

**TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY**

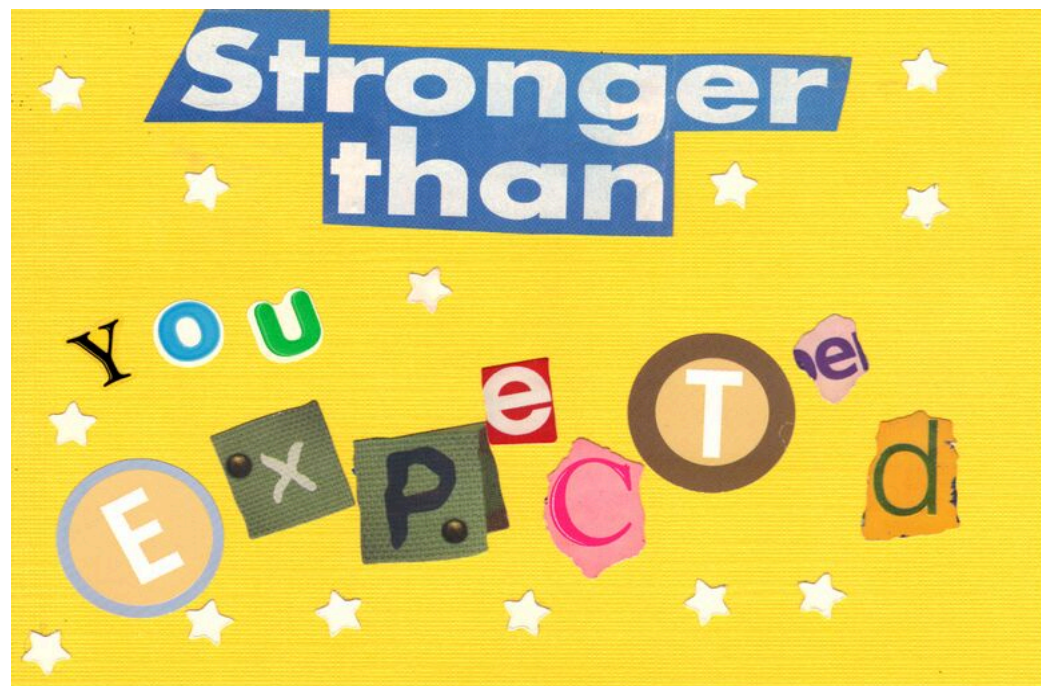
**FOSTER CARE & STUDENT SUCCESS**

**EDUCATION REACH FOR TEXANS 2016**



The postcard art throughout this presentation was generously donated by Foster Care Alumni of America

[www.fostercarealumni.org](http://www.fostercarealumni.org)



# Presenter:



## **Kelly Kravitz**

Foster Care Education & Policy, and McKinney-Vento Homeless,  
State Coordinator; [kelly.kravitz@tea.texas.gov](mailto:kelly.kravitz@tea.texas.gov); 512-463-9235

# Workshop Goals

- Introduction
- Data & Information
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- High School Completion & Beyond
- Linking with School District Foster Care Liaison(s)
- Resources



It was hard to be a kid and focus at school when life had so many uncertainties.



please

protect

LOVE

COMFORT

CHANGE

treasure

TOGETHER

raise

Parent

WE CAN

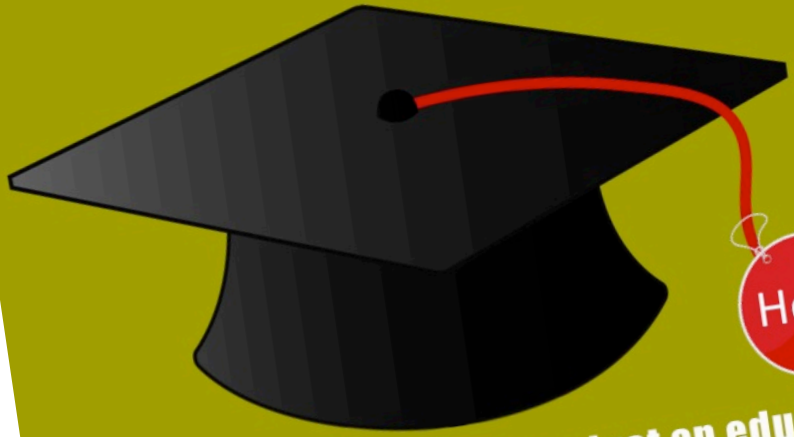
# FOSTER CARE: WHO ARE THE PLAYERS?

Chap. 3  
p. 26-29

Collaboration and coordination with others involved in the students life is encouraged, recommended, and necessary for educational success!

Chap. 4  
p. 38-42,  
120





School gave me more than just an education.

Life's Tough

without

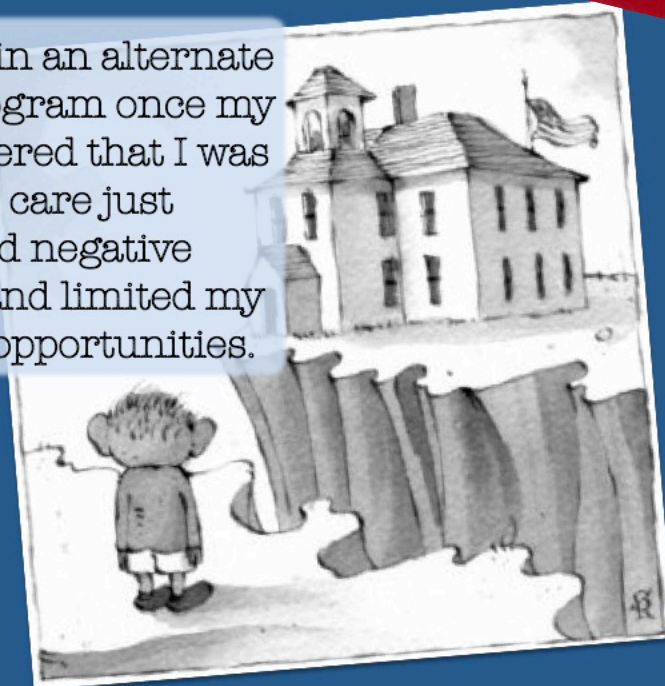
OUR HOUSE

FRIENDS

LOVE

FAMILY

Being placed in an alternate education program once my school discovered that I was in foster care just reinforced negative stereotypes and limited my educational opportunities.



# Texas Data & Info.



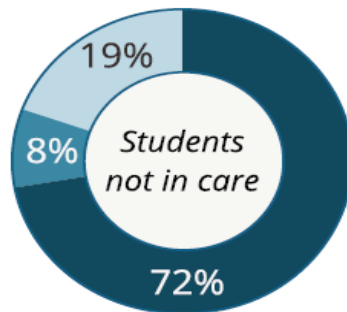
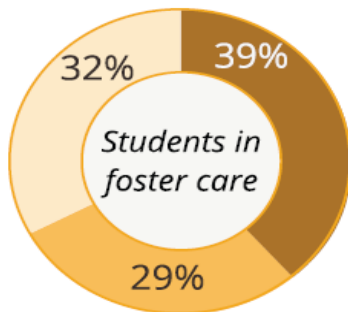


# 23,326

## students in foster care attended Texas public schools during the school year

Data sources for this report: Texas Education Agency's Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) and the Department of Family and Protective Service's Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas (IMPACT).

