered by the United States Department of Labor, Job Corp centers provide FREE vocational training to individuals between the ages of 16 and 24.

Example: Phoenix Job Corp Center, Fred G. Acosta Job Corp Center (Tucson)

CAREER TRAINING CENTERS

Many communities have career training providers or centers for employment that offer vocational preparation in areas such as culinary arts, auto repair, construction, and health care.

Examples: Goodwill Industries, Arizona Center for Youth Resources

MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Department of Defense has partnered with the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Department of Labor to create a wide range of vocational training programs for military members' transition into civilian life. Each branch of the military has their own offering, such as the Army COOL program.

HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

There are programs available to high school students who want to pursue a vocational or training certificate. There will different programs available depending on your location.

Pima Joint Technical Education District (JTED)

Central Campus opportunities: Contact counselors@pimajted.org

High School Campus opportunities: You should speak with your assigned HS counselor.

The Pima JTED Career and Technical Education District offers premier, tuition-free CTE programs to sophomores, juniors and seniors. They serve students from public, private, and charter schools, and students who are home-schooled. Pima JTED also serves students who have not earned a diploma or GED and are under the age of 22. Students may attend Pima JTED classes at one of our Central Campuses, located throughout Pima County, or at one of our satellite locations which are located at all public high schools in Pima County, Santa Cruz Valley, Nogales, and in Mammoth/San Manuel. For a list of all schools and locations, please visit <https://pimajted.org/> .

EAST VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (EVIT)

EVIT is a public education system of career training options for East Valley high school students and Phoenix area adults: Aviation, Culinary Arts, Health Care, Cosmetology, Fashion Design, Welding & much more! Tuition-FREE for high school students. Tuition-based for adults, with financial aid available to those who qualify.

EVIT is an AdvancED accredited career and technical school serving district, charter and home-schooled high school students who reside in 10 East Valley school districts.

Students from Apache Junction, Chandler, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Mesa, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, Tempe, Higley and J.O. Combs school districts spend a half-day at EVIT in a career preparation program and the other half-day at their home high school.

All 11th and 12th grade students can attend tuition-free. Bus transportation is provided to and from EVIT by the school districts for most programs.

A list of JTED and EVIT programs of study is listed on the next page.

REMEMBER!!

There are programs available to high school students who want to pursue a vocational or training certificate. There will different programs available depending on your location.

EVIT VS. JTED PROGRAM OFFERINGS

EVIT:	JTED:
3D Animation	Accounting
Aesthetics	Business Management & Administrative Services
Automotive Technologies	Business Operations Support & Assistant Services
Aviation	Fashion Design & Merchandising
Banking and Financial Services	Professional Sales & Marketing
Barbering	Stagecraft
Behavior, Mental and Social Health Services	Animation
Cisco Networking Academy & Cyber Security	Computer Maintenance
Coding and Mobile App Design	Digital Communications
Collision Repair	Digital Photography
Commercial Baking & Pastry Arts	Digital Printing
Construction	Film & TV
Cosmetology	Graphic/Web Design
Criminal Justice	Information Technologies
Culinary Arts	Music/Audio Production
Dental Assistant	Network Technologies
Diesel Technologies	Software Development
Digital Device Diagnostic and Repair	Certified Caregiver
Early Childhood Education & Education Professions	Dental Assisting
Emergency Medical Technician	Emergency Medical Services
Fashion Design & Merchandising	Emergency Medical Technician
Fire Science Academy (Fire Fighting)	Health Care Foundations
Future Engineers	Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA)
Graphic Design	Medical Assistant
Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)	Medical Records Technology
Home Health Aide	Mental/Social Health
Hospitality Management	Pharmacy Support Services
Human Anatomy & Physiology for Medical Careers (MC10)	Physical Therapy Technician
Interior Design & Merchandising	Sports Medicine
Introduction to Multimedia Technologies	Cosmetology
Machining Technology	Culinary Arts
Massage Therapy	Early Childhood Education
Medical Assistant	Education Professions
Nursing Assistant	Hospitality Management
Occupational Therapy Assistant	Architectural Drafting
Pharmacy Technician	Automotive Collision Repair
Photography	Automotive Technologies
Physical Therapy Technician	Aviation Technology
Plumbing	Cabinetmaking
Radio/Audio Production	Carpentry
Summer School	Construction Technologies
Veterinary Assistant	Diesel Mechanics
Video Production	Electrical Utilities Technology
Web Design	Heavy Equipment Operations
Welding	Mechanical Drafting
	Precision Machining / Manufacturing
	Welding Technologies
	Emergency Medical Technician
	Fire Service
	Junior Reserve Officer's Training Program (JROTC)
	Law, Public Safety & Security
	Agriscience – Animal Systems
	Agriscience – Plant Systems
	Bioscience
	Engineering
	Mechanical Drafting
	Veterinary Science

