



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **EdOptions Foundation Provides Virtual Education Solution for Maricopa County Jail System**

*Juveniles Prepare for GED, AIMS or High School Diploma*

**Phoenix, AZ, July 6, 2009** – The Educational Options Foundation and Arizona’s Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) Education Program have partnered to begin offering incarcerated juveniles the opportunity to use Web-based content delivery to prepare for a GED, standardized test or earn high school credits. Supported by a grant provided by the EdOptions Foundation, the project is headed up by Dr. David Reed, Director of Educational Research for the Foundation and Ms. Debra Miller, Principal of the MCSO Education Program.

The Maricopa County Juvenile Education Section is tasked with providing general and special education services to inmates of the Maricopa County Jail System, as required by Arizona and Federal laws. MCSO houses approximately 175 juveniles on a daily basis. Providing an education for incarcerated juveniles is challenging at best in a jail setting, but Sheriff Joe Arpaio believes that “being in jail is no excuse for skipping school.”

The EdOptions Foundation grant addresses the unique needs of jail students through the use of [EdOptions Stars Suite®](#) content delivery system. The Stars Suite program provides juvenile inmates the best educational solution based on their age, offense, number of credits earned, and the desired educational goal: GED or high school diploma. Students were officially enrolled in the Stars Suite program on June 17<sup>th</sup>, and more students will be added as their eligibility and need for a particular program is determined.

#### About Educational Options Foundation

The Educational Options Foundation, founded as a non-profit corporation in 2008, supports educational organizations promoting the lifelong endeavor of learning. The Foundation’s activities center around two main themes: educational grants and charter schools. The Foundation is committed to providing Web-based curriculum through EdOptions, an award-winning education technology firm, to support both public and non-traditional educational institutions.

#### About Educational Options, Inc.

EdOptions ( <http://www.edoptions.com/index.html>) is an award-winning education technology firm located in Arlington, Virginia. Its premier product, Stars Suite® (<http://www.edoptions.com/products/stars/index.html>) currently serves more than 275,000 students nationwide and features 46 middle and high school courses as well as Web-based solutions for state test preparation, high school preparation and GED study. Other products include Blue Ridge International Academy (<http://www.blueridgelearning.com>), a triple-accredited online high school designed to support both public and non-traditional educational institutions with rigorous [curriculum](#), powerful Web-based technology, and [certified-teacher support](#).