### Dropout & Graduation Leavers



- Graduated
- Dropped Out
- Left for other reason

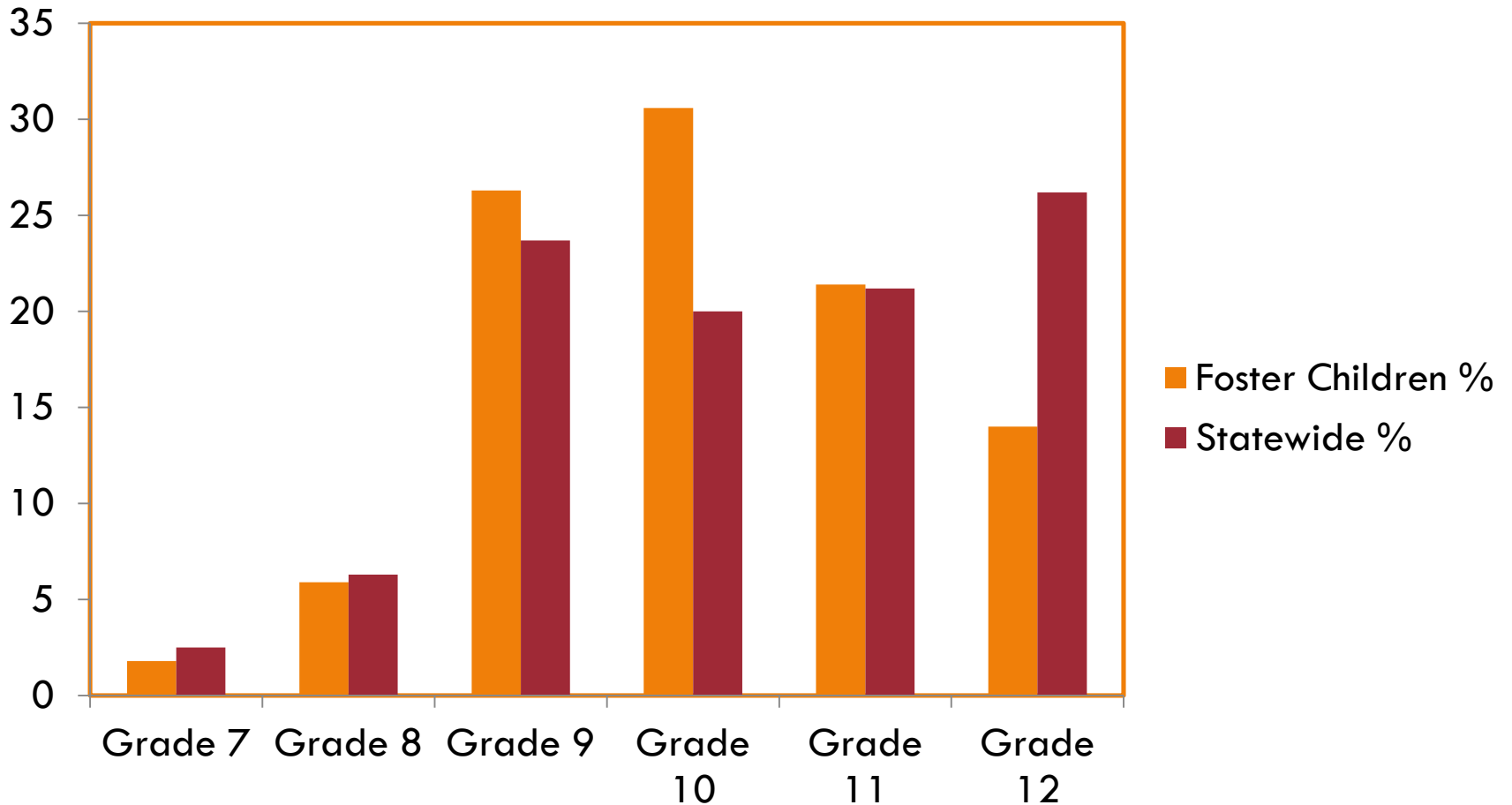
(PEIMS 2012 School Leaver Codes)

The percentages above are not graduation or dropout rates. These numbers represent the students who graduated or dropped out during the year divided by the total number of leavers for that school year

# Foster Children Compared to the State Population

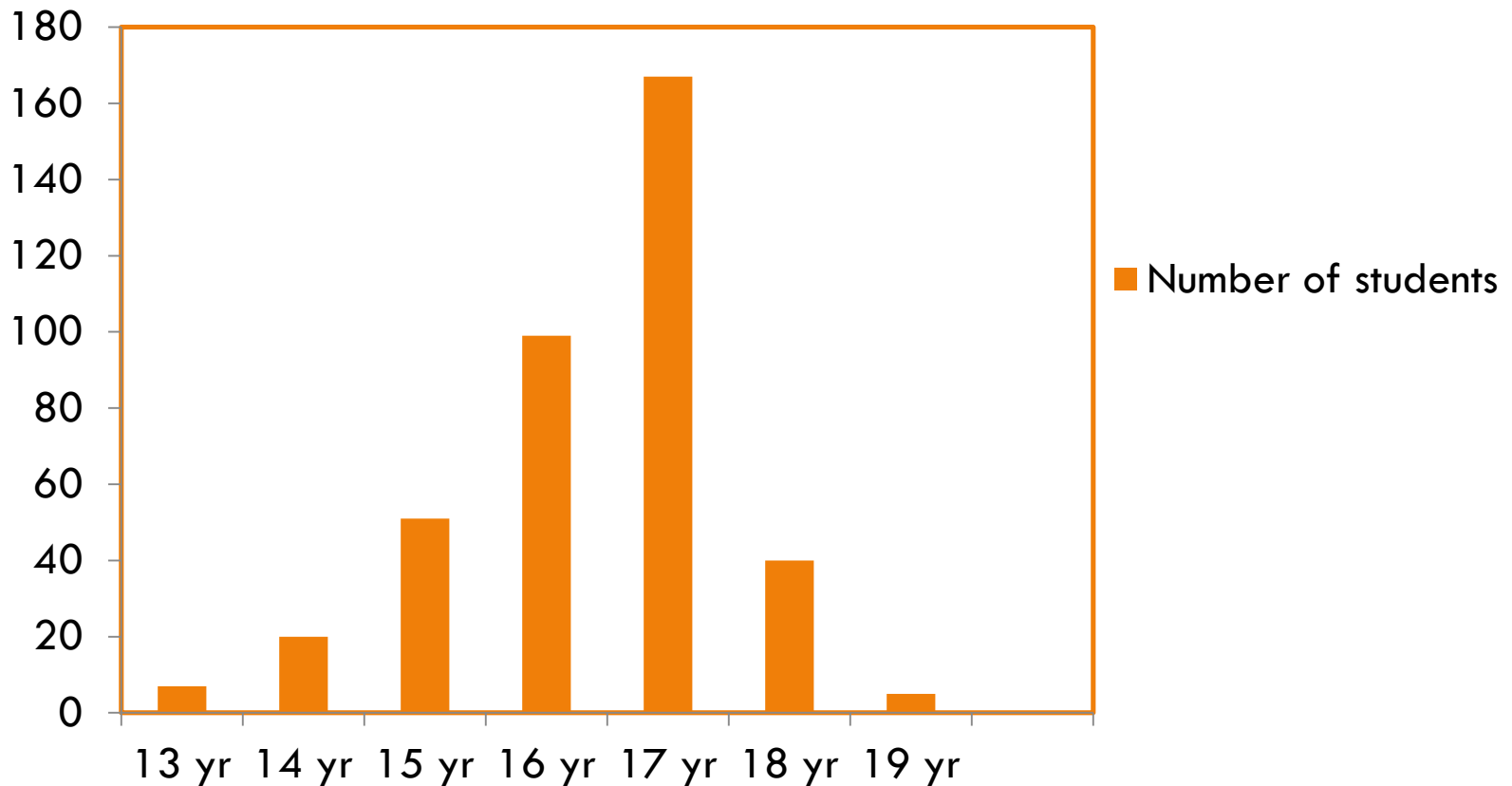
## Dropouts by Grade: 2012-13

10



# Foster Children Dropouts by Age: 2012-13

## Number of students who dropout by age





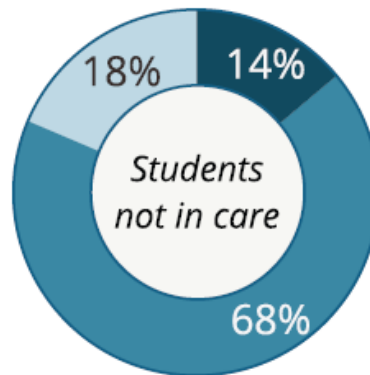
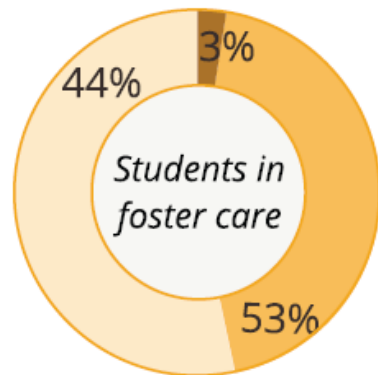
of students in care  
attended 2+ schools  
in one school year

## School Mobility

The percentage of students in foster care who attended 2+ schools in one school year (47%) was 6.5 times that of students not in care (7%).