Depending on where you live, there may be other great vocational programs available. Another great program located in Phoenix's West Valley and other Valley locations is listed below:

Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) is a public school district which provides career training programs for both high school and adult students in Arizona. West-MEC focuses solely on innovative career and technical education programs that prepare students to enter the workforce and pursue continuing education.

Every student who completes a program has the opportunity to test for licensure or certification.

CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: WEST-MEC CENTRAL PROGRAMS

Central Programs are career and technical education (CTE) courses offered to students in high school. Central program students study academic classes online, at home, or at their high school, then travel to a West-MEC or partner program campus for a CTE program.

Programs are offered at the following locations:

- AQUA FRIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
- BUCKEYE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
- CARTWRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- DEER VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- DYSART UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
- PARADISE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- PENDERGAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- PEORIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- SADDLE MOUNTAIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- TOLLESON UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
- WICKENBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Programs are offered in these categories:

Architecture and Construction, Health Science, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Human Services, and Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics.

Here are some other great vocational programs available in other parts of Arizona:

The Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology (CAVIT) is a public school district working in partnership with thirteen area high schools where 11th and 12th grade students can begin preparing for higher wage, in-demand jobs while still attending high school. Career technology education prepares students to enter the workforce immediately after graduation or to pursue further education at a community college or university.

CAVIT – CENTRAL AZ VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY*

WHERE:	WHAT:	WHO:
Casa Grande Union High School	Cosmetology	11th and 12th grades
Coolidge High School	Dental Assistant	18-21 years old
Florence High School	Fire Science	
Imagine Prep School	Law Enforcement	
Maricopa High School	Massage Therapy	
Mission Heights Preparatory High School	Medical Assistant	
Poston Butte High School	Nursing Assistant	
PPEP Tec High School	Veterinary Assistant	
San Tan Foothills High School		
Santa Cruz Valley Union High School		
Sequoia Pathway Academy School		
Villa Oasis High School		
Vista Grande High School.		

Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology (NAVIT) provides high school students in 11 host school districts, an opportunity to participate in career and technical education programs. Enhanced programs allow students to earn high school credit while attending NAVIT. Students may also earn community college credit from Northland Pioneer College and Gila Community College in association with Eastern Arizona College.

NAVIT - NORTHERN AZ VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY*

WHERE:	WHERE:	WHAT:	WHO:
Northland Pioneer College (various locations)	Satellite Programs at High School Campuses- Blue Ridge	Central Programs- Auto	11th and 12th graders 18-22 years old, but must still be enrolled in High School
Gila Community College	Heber-Overgaard	Construction Technology	Satellite Programs open to all high school students
Eastern Arizona Community College	Holbrook	Energy and Industrial Technician	
	Joseph City	Fire Science	
	Show Low	Hair Styling	
	Snowflake	Medical Assistant	
	St. Johns	Nursing Assistant	
	Round Valley	Welding	
	Whiteriver		
	Winslow		
Central Office: Snowflake, AZ			
			* Programs vary depending on location

Yuma Union High School District Career and Technical Education (CTE) offers courses in state approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. All programs include a coherent sequence of courses leading to student attainment of the state standards in the program. CTE offers exceptional courses with industry-current curricula and state-of-the-art equipment. Upon graduation, students are prepared to transition successfully to postsecondary education and are equipped with the necessary skills to begin working in a specific career. Many programs offer opportunities for students to earn college credits through dual enrollment while enrolled in CTE classes.

