



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



Project LEARN (Literacy, Education and Resource Network) FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND: Project LEARN (Literacy Education and Resource Network) is a literacy initiative established by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in 1987 to address one of the sociological roots of crime and delinquency – the inability to read and write. In recognition of the high correlation between crime and illiteracy, the Court sought to increase educational opportunities for high-risk youth and adults by promoting and supporting the implementation of alternative education programs in a rehabilitative effort to reduce the likelihood of continued delinquent or criminal behaviors.

Since the establishment of the first computer-assisted instructional center at Catalina High School in Tucson in 1987, the Court has developed 40 LEARN Centers throughout Arizona. These centers work in partnership with probation departments, community organizations, educational institutions, and other state agencies. The Court provides hardware, software, training support and data collection for the centers, and the partner provides the site, room, teachers and on-going operational costs. Since the inception of the project, the LEARN Centers continue to be among the most valued and effective educational resources. Research has demonstrated that in addition to improved skills, LEARN students experience a reduction in offending behavior following participation (Siegel 1993).

FUNDING: Funding for Project LEARN includes a variety of state and federal grant funds, local funds generated through the partnerships and in-kind contributions of equipment and services.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF: A skilled staff of certified educators and support personnel provides services in the detention education programs and community LEARN Centers throughout the state. Some probation and community centers have fulltime administrators who provide leadership and manage services for their programs.

NUMBER OF CENTERS: There are currently 30 Learn centers throughout the state in a variety of venues.

PROGRAMS:

- **JUVENILE:** Juveniles are served both in the detention education LEARN centers while detained which provide individual learning paths for students including remedial reading, math and language skills as well as GED prep when appropriate, and in probation and community centers. The detention education programs utilize the New Century Integrated Learning System (ILS) and other software programs which incorporate on-line diagnostic assessments of each youth placed in the detention 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. Educational instruction is provided through independent and teacher-guided programs that utilize both individualized computer curricula and classroom instruction. Juveniles accessing services in probation and community centers usually prepare for the GED.
- **ADULT:** LEARN is an open entry/open exit, non-traditional, adult education program that provides computer-assisted instruction and a course of independent study for the individual student which includes Adult Basic Education, ESL, GED preparation and literacy programs. The two principal methods of instruction are enhanced by a variety of services such as one-on-one tutoring, workshops, use of the Internet and TV/VCR programs. Placement and progress is measured through a vigorous program of testing. Each student has an Individual Study Plan that is updated after each new set of testing. Most centers have specific times of operation during the day and evening, and students choose class hours that best fit their individual schedules. Centers vary in their hours of operation and policies and procedures.