## Graduation Program



*The Foundation High School Program replaces Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished programs for students starting high school in 2014*

# Counts and Percentages of Foster Children by Program: 2012-13

13

	Counts of Foster Children	% of Foster Children	Counts of All Students	% of All Students
<b>Career and Technology</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1,111,610</b>	<b>21.9</b>
Economically Disadvantaged	19,496	90.1	3,058,894	60.3
Gifted and Talented	212	1.0	387,623	7.6
Immigrant	35	0.2	70,320	1.4
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	1,390	6.4	864,682	17.0
<b>Dual-Credit</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>101,913</b>	<b>7.15</b>
<b>Special Education</b>	<b>5,104</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>440,570</b>	<b>8.7</b>

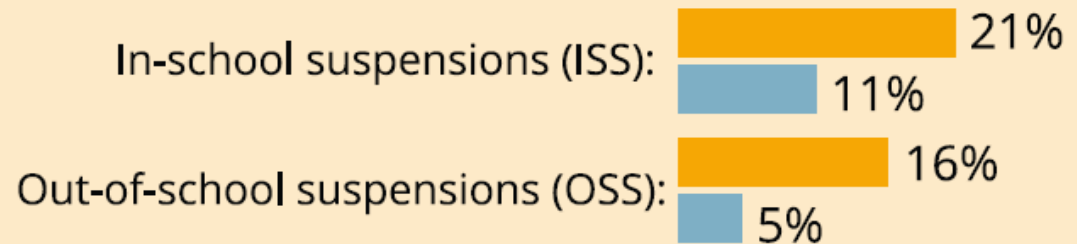
Note: All students in DFPS Managing Conservatorship meet the eligibility criteria for State Compensatory Education, as listed in TEC § 29.081, and should be identified as 'at risk'.



% students in care who received an OSS was 3.4 times that of students not in care

## Disciplinary Actions

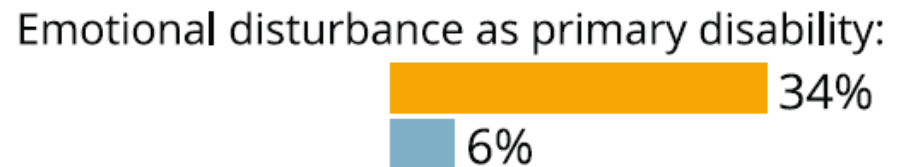
Percentage of students in foster care and not in care who received suspensions:



of students in care who received special education services

## Special Education

The percentage of students in foster care receiving special education services (24%) was 2.7 times that of students not in care (9%). Students in care were more often eligible under Emotional Disturbance:



# Foster Care & Education Data Fact Sheet Available:



## Texas commits to transform education outcomes of students in foster care

Findings from the *Texas Blueprint* Implementation Data Workgroup

**Priority** **Cross-system data sharing**  
 Sharing essential data across child welfare, education, and court systems is critical to the educational success of students in foster care. In 2012, the *Texas Blueprint* Implementation Data Workgroup was established to assess the educational outcomes of students in care in Texas. This brief uses baseline data to highlight the complexities and challenges that impact students in foster care while providing opportunities for agencies to promote cross-system practices and strategies that improve stability and achievement.

**Collaboration** **Diverse, multi-disciplinary membership**  
 The *Texas Blueprint* Implementation Data Workgroup includes:

- FORMER FOSTER YOUTH
- CHILDREN'S COMMISSION
- CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS)
- TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY (TEA)
- THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
- STAKEHOLDERS/ADVOCATES

\*CPS is a division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

**Accomplishments** **Mobilizing data driven change**  
 Participated in national information sharing programs  
 Amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DFPS and TEA in 2014  
 Developed shared definitions across systems  
 Mapped data collection timeline  
 Identified priority data indicators  
 Established 2012-2013 baseline data to measure the educational outcomes of students in foster care

**Outcomes from the 2012-2013 school year** ■ Students in foster care ■ Students not in care

**23,326** students in foster care attended Texas public schools during the school year

**47%** of students in care attended 2+ schools in one school year

**School Mobility**  
 The percentage of students in foster care who attended 2+ schools in one school year (47%) was 6.5 times that of students not in care (7%).

**6.5x**

Data sources for this report: Texas Education Agency's Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) and the Department of Family and Protective Services's Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas (IMPACT).

**24%** of students in care who received special education services

**Special Education**  
 The percentage of students in foster care receiving special education services (24%) was 2.7 times that of students not in care (9%). Students in care were more often eligible under Emotional Disturbance:

Emotional disturbance as primary disability:  
 ■ 6% ■ 34%

http://www.texas.gov/Curriculum\_and\_Instructional\_Programs/Special\_Education/

**3.4x** % students in care who received an OSS was 3.4 times that of students not in care

**Disciplinary Actions**  
 Percentage of students in foster care and not in care who received suspensions:

In-school suspensions (ISS): ■ 21% ■ 11%  
 Out-of-school suspensions (OSS): ■ 16% ■ 5%

**Dropout & Graduation Leavers**

Students in foster care: 32% Graduated, 39% Dropped Out, 29% Left for other reason

Students not in care: 19% Graduated, 8% Dropped Out, 72% Left for other reason

(PEIMS 2012 School Leaver Codes)  
 The percentages above are not graduation or dropout rates. These numbers represent the students who graduated or dropped out during the year divided by the total number of leavers for that school year

**Graduation Program**

Students in foster care: 44% Distinguished, 9% Recommended, 53% Minimum

Students not in care: 18% Distinguished, 14% Recommended, 68% Minimum

The Foundation High School Program replaces Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished programs for students starting high school in 2016

Children's Commission, TEXAS DFPS, TEA, Prepared by: The University of Texas at Austin Child & Family Research Institute School of Social Work

# Building local cross-system collaborations

## Using data to transform education outcomes for students in foster care in Texas

### Recommendations

Collect, share, and analyze local data across systems to inform decision-making and improve practices

Organize a group of child welfare, education, and judicial stakeholders in your community

Consider local strengths and challenges, create shared definitions, and brainstorm solutions to meet the needs of your community