YUMA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)*

WHERE:	WHAT:	WHAT:	WHO:
Cibola High School San Luis High School Gila Ridge High School Vista Alternative High School Kofa High School Yuma High School	Agriculture Programs Automotive Technologies Building Maintenance Business Management Business Operations Computer Maintenance Construction Technologies Cosmetology Culinary Arts Digital Communications Digital Photography Early Childhood Education Education Professions Emergency Medical Services	Engineering Services Entertainment Marketing Film & TV Production Fire Science Home Health Aide Hospitality Management Law & Public Safety Marine Corp JROTC Medical Assisting Services Mental & Social Health Services Music & Audio Production Nursing Services Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Welding Technologies	9th thru 12th grades *Some programs of study open only to certain grades **Programs available vary depending on location and grade * Programs vary depending on location

Cochise Technology District JTED Programs connects high school students in Cochise County with quality, collaborative learning experiences in Career and Technical Education programs. Using innovative technology, students are linked virtually and traditionally with opportunities at the high school and community college to gain the technical and leadership skills necessary to be prepared for economic independence and to make informed decisions about their career, continuing education, and community.

COCHISE TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT JTED PROGRAMS*

WHERE:	WHAT:	WHO:
Benson High School Bisbee High School Bowie High School Buena High School Douglas High School San Simon High School St. David High School Tombstone High School Valley Union High School Willcox High School	Nursing Sciences (CNA) Law and Public Safety Network Technologies Mental Health Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems/Drones Welding HVAC	11th and 12th graders (lower grade participation available depending on program and location) * Programs vary depending on location

DO VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS COST MONEY?

Some Vocational Programs will have a cost. But some of the best vocational and certification programs in Arizona are FREE. Here is a breakdown to help you make a decision... Use this information to make the best decision for you regarding vocational vs. certificate programs.

HOW DO I DECIDE?

<p>VOCATIONAL/TRADE SCHOOLS/ CAREER COLLEGES</p> <p>\$10,000 to \$32,000 or more</p> <p>for Tuition, Fees, Books and Living Costs</p>	<p>COMMUNITY COLLEGES</p> <p>\$10,000 or less</p> <p>for Tuition, Fees, Books and Living Costs</p>
<p>PRIVATE SCHOOLS</p> <p>Esthetician = \$10,392 BSN-Nursing = \$96,000 Medical Assistant = \$15,500 Dental Assistant = \$9,600</p>	<p>PUBLIC SCHOOLS</p> <p>Esthetician = \$4,226 BSN-Nursing = \$25,000 Medical Assistant = \$5,200 Dental Assistant = \$3,400</p>
<p>JOB CORP</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>for Tuition, Fees, Books and Living Costs</p>	<p>EVIT</p> <p>Free</p> <p>(for 11th and 12th graders) for Tuition, Fees and Books</p>
<p>JTED</p> <p>Free</p> <p>for Tuition, Fees and Books</p>	<p>The choice is yours!</p>

MORE GREAT INFO TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE YOUR EDUCATION!

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) CLASSES:

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program in the United States and Canada created by the College Board which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. American colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations.

Ask your school counselors about enrolling in AP Classes and which are offered at your school.

DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASSES:

Dual enrollment is when high school students (usually juniors and seniors) earn college credits while enrolled in separate courses that are not part of their high school curriculum. This is known as concurrent enrollment. You may also see “early college” as a way to describe dual enrollment.

“Dual credit” refers to students who earn academic credits at two institutions -- their high school and a college or university that participates in dual enrollment programs.

The process varies from state-to-state. In general, students should discuss their interest with parents and school officials. Multiple states require minimum scores on tests like PSAT, ACT or college placement tests. These states include Arizona. You will be responsible for tuition costs. See info on following pages regarding how to secure funding for college classes.

ACT/SAT/ASVAB TESTS:

The ACT is a standardized test that measures a student’s skills in five core areas: English, math, reading, science, and writing (optional). Students in grades 11 and 12 take the ACT so that they can submit their scores to colleges as part of the college application process. The ACT is so important to universities because admissions officers use it to judge your academic preparedness for college.

The SAT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. It is a multiple-choice, pencil-and-paper test administered by the College Board. The SAT is a standardized test meant to show schools how prepared you are for college by measuring key skills like reading comprehension, computational ability, and clarity of expression. Because so many students take the test, it also provides schools with data about how you compare to your peers nationwide.

