



Lunch & Learn

Pathways to Student Success



WED, Jan 17th
Better FAFSA Best Practices
For Special Populations

ICE BREAKER

1. **Best movie or song recommendation, drop title in chat!**

OR

What is keeping you going this January?!





Welcome!

Agenda:

- **Ice Breaker**
- Announcements FAFSA Updates - Julie Sainz
- Joey Taylor from ADE
- Pedro Gonzalez-Aboyte from Aliento

Join us next time!

2024-25 FAFSA FORM UPDATE

Soft Launch: FAFSA opened on December 30, 2023. It was Periodically available during this time

FSA Announcement 1/8

- FAFSA is available 24/7
- Scheduled Maintenance
- Open Issues Identified

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-issue-alerts>

- No SSN- FSA ID Creation
- FSA Contact Line- Experiencing Large Volume of Calls ◦Patience is Key!
- Students will be able to make corrections to their FAFSA later this month or early February
- FAFSA Data will be available in early February in Arizona College Connect

FAFSA Incentive

Visit fafsaspringtraining.org for more information

The First **1,000** AZ High School Seniors

Current high school senior attending an AZ high school

Complete the 2024-25 FAFSA

Complete the ticket submission form



Fill out the FAFSA and score free spring training tickets!

The Arizona Cactus League and the Arizona Board of Regents are teaming up to encourage Arizona high school seniors to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

When it comes to paying for college, it's a home run!

Complete your FAFSA and you could score four free Arizona Cactus League spring training tickets to a baseball game this season!*

How it works

The first 1,000 Arizona high school seniors who meet all promotion guidelines and apply will receive four free spring training tickets! It's easy to qualify:

- ✓ Open to current 12th-grade high school students attending Arizona high schools.
- ✓ Complete the 2024-2025 FAFSA at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). **
- ✓ Complete the spring training [submission form](#).

* Tickets are subject to availability. Tickets are limited to games listed on the spring training submission form.

** A complete 2024-25 FAFSA must be on file with the U.S. Department of Education at the time of entry. Students who do not have a 2024-25 FAFSA in file or have an incomplete form on file will not qualify.



Ask Benji Update!



January 9th Benji kicked off for the Spring season and is back to T/TH messaging to out students.

Join our NEW Facebook Group for Ask Benji Partners

- Follow Benji's Instagram account @benjifafsa for on the go content!
- Look at [our Benji toolkit](#) for parent & student media items (scan or follow link)!





ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Better FAFSA for Foster Care

Joey Taylor, Foster Care Education Coordinator
Arizona Department of Education
602.542.3569
fostercare@azed.gov



Foster Care Definition

Foster Care Definition

Definition

24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility

Child welfare agencies

- DCS
- Tribal
- local

Children in foster care are not considered 'homeless' or McKinney-Vento eligible.



Quick Summary

Fostering Connections Act

The child welfare agency must have a plan for school stability

CWA Assurances

- **placement considers** the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the **proximity to the school** in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement; **and**
- coordination to ensure that the **child remains in the school** in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement; **or**
- if remaining in such school is **not in the best interests** of the child, the CWA and LEA provide immediate and appropriate **enrollment in a new school**, with all the educational records of the child provided to the school

**ESSA Foster
Care School
Stability
Assurances**

- **School of Origin**
- **Best Interest
Determination (BID)**
- **Transportation**
- **Immediate Enrollment**

Foster Care School Stability Steps

Student enters foster care or has a change in foster care placement



Student remains at the school of origin while the LEA & child welfare agency execute the BID process



BID Outcome: Stay in School of Origin



LEA & child welfare agency collaborate on transportation

BID Outcome: Do Not Stay in School of Origin



The new school immediately enrolls the student, even without all paperwork.



Foster Care Education



FAFSA Independent Status

FAFSA Independent Status

In foster care after 13th birthday

- ❖ Independent status; do not need to include parent income information

On FAFSA, Student Personal Circumstances

5 Student Personal Circumstances

[See Notes page 21.]

Select all that apply.

- The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.
- The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.
- The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with the student and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court.
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.
- The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.
- The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.
- None of these apply.

For more foster care FAFSA information, go to https://schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/The-2024-2025-FAFSA_-Helping-Homeless-and-Foster-Youth.pdf



Arizona Tuition Waiver Education & Training Voucher

Arizona Tuition Waiver Education & Training Voucher

In foster care after 14th birthday

- ❖ Through Arizona Tuition Waiver, state colleges & universities will waive tuition after PELL Grant & institutional aid is applied.