### Questions to consider

	Schools	Courts	CPS
School Mobility	Do you know your district's foster care liaison and the student's designated education decision-maker? How can foster care liaisons work with school staff to improve transition services within required time frames?	Where is the student enrolled in school? If the student changes placements, what can be done to ensure school stability? Can the student remain in the current school? If not, is there a transition plan in place to ensure prompt record transfers?	Do you coordinate with schools and caregivers to develop either creative transportation solutions that allow a student to remain in the same school or a transition plan if the student changes schools?
Special Education	Who is responsible for making a student's special education decisions? If required, is a surrogate parent appointed and trained?	Do the caregivers, attorneys, surrogate parent, CASA, or other advocates have current information about the student's Individualized Education Program?	What issues are addressed in the student's Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee meetings?
Disciplinary Actions	Do you include trauma-informed training for staff? What prevention and alternative strategies to suspension and expulsion are available to students? Does your school use Response to Intervention and Positive Behavior Support strategies effectively?	What behaviors does the student present in school that lead to a disciplinary action? What services are needed to prevent and address these behaviors?	Do you remind caregivers annually and during the enrollment process to provide a written signed statement of "opting-out" from corporal punishment for each student in foster care?
Dropout Prevention	What evidence-based dropout prevention strategies are in your school plan? When do you review students' course credit accruals? How do you address student needs for tutoring, content mastery, credit recovery, and extra-curricular activities?	What laws are in place to support high school completion? If a student is not on track to graduate, what is needed to support high school completion?	Does a student have a personal graduation plan, and if so, when was it last reviewed? How can you collaborate with schools to facilitate student participation in extra-curricular activities, online courses, credit recovery services, and tutoring?
Graduation Program	Have you talked with the student about their post-secondary goals, aspirations, and options? Is this information reflected in the student's personal graduation plan, current course selection, and graduation program?	Is the student on track to graduate, and what are the student's postsecondary education goals and plans?	What are the student's educational goals and aspirations? Are additional services available to help the student realize these goals?

This brief highlights data collected at the state level as the result of collaboration between child welfare, education, and court systems in Texas. For more information, please see:

**Child Protective Services Education Policy:** [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS\\_pg\\_x15000.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/CPS/Files/CPS_pg_x15000.asp)

**Texas Education Agency Foster Care & Student Success:** <http://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/>

**Children's Commission education site:** <http://education.texaschildrenscommission.gov/>

**Suggested Citation:** *Texas Blueprint* Implementation Data Workgroup. (2015, November). Texas commits to transform education outcomes of students in foster care: Findings from the *Texas Blueprint* Implementation Data Workgroup. Austin, TX: Children's Commission & Child and Family Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin.



# Education at Age 26

<b>Alumni of Foster Care</b>	vs.	<b>National Sample</b>
No high school diploma or GED		
<b>20%</b>	vs.	<b>6%</b>
2-year college degree		
<b>4%</b>	vs.	<b>10%</b>
4-year college degree		
<b>3%</b>	vs.	<b>24%</b>
One or more year of graduate school		
<b>1%</b>	vs.	<b>13%</b>

# Employment and Earning at Age 26

<b>Alumni of Foster Care</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>National Sample</b>
Currently employed		
<b>46%</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>80%</b>
Mean income		
<b>\$13,989</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>\$32,312</b>
Home ownership		
<b>9%</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>30%</b>
Economic hardship		
<b>45%</b>	<b>Vs.</b>	<b>18%</b>

Source: Courtney et al, 2011



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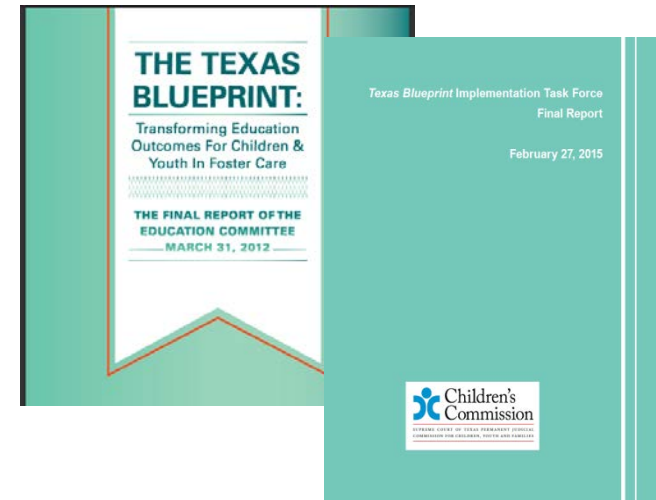
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# Texas Blueprint Implementation

## Taskforce:

- Ongoing TEA participation in collaborative workgroups with child welfare stakeholders and other partners addressing a variety of education related topics, such as:

- Data
- Higher Education
- Special Education
- Local Collaboration



<http://education.texaschildrenscommission.gov/education-committee.aspx>

# Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



# New Education Law - ESSA

- Bi-partisan legislation signed by President Obama December 10, 2015.
- Reauthorizes the 50 year old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- The new law includes significant and historical changes for students in Foster Care.

# Students in Foster Care | Coordination with Child Welfare:

- Aligned federal education law with child welfare law (Fostering Connections to Success, 2008) to promote school stability (aligns with existing Texas Education Code). 20 USC 6311(g)(1)(E)(i) State Laws; (TEC 25.001(g); TEC 25.007; TEC 33.904)
- Promotes collaboration with the child welfare organization at state and local level. (20 USC 6311(g)(1)(E)(i))
- Requires State Education Agency (SEA) to designated a person to coordinate SEA Foster Care responsibilities.
- When child welfare agencies designate a point of contact for the Local Education Agency (LEA), the LEA is required to designate a point of contact for the child welfare agency (*Foster Care Liaison fulfills this requirement for LEA's*). 20 USC 6312(c)(5)(A)

# Transportation Support:

- Local Title I plans must contain an assurance that LEA's receiving Title I funds will collaborate with the state or local child welfare agency to: 20 USC 6312(c)(5)(B)(ii)
- Develop and implement clear written procedures for how transportation to maintain foster youth in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged and funded for the duration of the time in foster care.



# Continued:



- Procedures will ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost effective manner and in accordance with section 475(4) of the Social Security Act (42 USC 675(4)(A).
  
- Ensure that if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin LEA's will provide it if:
  - They are reimbursed by the child welfare agency;
  - The LEA agrees to pay the costs; or
  - The LEA and the child welfare agency agree to share the costs. **20 USC 6312(c)(5)(B)(ii)**

# Students in Foster Care | Data and Accountability:

- ▣ Students in Foster Care are now a mandatory sub-group that LEA's and states must collect and report data on. 20 USC 6311(h)(1)(C)(ii)
- ▣ State report cards must include disaggregated information, including the graduation rates and academic achievement of student in foster care. 20 USC 6311(h)(1)(C)(ii)
- ▣ The existing Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) code for students in foster care will help Texas to fulfill the new data collection requirements.

\*\*\*NEW Resource\*\*\*



U.S. Department of Education

Search...

- Student Loans
- Grants
- Laws

## New Foster Care Transition Toolkit Offers Tips for Helping Foster Youth Succeed as Adults

MAY 26, 2016

Contact: Press Office, (202) 401-1576, [press@ed.gov](mailto:press@ed.gov)

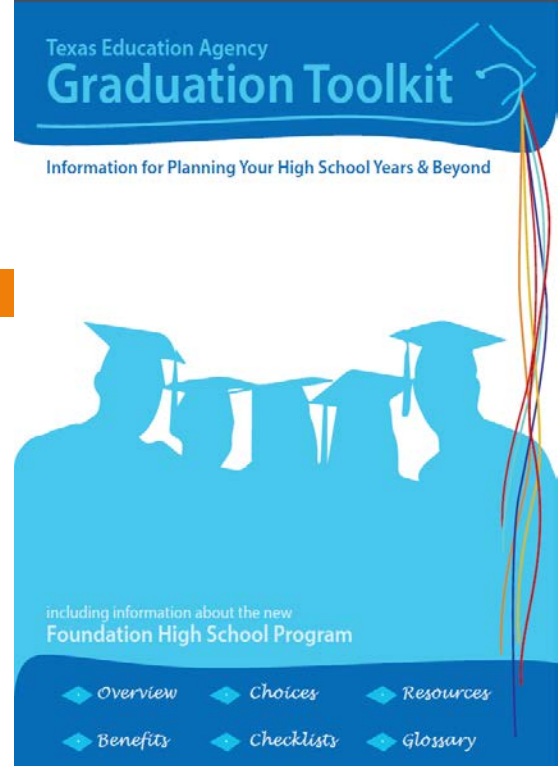
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/foster-care/youth-transition-toolkit.pdf>

# High School Completion and Beyond

## Opportunities and Programs

# High School Graduation Requirements:

- Foundation High School Program – Graduation Requirements, Endorsements, Distinguished Achievement and other information:  
<http://tea.texas.gov/communications/brochures.aspx>
- Increased coordination and partnership with higher education by developing coursework to meet endorsement requirements and encourage post-secondary preparedness.
- Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) for *all* high school students. PGP for *all* middle school students *who do not perform satisfactorily* on state assessments.