The ASVAB is a timed multi-aptitude test, which is given at over 14,000 schools and Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) nationwide and is developed and maintained by the Department of Defense. It is a required test for anyone who wants to join the military. Some high schools will give the ASVAB test on campus. Ask a school counselor when it may be offered.

CAREER INTEREST ASSESSMENTS:

An interest assessment can help you identify careers that meet your interests. Interest assessments usually ask you a series of questions about what you like and don’t like to do. Then they match your likes and dislikes to careers.

When you choose a career that matches your overall interests, you’re more likely to enjoy your job. You’re also more likely to be successful.

You can find many different types of Career Interest Assessments online. But some used by AZ schools is the AZCIS and ECAP.

The Arizona Career Information System (AzCIS) provides comprehensive career information for students developing and updating educational plans. Using AzCIS in high school supports lifelong career planning and promotes career self-reliance. AzCIS includes tools that encourage self-assessment, exploration, research, goal setting, and decision-making.

An ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan) reflects a student’s current plan of coursework, career aspirations, and extended learning opportunities in order to develop the student’s individual academic, career goals and postsecondary plans. The ECAP is both a documented plan and a process that students use with support from school counselors, teachers and parents to clarify their career goals and to refine their postsecondary plans. It helps guide their decisions about the courses and activities they choose throughout high school. ECAP gives students “a voice and a choice” in personalizing education around their interests, their skills, and their aspirations, so that they can maximize the opportunities available to them after graduation.

COLLEGE PREP PROGRAMS:

College Prep = Programs to Increase College Access. Sometimes the term “college prep” is a way of referring to a set of programs that work to increase college access, especially for students who are least likely to enroll. Some examples of College Prep programs available in AZ are:

TRIO/UPWARD BOUND

This program is designed for freshman or sophomore students attending selected high schools, who meet federal income guidelines, who need academic assistance to graduate high school and whose parents have not graduated from a four-year university.

HOOP OF LEARNING PROGRAM

The Hoop of Learning Program at Phoenix College is designed to provide Native American High school students the opportunity to earn college credit while attending high school. The program offers cultural courses, support for academic achievement, community connection, financial assistance and leadership.

FIRST STAR ASU ACADEMY

The First Star – Arizona State University Academy is a free, comprehensive four-year college access program that aims to provide foster youth the academic support, enrichment and resources needed to enroll and succeed in college. The program engages a cohort of 30 high school students in a variety of learning opportunities including earning college credit for academic course work, independent study and a four-week residential summer experience. During their time with the academy, students will also be able to participate in cultural and social activities such as field trips, recreational events, service learning and caregiver workshops. Students will also benefit from education advocacy and individualized support during the academic year through monthly Saturday Academies.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, W.P. CAREY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, FLEISCHER SCHOLARS SUMMER PROGRAM

Fleischer Scholars provides deserving juniors who will be graduating from Arizona high schools in 2020 a great opportunity to experience college life, entrepreneurship, and business during a week-long residential program. The Fleischer program is tailored for economically disadvantaged Arizona high school students interested in pursuing business as a career. Space to the Fleischer Scholars program is limited! Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all seats are filled. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to ensure program availability. The program is completely free for accepted student participants. Housing, meals, and materials are all included. Go to <https://wpcarey.asu.edu/undergraduate-degrees/high-school/fleischer-scholars-summer-program> for application and other program details.



REMEMBER!!



Preparation is key!

HOW? WHERE? HOW MUCH? WHEN? WHICH?

All these questions and more will be answered in the next few pages. There are special programs and funding available for youth that have been in foster care at specific ages. You need to have as much information as possible to make the best decision for you.

Enrolling at a college or university can be a complicated and confusing process. In Arizona, there are three public universities:

- University of Arizona, Tucson or Phoenix
- Arizona State University, Tempe and Phoenix area
- Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff

There are also MANY private colleges and universities as well; however, tuition is often higher at those schools. So, you want to look closely at the cost of a private university versus a public university and consider the amount of debt for which you would be responsible. There are also a ton of schools you can attend outside of Arizona, but remember you will have to pay out-of-state tuition which increases your costs significantly.

