



ARIZONA SUPREME COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES DIVISION

ARIZONA JUVENILE DETENTION EDUCATION FACT SHEET

- **PURPOSE:** The fundamental purpose of juvenile detention education in Arizona is to provide an education program for all school-age youth detained in the respective county juvenile detention facilities that is compatible with public school education goals and requirements pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute (ARS 15-913).
- **LEGISLATION:** Juvenile Detention Education has been operating statewide in Arizona since 1994. Statutory responsibility for juvenile detention education rests with the County School Superintendent pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute 15-913 (A), which also requires that the County School Superintendent and the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge in each county shall agree on the method of delivery of the education program in the juvenile detention center.
- **FUNDING:** The Juvenile Detention Education Program in Arizona is very unique, in that Arizona is one of a few states that have statewide financial support for detention education. County Equalization Funds (CEF) are stipulated in statute for use by county juvenile detention education programs that are allocated by a formula developed by the Arizona Legislature. This formula includes annual census data, local effort, and poverty level of a particular jurisdiction. CEF are “lag year” funds in that county jurisdictions are reimbursed for services provided in the previous fiscal year. The formula reimburses counties for each child detained after the first 48 hours of secure care. CEF funds the majority of the detention education budget for each county. Due to legislative changes in 2006, state funds will replace CEF for FY06-08.

Additional funding options are available through statewide and federal education grant programs, since for all purposes the detention education programs under the coordination of the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Court (AOC), are considered a Public Education Agency (PEA). The Court, in a compact with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has agreed to provide administrative support, statewide data reporting, staff training and some fiscal support as well as the complete coordination of all federal education grant programs. The AOC/Juvenile Justice Services Division acts in this capacity as well as the fiscal pass through agent for funding from the ADE to the counties for twelve counties throughout the state, while the three remaining counties (Coconino, Maricopa and Pima) operate their detention education program under the accommodation school model. Total funding for detention education programs for FY09, which is monitored by the AOC, is as follows:

Fund	FY09 Amount	(% +/-) from FY08
County Equalization Funds (CEF) 12 Counties	\$1,124,716.61	- 5.50%
IDEA Secure Care Grant	75,000.00	0.00%
Title I, N & D, Part D	\$1,127,154.70	52.29%
Title II-A (Includes Class Size Reduction)	201,194.00	-0.39%
Title IV-A, Safe and Drug Free Basic	1,004.00	-13.67%
Title V, Innovative Programs (Formerly Title VI)	0.00	-100.00%
Title VIB, IDEA Basic	279,284.85	145.54%
State Chemical Abuse	<u>12,000.00</u>	0.00%
Title Subtotal:	<u>\$1,690,813.48</u>	
Total:	<u>\$2,815,530.10</u>	+47.61%



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- **POPULATION SERVED:** The following information is provided through the Juvenile On Line Tracking System (JOLTS) report “Juveniles Processed in the Arizona Court System FY08”. A total of **11,674** youth were detained in FY08 (9,105 Male; 2,569 Female). This is an unduplicated count. This aggregate data includes students from other jurisdictions that contract with some of the counties to house juveniles under their jurisdiction that require secure detention services, such as the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Marshall Service, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Bureau of Prisons and various tribal communities.

Age:	8-12	4%	Gender:	Male	78%	Ethnicity:	African American	10%
	13,14	16%		Female	22%		Anglo	36%
	15	19%					Hispanic	46%
	16	26%					Native American	7%
	17	35%					Asian/Other	1%

- **PROFESSIONAL STAFF:** A skilled staff of educators and support personnel provides services in the detention education programs throughout the state. Approximately 80 professional educators are employed in the programs that are supported by 15 para-professional support staff. All classroom teachers must be certified, with special education endorsement preferred. Many hold advanced graduate degrees in a specialized field. The larger metropolitan counties have full-time detention education administrators who provide leadership and manage services for their programs.
- **LENGTH OF STAY:** Average length of stay statewide in FY08 was **15.6 days**. **44% stay 30+ days**.
- **NUMBER OF FACILITIES-14:** Thirteen of the fifteen counties in Arizona maintain a juvenile detention facility. Maricopa County operates two juvenile detention facilities. Juveniles from two counties (Greenlee and La Paz) are transported to other jurisdictions when the Court determines the need for secure custody.
- **ORGANIZATION OF EDUCATION SYSTEM:** The juvenile detention education programs are county specific, under the jurisdiction of the County School Superintendent in concert with the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge pursuant to ARS 15-913. Since the juvenile detention centers are operated by local juvenile courts, the Arizona Supreme Court exercises some administrative responsibility for detention education programs. The Administrative Office of the Courts provides fiscal and administrative coordination for detention education programs in twelve counties. Three counties (Coconino, Maricopa and Pima) implement detention education programs through an accommodation school model. The AOC applies to the ADE for various state and federal funds on behalf of the counties, and enters into intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) with the County School Superintendents and the Presiding Juvenile Court Judges to define each party’s responsibility in developing detention education programs and using funds appropriately.