# Career & Technical Education Program

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-CTE programs focus on high growth industries, employability skills, critical thinking, project based, hands on learning, etc. Opportunities for students to earn endorsements, certifications, college credit while in high school.

-Students in foster care are a recognized special population for CTE programs/Federal Perkins funding.

# Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN)

- Fully Accredited – Online Texas Public School
  - ▣ Supplemental Learning – Statewide course catalog of high school courses.
  - ▣ Full-Time Online School – for grades 3-12.
  
- <http://www.txvsn.org/>
- <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=4840>

# Promote High School Completion

## TEC 28.025 & 25.007

Chap. 11  
p. 91-93

### PROMOTING HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION:



Promoting high school completion is important and necessary! Students in foster care are entitled to all education services generally available to other students. Additionally, students may benefit from additional attention in the school setting to make certain they remain on track for high school completion and graduation.<sup>140</sup> School staff can help by reviewing students' class schedules and coursework as an important element to properly advising students and ensuring progress towards



**LAW:** If an 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services transfers to a different school district and the student is ineligible to graduate from the district to which the student transfers, the district from which the student transferred shall award a diploma at the student's request, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the district from which the student transferred.<sup>141</sup>

**LAW:** A student in substitute care who was previously enrolled in a course required for graduation must be allowed the opportunity, to the extent practicable, to complete the course at no cost to the student before the beginning of the next school year.<sup>142</sup>

➤ If a student in DFPS conservatorship is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the 5<sup>th</sup> school year following the student's enrollment in grade 9 – **review** the students course credit accrual and personal graduation plan – TEC 25.007



# Promote Post-Secondary TEC 25.007 & 54.366

Chap. 13  
p. 104-105

- 1) LIFE TIME TUITION AND FEES WAIVER to any Texas state supported Institution of Higher Education for certain students in and formerly in Texas DFPS Conservatorship, as long as the student enrolls in at least one-college credit before turning 25 – TEC 54.366 (\*\*see pg. 104-105 for eligibility requirements)

\*In addition to a college course - Dual credit or other course where a high school student may earn joint high school and college credit will also activate the waiver\*

- 2) Ensure that 11 or 12 grade students in DFPS conservatorship is provided information about the tuition and fee waiver, dual credit, or other courses where a student may earn joint high school and college credit – TEC 25.007

p. 106

## CONSIDERATIONS TO HELP STUDENTS ACTIVATE COLLEGE LIFETIME TUITION AND FEES WAIVER WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL



Best practices include coordination among high school personnel, college support services, and college faculty to ensure students receive the support necessary for a positive academic experience and a successful college experience. School personnel can play a key role in linking students with college campus supports and services and encouraging students to believe college is possible!

# Transition Assistance for Students in Foster Care

## TEC 25.007(7):

Chap. 11  
p. 84-91

- Encouraging school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide services for a student in foster care in transition when applying for admission to post-secondary study and when seeking sources of funding for postsecondary study;

LINKING WITH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT LIAISONS TO  
SUPPORT STUDENTS IN  
FOSTER CARE:



- ✓ School Districts & Open Enrollment Charter Schools must identify and report to TEA a foster care liaison.
- ✓ TEA to provide information for facilitating enrollment and transfers.

Chap. 5  
p. 45-48

Texas  
Education  
Code § 33.904

## LIAISON INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW:



**LAW:** Each school district and open enrollment charter school shall appoint at least one employee to act as a liaison to facilitate the *enrollment in or transfer to a public school of a child in the district who is in the conservatorship of the state.*<sup>39</sup>

# FOSTER CARE LIAISON

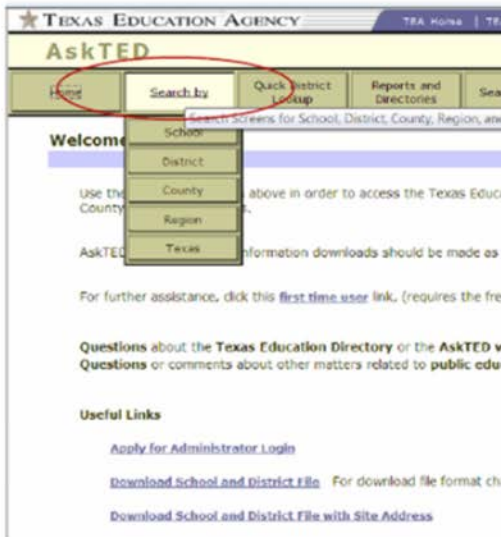
School District Foster Care Liaison Information is now maintained in AskTED.

AskTED is TEA's online Texas Education Directory. AskTED is real-time database where each district and charter schools foster care liaison contact information is maintained starting in the 2014-15 school year. Updates and or/changes regarding the foster care liaison(s) contact information is now submitted to TEA through each districts AskTED administrator. Charter schools are responsible to submit their foster care liaison(s) to the Charter School Division at TEA directly via (512) 463-9575 or [CharterSchools@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:CharterSchools@tea.state.tx.us). Below are two different avenues (with instructions and pictures) to view and download Foster Care Liaison contact information from TEA's AskTED database.

→ To view and/or download the foster care liaison list by: "School," "District," "County," "Region," or "Texas" from AskTED, follow the instructions below:

1) Go to the [AskTED](http://mansfield.tea.state.tx.us/TEA.AskTED.Web/Forms/Home.aspx) homepage:<http://mansfield.tea.state.tx.us/TEA.AskTED.Web/Forms/Home.aspx>

2) Select "Search by" and choose how you would like to search by "Region," or "Texas".



### **TEA Foster Care Liaison Info:**

<http://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/laws/>

✓ Liaison contact information and updates are submitted to TEA through each district's AskTED administrator.

✓ For questions about AskTED updates, please contact Lynne Krajevski, TEA AskTED Administrator, at [askTED@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:askTED@tea.state.tx.us) or 512-463-9809.

✓ If you are a charter school, please contact the Charter School Division at (512) 463-9575 or [CharterSchools@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:CharterSchools@tea.state.tx.us) directly to submit the name and contact information of your foster care liaison.

# Strategies for engagement:



- Introduce yourself to school district foster care liaison.
- Strategically engage students impacted by foster care and create opportunities within existing programs and activities for student involvement.
- Identify opportunities to promote use of the tuition and fees waiver and assist districts with post-secondary engagement (bridge programs, outreach, etc) of students in foster care.

# Strategies for engagement continued:

- Learn about opportunities for transition age youth in your community and connect students to resources and opportunities.
- Connect students to college programs and supports available.
- Participate and engage with transition planning activities when appropriate.
- Host a celebration for graduating high school students. Include others involved in student's life: judge, CASA, caseworkers, caregiver, PAL, foster care liaison, teacher, etc.