This website provides information about all the university options in Arizona by school, and helps you compare costs: <http://www.collegecalc.org/colleges/arizona/> . You will also want to choose the university that offers the program you want to study; as well as where you will want to live for at least four years.

HOW TO ENROLL AT A UNIVERSITY

1. Complete an application (usually done online)

- You will typically need two letters of reference/recommendation from previous teachers – get those BEFORE you start the application and BEFORE the end of your senior year
- Have your high school and/or college transcripts on hand when doing the application
- Allow at least 30 minutes to complete it
- During the application process you will create an account – hold onto your login information because this will be needed to go through the admissions process
- You may be asked to pay an “enrollment/application fee”; You can request this fee be waived; you can find the form to do this at <https://www.nacacfairs.org/learn/fee-waiver/>
- Submit official education transcript (high school or other college). Get these before summer break begins.

2. Seek academic advisement with college advisor

- Advisors will help identify courses and create an educational plan to meet your academic goals.
- Schedule an advisement session, check your college for details
- Ask your advisor about college success classes, associate degrees, certificate programs, transfer options, resources and services.

3. Follow through with these next steps

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in October of your senior year
- Complete applications for scholarships
- Pay your enrollment deposit (or request a deferral of the payment)
- Register for an orientation session at the school at which you have been accepted and chosen to attend.
- You will need to submit your immunization records
- Sign up for campus housing if that is your plan
- Continue to check your email and log in to your account to get updates and get information about next steps
- Apply for Education and Training Voucher (ETV) and AZ Tuition Waiver

HOW TO ENROLL IN A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1. Apply online or in person
 - Create a school account and get a school ID number (DO NOT LOSE YOUR LOGIN INFO!)
 - Submit proof of identification to the college where you have applied (government-issued photo ID)
 - Submit official education transcript (high school or other college). Get these before summer break begins.
2. Take placement tests.
 - Placement tests are free and untimed (practice tests are available on school websites)
 - Bring government-issued photo ID on the day of testing.
3. Seek academic advisement with college advisor
 - Advisors will help identify courses and create an educational plan to meet your academic goals.
 - Schedule an advisement session, check your college for details
 - Ask your advisor about college success classes, associate degrees, certificate programs, transfer options, resources and services.
4. Be sure and follow up with financial aid to ensure all documentation is turned in to avoid any barriers with tuition getting paid on time.
5. Register for classes
6. Attend New Student Orientation
7. Pay tuition and Fees

PAYING FOR COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov
 - To apply for federal student aid such as federal grants (Pell), work study and loans, you need to complete the FAFSA
 - It is VERY important that when you complete this application, you ANSWER YES TO QUESTION #53 that reads: Section 2 "At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court."
 - If you pass October, complete it as soon as possible after that and BEFORE school starts
 - Learn more about the application process and get other helpful tips at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/help> or by contacting the DCS State Education Specialist in your area:
 - Permanency Youth Services Unit
PermanencyYouthServicesUnit@AZDCS.GOV
 - VERIFICATION OF TIME IN FOSTER CARE
You should anticipate needing to provide a Ward of the Court or Verification of Time in Foster Care letter to show you are a young adult who has experienced foster care so you can receive financial aid for college or vocational school. Contact the Education Specialists at the email listed above to ask for this letter. You should receive this letter when you exit foster care.
 - TUITION WAIVER
The Arizona Tuition Waiver is available to foster youth and former foster youth attending **Arizona public** community colleges and four-year colleges and universities. The school determines how and when your waiver will be applied. It can only be used for eligible tuition and fees and does not waive any housing costs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You must be a current or former foster youth who:

- Was in U.S. foster care on or after your 14th birthday OR
- Was adopted from U.S. foster care with the adoption finalized after your 14th birthday
- And not have reached your 23rd birthday

You must be a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen

Your personal assets (bank account, car, home, etc.) cannot be over \$10,000

If you are in good standing and progressing toward earning a credential, you remain eligible for funding until your 23rd birthday

You must complete a FAFSA application

2. Complete your application for Arizona Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds.

The Arizona Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program is a federally-funded, state-administered program which can provide youth who are or were in U.S. foster care with up to \$5,000 a year for qualified school-related expenses. Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- You must be a current or former foster youth who:
 - Was in U.S. foster care on or after your 16th birthday OR
 - Was adopted from U.S. foster care with the adoption finalized after your 16th birthday
- You must be a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen
- Your personal assets (bank account, car, home, etc.) cannot be over \$10,000
- If you are in good standing and progressing toward earning a credential, you remain eligible for funding until your 23rd birthday
- You must attend an accredited college, university, technical or vocational school. You must receive your first funding before your 21st birthday.