In foster care after 16th birthday

- ❖ Eligible for Education & Training Voucher if attending qualified colleges, universities, or vocational education programs

For more information go to Foster Success Education Services <https://fosteredservices.org/arizona-etv/>



Colleges & Universities

Colleges & Universities

Maricopa Community Colleges

- ❖ [Bridging Success](#)
- ❖ Foster Care Champions at multiple locations

ASU

- ❖ [First Star Academy](#)
- ❖ [Bridging Success](#)

U of A

- ❖ [Fostering Connections](#)

NAU

- ❖ [Blavin Scholars](#)

GCU

- ❖ [Fostering Futures](#)



Resources

AFFCF Post-Secondary Guide

SPRING 2021

**DREAM IT.
LEARN IT. DO IT.**

What's your it?

**AN EDUCATION GUIDE FOR
YOUTH CURRENTLY AND
FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE**



ARIZONA FRIENDS OF
FOSTER CHILDREN FOUNDATION

AFFCF Post-Secondary Guide

Which financial resources apply to me?

There are different resources available depending on what age you were in foster care. The following pages will provide you with more details about the resources available to you based on the age you were in foster care and a description of each resource. Depending on the information you provided on the FAFSA and your course of study, your school may also offer you other federal grants in addition to the Pell Grant and/or a work-study job.

I WAS IN FOSTER CARE BEFORE I TURNED 13



I WAS IN FOSTER CARE WHEN I WAS 13



I WAS IN FOSTER CARE WHEN I WAS 14 OR 15



I WAS IN FOSTER CARE BETWEEN AGES 16 AND 18



I TURNED (OR WILL TURN 18) WHILE IN FOSTER CARE



PELL GRANT*



EDUCATION AND
TRAINING VOUCHER
(ETV) FUNDS*



ARIZONA TUITION
WAIVER*



AFFCF
SCHOLARSHIP



AFFCF PENSON
FUND



OTHER
SCHOLARSHIPS

* The Pell Grant, Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds, and the Arizona Tuition Waiver are only awarded to students who were in foster care at the above ages, who are residents of Arizona (ETV funds and Arizona Tuition Waiver), and who are U.S. Citizens or qualified non-citizens. For more resources for undocumented and DACA students, please see Appendix C.

Earn to Learn



Match-Savings Program

- ❖ Students save \$500, the program will provide \$4,500 over 2 semesters
 - For foster care, Earn to Learn will give the students the initial \$500.

Thank You!



Joey Taylor, Foster Care Education Coordinator

Arizona Department of Education

602.542.3569

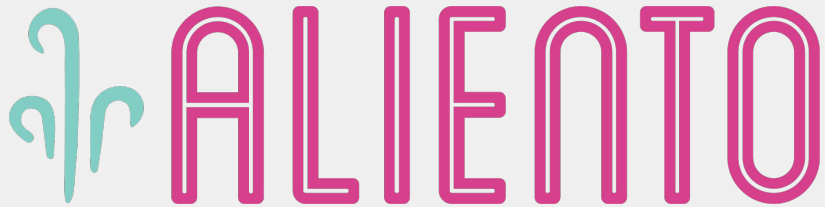
fostercare@azed.gov

Supporting Undocumented Students: CSS Profile

Special Speaker!

Pedro Gonzalez-Aboyte

Contact: pgonzalezaboyte@alientoaz.org



Pedro Gonzalez-Aboyte





Our Mission

Aliento works with undocumented, DACA, and mixed immigration status families to transform trauma into **hope** and **action**.

We are youth-led and directly impacted people and allies who are invested in the **well being**, **emotional healing**, and **leadership development** of those impacted by the inequities of lacking an immigration status.



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Prop. 308

Prop. 308 allows for all Arizona high school graduates including Arizona Dreamers to be eligible for in-state tuition and publicly funded scholarships when a student:

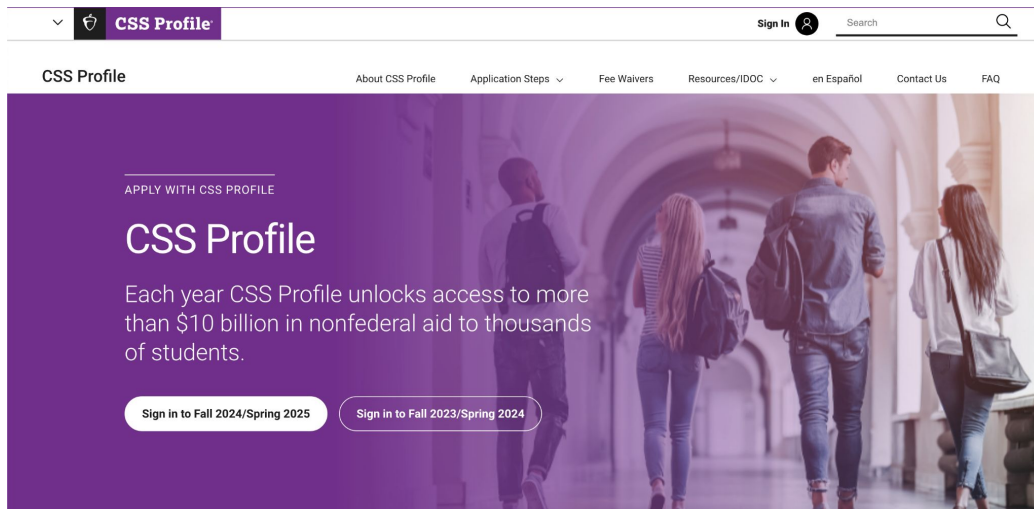
- (1) Attended a public or private high school or homeschool equivalent while physically present in Arizona for **at least two years**
- (2) **Graduated** from any public, private high school, or homeschool in Arizona or obtained a GED





CSS Profile

- **Need-based** financial aid for Arizona's public universities (ASU, NAU, UofA)
- Students who are **ineligible** for FAFSA can apply
- Application fee is free for students whose family income is **less** than \$100,000



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How to Complete the Application

- Collect documents
 - Student and parent most recent tax returns
 - Student and parent W-2 forms and other records of yearly income
 - Records of untaxed income, bank statements, healthcare not covered by insurance, etc.

If students **do not** have one or more of the documents that were suggested to make the application process easier, using **reasonable estimates** and using \$0 when applicable, is acceptable.

- Create College Board account, go to the CSS application for desired school year
- Complete all sections and include the school's CSS Code
- Review the application and submit



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 ALIENTO



Tips When Applying

- Undocumented students will choose **“Other”** when asked about citizenship status
- If no visa or B2 (visitor visa), it should be **left blank**
- Short answer questions at the end of the application **should be answered**, they may be used for future aid

[←Sections](#) / Student's Citizenship

Student's Citizenship

Pedro's citizenship status (required)

U.S. citizen

U.S. eligible noncitizen

Canadian citizen

Other

[Save and Continue](#)

[←Sections](#) / Student's Citizenship

Student's Citizenship

Pedro's country of citizenship (required)

Visa type

[Save and Continue](#)



Resources For Students

Scholarship Databases

- [Aliento | Scholarships](#)
- [Phoenix College Depot](#)
- [ScholarshipsA-Z](#)
- [Immigrants Rising](#)
- [Informed Immigrant](#)



Additional Resources

- [Mental Health Events & Resources](#)
- [My Undocumented Life](#)
- [DACA Resources + Info](#)



The Scholarship Hustle





Thank You!

Contact Us:

pgonzalezaboyte@alientoaz.org

(602) 888-1066



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Reminder to Join!

Become a member of the **Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN)** [here](#) and join a passionate network of professionals working to improve the education outcomes for Arizona students!

As a member of AzCAN, you can register for **College Access Professional (CAP) Training courses** during the 2023-2024 school year at no cost.

[2023-2024 CAP Training courses](#)

[CAP Training course registration](#)



Thank you for attending!

Our next Lunch and Learn to learn about Summer Programs!

WED, FEB 21st

@11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Sign up up today!

A flyer titled "Lunch & Learn" with the subtitle "Pathways to Student Success". The top left features a photograph of a laptop, a cup of coffee, and some green leaves. Logos for "Ask Benji", "AzCAN", and "Education Forward Arizona" are in the top right. The flyer lists several virtual events:

- VIRTUAL EVENTS**
Monthly
@11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Registration Zoom links are attached to each event title, RSVP and share!
- WED, AUG 30**
4-yr College Programs & Tribal College Updates
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- WED, SEP 20**
TRI U Admission Updates
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- WED, OCT 25**
ABOR's AZ College Connect Updates
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- WED, NOV 15**
Better FAFSA Updates & Resource Kickoff
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- WED, JAN 17**
Better FAFSA "Best" Practices
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- WED, FEB 21**
Summer Programs (College and University Resources!)
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- WED, MAR 27**
ECAP with AZ Dept. of Education
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

At the bottom, a blue banner features two circular portraits of women, Dr. Jennifer Murphy and Graciela Nobles, with text: "Dr. Jennifer Murphy and Graciela Nobles, members of the Education Forward Arizona team, hope to create a community of practice by exploring relevant and insightful topics throughout the 2023-24 academic year."