## Foster Care Liaison Contact Information

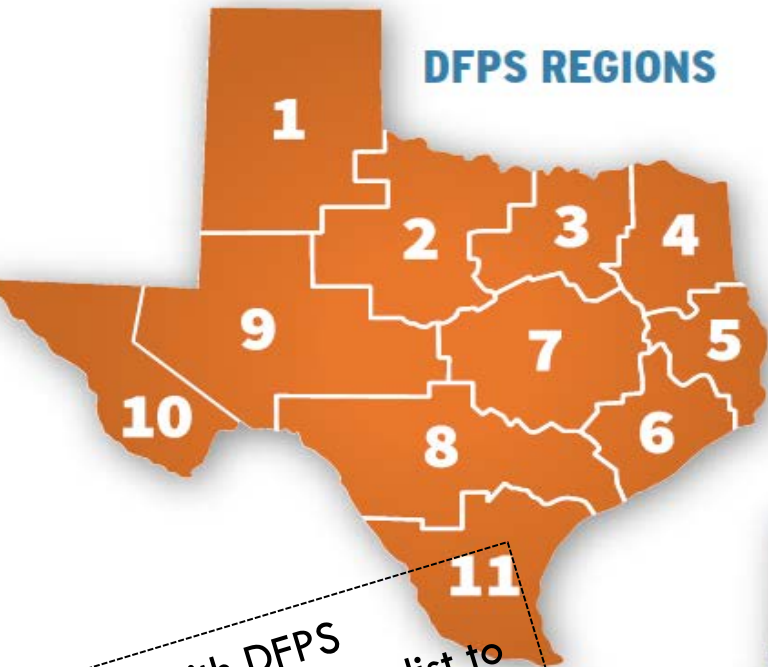
[AskTED](#) is a real-time public database where each school district and charter school's foster care liaison is listed. You can view and download foster care liaison information in AskTED. Information is available by district, region, and county.

For step-by-step instructions with pictures of how to view and download a current list of foster care liaisons in AskTED, please follow the [guidance for how to find the foster care liaison contact information in AskTED](#) (PDF).

Voluntary Foster Care Champions exist in each Education Service Center (ESC) to support districts, answer questions and encourage local training efforts. The contact information of Foster Care Champions is available at [ESC Foster Care Champions](#) (PDF).

<http://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/liaisons/>





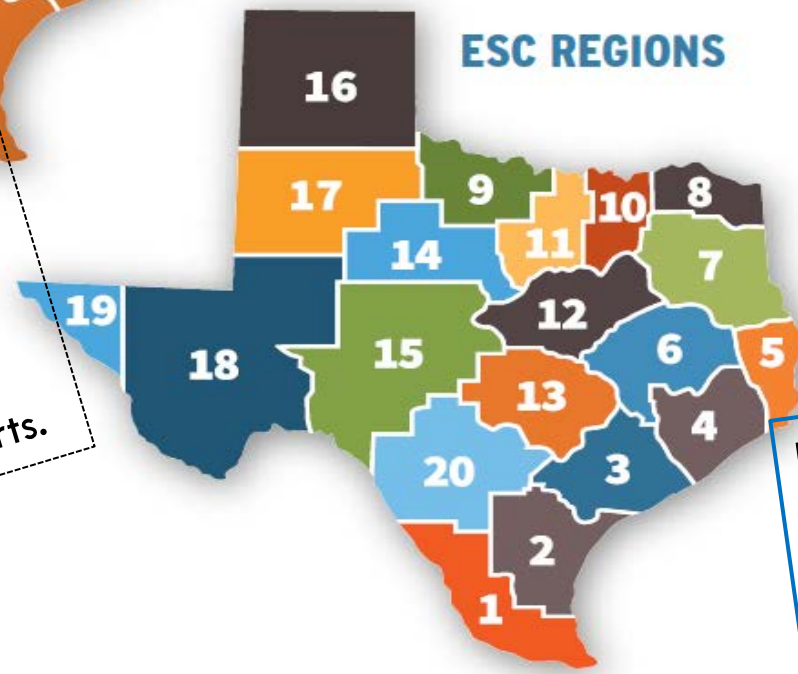
Link with DFPS Education Specialist to promote post-secondary engagement and coordination with local/regional efforts.

**Regional Education Specialist:**

Regional Education Specialists work for DFPS, specializing in education and school-related matters. They act as liaisons between DFPS and local schools and districts within their region. They advocate for educational and ancillary services that best meet the needs of children and youth in the school environment. Regional Education Specialists also serve as a primary resource for school staff on education matters involving students in foster care. Education Specialists also offer presentations on *Improving Educational Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care*, *Trauma-Informed Care*, and *Intervention Strategies* to CPS staff and community stakeholders.

**TIP:** The DFPS Regional Education Specialist is an excellent contact to begin building partnerships with the local child welfare system.

The local DFPS Regional Education Specialist may help provide cross-system trainings and other information on services provided. For a list of DFPS Regional Education Specialists, visit [www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=2147512296&menu\\_id=2147483761](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=2147512296&menu_id=2147483761)



Chap. 2  
p. 23

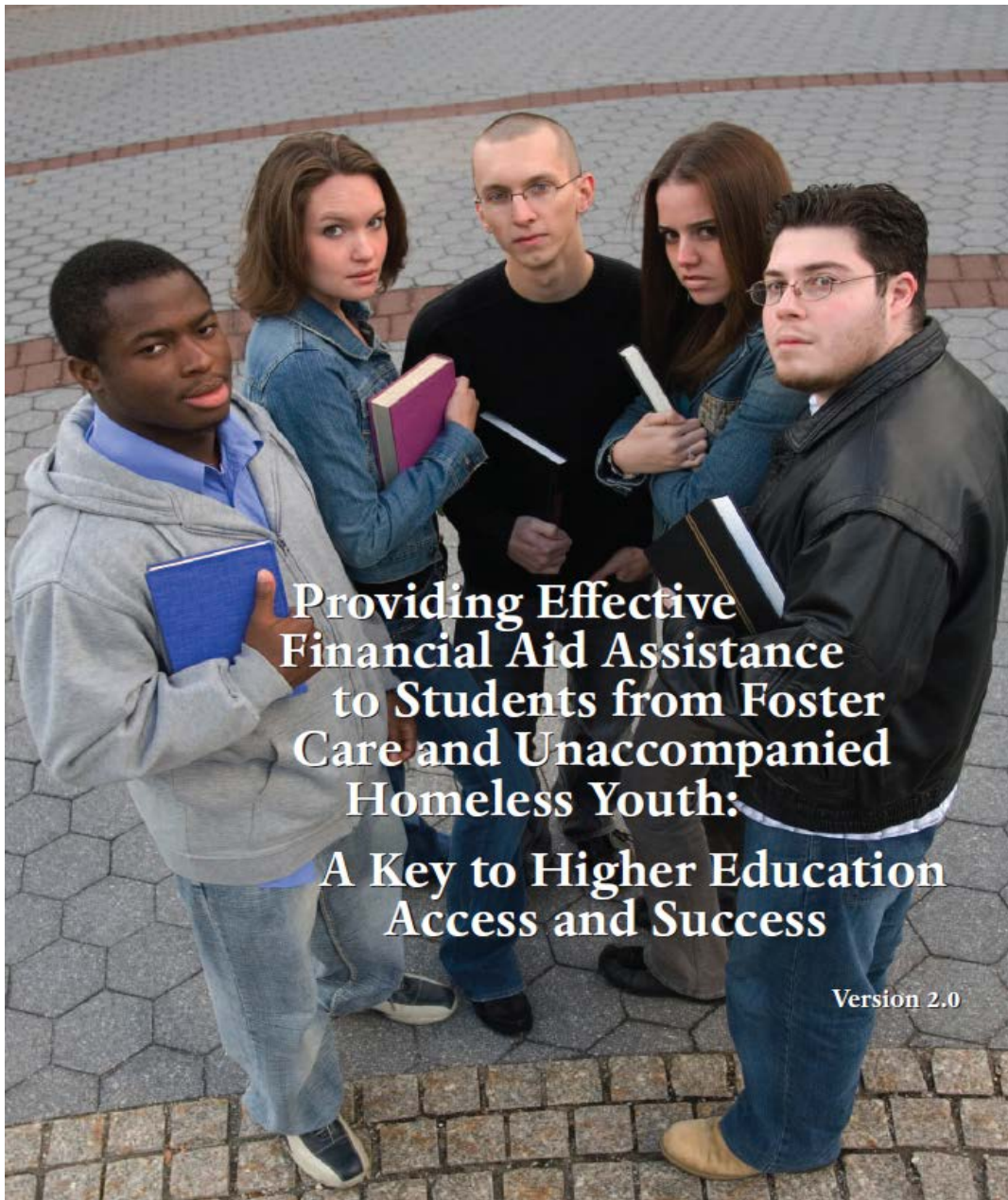
Engage with ESC Foster Care Champions to promote post-secondary engagement. Contact Info found on TEA's Foster Care & Student Success website.