The Correctional Education Specialist/Director of Federal Education Grant Programs in the AOC Juvenile Justice Services Division is charged with administrative oversight and coordination of all detention education programs throughout the state, and works closely with the County School Superintendents, Juvenile Court Judges, Detention Administrators and educational staff to ensure compliance with federal and state statutes, and juvenile detention operational guidelines and juvenile services best practice standards. The detention education staff is recruited, hired, supervised and evaluated by the County Superintendent’s Office in most counties. There are a few counties that employ the detention education staff as county government employees. Each county detention education program develops an annual calendar and works with the AOC staff to develop reporting mechanisms that are mutually acceptable to capture necessary data mandated by the ADE and NCLB compliance requirements.



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- **PROGRAM:** The juvenile detention education programs provide 12 month learning opportunities for youth in detention facilities with a minimum threshold of 225 days of instruction of at least 4 hours (240 minutes) per day. A total of **182,499 instructional days** were provided to 20,806 youth that the county detention schools reported enrolled on the monthly census data. Operating juvenile detention education programs on a 12-month basis provides youth with a valuable educational experience that assures minimum gaps in their educational program. A major goal of the detention education program is to assist young people with transition services. Therefore, strategies are provided to assist students in meeting their educational performance outcomes, and to prepare them for a successful reentry back to the community. Transition activities are the focus of the educational services provided to the student at the time of entry, during the program and at the time of exit from the program. Each youth has an individual education program developed with all community opportunities examined in conjunction with family participation in the plan whenever possible. **The Arizona Juvenile Detention Schools are accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA) and the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA) all under AdvancED.**

The juvenile detention education programs are implemented in accordance with state and federal statutes as well as the juvenile detention operational guidelines and juvenile services best practices. The operational guidelines represent minimum standards that should be in place and serve as the philosophical foundation for the delivery of quality services. Best practices serve as the benchmark against which all services are measured. Academic services include educational/diagnostic screening, educational planning, program structure that closely approximates the educational services that are available through the public school system, educational assessments and educational record processing.

Detention educators make every attempt to secure records, review the salient data and administer a series of academic and vocational assessments. As a Public Education Agency (PEA), state and federal law allows the detention centers to receive all confidential information. Some of the detention centers receive students from other county jurisdictions as well as from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Marshall Service, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, various tribal communities and other law enforcement and corrections agencies which makes it difficult to secure educational records. Securing and reviewing education records in a timely manner is a challenging process due to the relatively short length of stay and transient nature of the student population.

Like most of the juvenile secure care schools in Arizona, the detention education programs utilize software programs which incorporate on-line diagnostic assessments of each youth placed in the facility. The assessment instrument, combined with other evaluative tools, provides educational staff with a picture of the individual needs of each youth. An instructional plan is then developed and progress charted for the student. In most programs, educational instruction is provided through independent and teacher-guided programs that utilize both individualized computer curricula and classroom instruction. All curriculums utilized are aligned with Arizona State Standards. Special needs students, when identified, receive timely and appropriate services in accordance with their valid Individualized Education Program (IEP) objectives. Most programs have small libraries available as well as classrooms of varying sizes.

Every reasonable effort is made to ascertain the educational status or future status of youth once they are released from secure care, so as to provide necessary information that serves as a foundation for a statewide data reporting system, and is one of the many "success" indicators for juvenile detention education established by the ADE and the AOC. In support and recognition of the value of continuing education, in addition to providing multi-jurisdictional coordination for juvenile detention education, the Arizona Supreme Court manages a series of LEARN Centers across the state, both in secure care and in community settings that allow the student to continue his/her educational development using a common individual learning system. The Supreme Court also provides funding for GED Testing through a grant process.

1/28/09