HOW TO APPLY?

- Create an account to apply at the following web address: <https://studentportal.fc2sprograms.org/login/15464674092e06ae6d4804eb29f48c86e806ddc4972a694507>
- Applications can only be submitted AFTER July 1st for the following school year.
- Youth who have secured their GED or high school diploma must complete a FAFSA application before applying.
- Once you have been verified as being eligible, you will be assigned to an ETV Coordinator who will contact you by email.
- You will complete a budget form with your coordinator and may need to submit a Financial Aid Release form to the financial aid office at your school
- Once the application process is completed and approved, funds are distributed to the school and remaining amounts after fees are then provided to you monthly.
- You will likely need to submit a special letter from the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) called a Verification of Non-Filing Letter. You will want to get this ASAP as it can take some time to receive.

REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING:

- The student must submit transcripts to Foster Care to Success after each funded semester
- Students must check in by phone monthly with their coordinator
- Students must maintain a grade of C or higher in all classes
- Students must meet school attendance requirements (if applicable)

3. Apply for Scholarships

There are many different scholarship opportunities available depending on the school you are attending. Be sure to speak with your school's advisor and financial aid office to make sure you are accessing ALL the support for which you are eligible.

One main scholarship that foster youth or former foster youth may qualify for is through Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF).

- The Penson Fund is designed to help young men and women who have aged out of foster care (this means you turned 18 while you were in foster care) overcome emergency expenses that derail their education. These funds are not intended to be used for long-term, on-going expenses.
- AFFCF also offers a scholarship program that provides qualifying students attending a university with \$2,500 per semester (\$5,000 per academic year) and \$1,000 per semester (\$2,000 per academic year) for youth attending community college or vocational programs.
- Learn more and apply for these opportunities at affcf.org/programs
- Find information about other scholarship programs that you may qualify for at affcf.org/scholarship/resources

DO YOU HAVE AN IEP OR 504 PLAN?

Some students need extra help while in school. That might mean you have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan. It's important for you to know the difference between these plans and to know that you are receiving all the supports and resources you should be receiving.

A 504 Plan and an IEP are both intended to protect a student with a disability to ensure that they are learning in the least restrictive environment. A 504 Plan and an IEP also have unique differences. It is more difficult to qualify for special education services and receive an IEP than it would be to get a 504 Plan.

The IEP creates an opportunity for teachers, parents, school administrators, related services personnel, and students (when appropriate) to work together to improve educational results for children with disabilities. The IEP is the cornerstone of a quality education for each child with a disability

The 504 Plan is a plan developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution (high school) receives accommodations that will ensure their academic success and access to the learning environment.

You may have to have a surrogate parent assigned depending on your placement type and your biological parents' involvement. A surrogate parent is an "educational" parent who help you get all the plans and services you need at school to help you be successful.

IEP VS. 504 PLAN

IEP	504 Plan
Student must qualify in one of 13 categories of disability, AND disability must affect the child's ability to access education.	Student must have disability AND the disability affects the student's ability to access education.
Requires a written plan.	Does not require a written plan.
Parents are required to be part of the IEP team.	School must get permission from parent to evaluate student. School can create a plan without parent permission.
Students may be given accommodations to make it easier to access their education, may even be modifications to curriculum.	Student may be given accommodations to equal the playing field so they are able to access education.
Student not protected in college. Only 504 protections and accommodations honored.	Students protected in federally funded colleges. College decides what accommodations will be provided to students.

Use this page to keep track of all your awards, honors, accomplishments, community service, etc.

Activity / Honor / Accomplishment	Date(s)
Community Service / Volunteering	Date(s)