**TIP:** DFPS and ESC service regions differ. It is important to clarify which type of region is being referred to when working with partners from the child welfare system.

Additional Resources Available:

# Paying for College \$\$\$ – Resources available for students aging out of foster care:

- Lifetime Tuition & Fees Waiver – for students enrolled in one-college course before turning 25 (includes dual-credit course where both high school and college credit are earned)
- Freshman Success Fund - \$1,000 for Texas freshman only  
<http://texasfosteryouth.org/download/freshman-success-fund-for-foster-youth-grant-1000/>
- Education and Training Voucher - \$5,000 a year up until the age of 23 if student is accesses resources before the age of 21.
- FAFSA – all students who were in foster care 13 years and older file as an ‘independent’ and qualify for the maximum amount of federal and state grants.



**Providing Effective  
Financial Aid Assistance  
to Students from Foster  
Care and Unaccompanied  
Homeless Youth:**

**A Key to Higher Education  
Access and Success**

Version 2.0

**Excellent resource!**

**<http://www.pathwaylibrary.org/ViewBiblio.aspx?aid=21730/>**

## CHAPTER

# 13

## TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE & POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE
- TRANSITIONAL SERVICES DESCRIBED
- HOW CAN SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSIST STUDENTS IN PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD AND TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE?
- POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
- WHAT FINANCIAL SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP STUDENTS FROM FOSTER CARE PAY FOR COLLEGE?
- CONSIDERATIONS TO HELP STUDENTS ACTIVATE COLLEGE LIFETIME TUITION & FEES WAIVER WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL
- WHAT COLLEGE SUPPORT NETWORKS AND COLLEGE CAMPUS PROGRAMS EXIST IN TEXAS FOR STUDENTS FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE?
- DO STUDENTS NEED A BACTERIAL MENINGITIS VACCINATION IN ORDER TO ENTER COLLEGE?

### CONSIDERATIONS TO HELP STUDENTS ACTIVATE COLLEGE LIFETIME TUITION AND FEES WAIVER WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL



Best practices include coordination among high school personnel, college support services, and college faculty to ensure students receive the support necessary for a positive academic experience and a successful college experience. School personnel can play a key role in linking students with college campus supports and services and encouraging students to believe college is possible!



### TRANSITIONAL SERVICES DESCRIBED:

**Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Services:** Help youth ages 16 and older prepare for adulthood and exit foster care. Independent living skills and case management services are provided to eligible youth up to age 21. Youth should be referred to regional DFPS PAL staff for more information. [www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Protection/Youth\\_and\\_Young\\_Adults/Preparation\\_For\\_Adult\\_Living/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/default.asp)

**Transition Centers:** Are "one-stop shops" and a central place for youth from 15 1/2 to 25 years to access resources, information, and services.



**LAW:** State law requires that all students in grades 11 or 12 in substitute care are provided information about the tuition and fee waiver, dual credit, or other courses where a student may earn joint high school and college credit.<sup>167</sup>



**TIP:** District liaisons are encouraged to link with local colleges and campus-based support programs to develop connections and facilitate effective transitions into post-secondary for students in foster care.

### WHAT FINANCIAL SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP STUDENTS FROM FOSTER CARE PAY FOR COLLEGE?

**College Tuition and Fee Waiver:**<sup>168</sup> Some individuals formerly in Texas' foster care system qualify for a lifetime tuition and fees waiver at any Texas state-supported institution of higher education, as long as they earn at least one college credit before turning 25.

### WHAT COLLEGE SUPPORT NETWORKS AND COLLEGE CAMPUS PROGRAMS EXIST IN TEXAS FOR STUDENTS FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE?

Texas Reach is a statewide network focused on increasing college access and retention for foster care alumni. Texas Reach works with colleges and universities statewide in establishing and promoting best-practices in higher education for students formerly in foster care. College campus-based supports for foster care alumni are continuously expanding throughout Texas.

Visit the Texas Reach website to learn more about their annual conference, college access, and other resources available to foster care alumni. Join the Texas Reach Google Group listserv to stay informed of new resources, events, and opportunities. [www.texasreach.org/](http://www.texasreach.org/)



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**TEXAS**  
Department of Family and Protective Services

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**Child Protective Services**

- PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE
  - Prevent Child Abuse
  - Prevention & Early Intervention
  - Hotlines
  - Community Partners
- INVESTIGATION
  - Investigations
  - Report Child Abuse
- CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES
  - Children in Our Care
  - Family Based Support
  - Foster and Kinship Care
  - Adoption & Permanency Services
- YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SERVICES
  - Overview of Services
  - Texas Youth Connection
  - Extended Care and Return
- OTHER INFORMATION

**Services for Youth and Young Adults**

DFPS Home | Child Protection | Youth And Young Adults | This Page


**Transitional Living Services (TLS)**

Transitional Living Services, programs, and benefits help foster care youth and young adults make the transition to adulthood smoother and help them identify and achieve long-term education, career, and life goals. Transitional Living Services begin at age 14 and may continue until age 23.

Learn more about Transitional Living Services and how it helps with employment, education, and housing.

**Services Offered**



- Transitional Living Services
- Texas Youth Connection
- Texas Youth Connection on Facebook
- Preparation For Adult Living (PAL)
- Post Secondary Education Information



TEXAS FOSTER CARE HANDBOOK FOR YOUTH

**ACCESS GRANTED**

[hot stuff](#) | 
 [contacts](#) | 
 [hotlines](#) | 
 [youth home](#) | 
 [DFPS home](#)

**TEXAS YOUTH CONNECTION**

Texas Youth Connection > This Page

**WELCOME!**

Welcome to the Texas Youth Connection web site!

If you are a youth in the Texas foster care system, a youth transitioning to adulthood, or a youth who is just looking for general tips and information, you've come to the right place.

**What is the Texas Youth Connection?**

TexasYouthConnection.org is a project of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the agency that administers Child Protective Services in Texas. Some of our programs that you may be familiar with include:

- the Texas foster care system,
- Preparation for Adult Living (PAL),
- Chafee Foster Care Independence Program,
- Education and Training Voucher,
- Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR),
- the Texas Runaway Hotline, and
- the Texas Youth Hotline.

**HOT STUFF**

- NYTD SURVEY
- SAFETY & WELL-BEING
- EDUCATION
- FINANCES
- JOBS
- HOUSING
- HEALTH CARE COVERAGE
- DIVERSITY
- EVENTS
- FOOD
- FUN STUFF
- LEGAL/RECORDS
- RESOURCES
- CONTACTS

<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Protection/Youth and Young Adults/Transitional Living/default.asp>



## 6th Annual Convening



Photo: Dewy Brooks

## 7th Annual Convening June 6-7, 2016 in El Paso

Save the date for the 7th Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening at El Paso Community College. We expect big numbers this year! Due to the decision to require all public post-secondary institutions to have a foster care alumni liaison, we expect to add over a hundred new professionals charged with supporting foster care alumni in higher education for professional development and educational workshops to this year's convening. More detailed information about the program (speakers, workshops, etc.) and registration is forthcoming. We hope to see you there!

El Paso Community College Website  
[http://www.epcc.edu/\\_layouts/temp/index.html](http://www.epcc.edu/_layouts/temp/index.html)

**Education Reach for Texans:**  
**<http://www.educationreachfortexans.org/>**

# College & Career Readiness Resources:

Texas Reality Check (from TWC): <http://www.texasrealitycheck.com/>

Own Your Own Future: [www.ownyourownfuture.com/](http://www.ownyourownfuture.com/)

Texas College and Career: [www.texascollegeandcareer.org/](http://www.texascollegeandcareer.org/)

Texas Gear-up: [www.texasgearup.com/byot/category/](http://www.texasgearup.com/byot/category/)

College For All Texans: [www.collegeforalltexans.com/](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/)

Achieve Texas : <http://www.achievetexas.org/>

TEA's Online College and Career Preparation Assistance Resource Site:

[http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=8380&menu\\_id=814](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=8380&menu_id=814)

Career & Technical Education - Special Populations Center: <http://ctsp.tamu.edu/>



# College & Career Readiness Resources – Foster Care

Chap. 13  
p. 108

Casey Family Programs, “Providing Effective Financial Aid Assistance to Students from Foster Care and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: A Key to Higher Education Access and Success: <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/SupportingSuccess.htm>

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services - Transitional Living Services – Brief Overview:  
<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Application/Forms/showFile.aspx?NAME=2526.docx>.

Access Granted: Texas Foster Care Handbook for Youth  
[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Documents/Child\\_Protection/pdf/foster-care-handbook.pdf](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Documents/Child_Protection/pdf/foster-care-handbook.pdf)

It’s My Life: Post Secondary Education & Training Guide  
<http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/pdf/EducationalOutcomesFactSheet.pdf>

Supporting Success: Improving Higher Education Outcomes for Students in Foster Care  
<http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/SupportingSuccess.htm>

# Foster Care & Student Success

Foster Care & Student Success, housed in Texas Education Agency's Division of Federal and State Education Policy maintains resources and information to advance the education of student's impacted by foster care. The resources and materials provide guidance related to the unique circumstances surrounding students who are in the foster care system and attend Texas public schools. In Texas, nearly 16,000 school-age students are in foster care at any given time.

The Foster Care & Student Success web content is divided into the following areas:

- [School District Liaisons](#)
- [Laws and Guidance](#)
- [State Efforts](#)
- [Collaboration](#)
- [Child Protective Services](#)
- [Information and Resources](#)

## Foster Care & Student Success Resource Guide



TEA developed a premiere resource to support Texas schools in addressing the education of students in foster care: [Texas Foster Care & Student Success Resource Guide](#) (PDF). This guide is the product of collaboration with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, the Supreme Court of Texas, and the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission). This e-guide and training manual contains a variety of key researched-based topics and calls attention to important matters related to the

## Special Student Populations

[Bilingual - ESL Education](#)

[Dyslexia](#)

[Early Childhood Education](#)

[Foster Care and Student Success](#)

[Gifted and Talented Education](#)

[Title III, Part A English Language Acquisition](#)


[Title I, Part C - Migrant Education](#)

## Contact Information

Federal & State Education Policy  
**Foster Care Education & Policy  
Coordinator**  
Kelly Kravitz  
512-463-9235  
[Kelly.Kravitz@tea.texas.gov](mailto:Kelly.Kravitz@tea.texas.gov)  
[fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov](mailto:fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov)



# Comprehensive List of Foster Care and Education Laws:

[Home](#) [A-Z Index](#) [Sign Up for Updates](#) [Contact](#)

[About TEA](#) [Curriculum & Instructional Materials](#) [Finance & Grants](#) [Reports & Data](#) [Student Testing & Accountability](#) [Texas Educators](#) [Texas Schools](#)

[Home](#) / [Curriculum](#) / [Special Student Populations](#) / [Foster Care and Student Success](#)

## Foster Care & Student Success - Education Laws and Guidance

There are many federal and state laws that exist to advance the education of students in foster care. Knowledge of the laws and how to apply them is critical so these laws are understood and followed.

Numerous links to more information and law references are included below. Chapter and page numbers from the Texas [Foster Care & Student Success Resource Guide](#) (PDF) provide quick access to information and support local training efforts.

For the benefit of students, we encourage local education agencies (LEAs) to be familiar with this information. School boards and district administrators ensure that local policies and practices are in alignment and promote opportunities to increase awareness among school staff.

### Federal Law

#### Special Student Populations

- [Bilingual - ESL Education](#)
- [Dyslexia](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Foster Care and Student Success](#)
- [Gifted and Talented Education](#)
- [Title III, Part A English Language Acquisition](#)
- [Title I, Part C - Migrant Education](#)

#### Foster Care & Student Success

- [Main Page](#)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/FosterCareStudentSuccess/laws/>

**TEA** *Foster Care & Student Success*  
listserv for updates:

To sign-up:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTEA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=TXTEA\\_21](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTEA/subscriber/new?topic_id=TXTEA_21)



FIERCE ADVOCATE SERIES



EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY

TOOLKIT

CASA Educational  
Advocacy Toolkit:  
<http://texascasa.org/learning-center/resources/educational-advocacy-toolkit/>

# Trauma-Informed Education Resources

- Trauma Sensitive Schools: <http://traumasensitiveschools.org/>
- Compassionate Schools: The Heart of Learning and Teaching: <http://www.k12.wa.us/compassionateschools/>
- The National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network:
  - Child Trauma Toolkit For Educators:  
<http://www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/school-personnel/trauma-toolkit>
  - Resources for Schools:  
<http://www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/school-personnel/resources-for-schools>
  - National Foster Care Awareness Month:  
<http://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/national-foster-care-month%20>
- Why Schools Need to Be Trauma Informed:  
[http://www.traumainformedcareproject.org/resources/WhySchoolsNeedToBeTraumaInformed\(2\).pdf](http://www.traumainformedcareproject.org/resources/WhySchoolsNeedToBeTraumaInformed(2).pdf)
- Schools promoting 'trauma-informed' teaching to reach troubled students: <http://edsources.org/2013/schools-focus-on-trauma-informed-to-reach-troubled-students/51619>

# Child Welfare Resources:

- Regional Education Specialists – by region

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact Us/map.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/map.asp)

- Children's Commission of the Texas Supreme Court

<http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/ourwork/foster-care-education.aspx>

- Texas Youth Connections

[https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/.../education/paying for college.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/.../education/paying_for_college.asp)



# FOSTER CARE & STUDENT SUCCESS:



Texas Systems Working Together  
to Transform Education Outcomes  
of Students in Foster Care

PRODUCED BY



- Comprehensive resource and training guide, released in October 2013; Co-written with TEA, DFPS and Children's Commission.
- Research based: Codifies foster care education practice, policy, laws and resources in one central location.
- Foundational resource for education community, foster care liaisons, and all who support the education of students in foster care.
- Guidebook provides foundation for district training and development on foster care.



# Where to find the Foster Care & Student Success Resource Guide:

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- Online Interactive PDF available for download:  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/FosterCareStudentSuccess/resource-guide.pdf>
  
- Individual chapter download:  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/fostercarestudentsuccess>
  
- Hard-copies may be ordered through TEA's Office of Publication:  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=2147487430>
  
- A professional grade PDF file is available for groups and organizations that would like to have the guide printed to disseminate: email [fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov](mailto:fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov) or [kelly.kravitz@tea.texas.gov](mailto:kelly.kravitz@tea.texas.gov) for information.

# TEA Foster Care & Student Success:

- TEA Website:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/FosterCareStudentSuccess/>

- Email: [Fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov](mailto:Fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov)

- TEA Foster Care & Student Success listserv:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTEA/subscriber/new>

- Foster Care Education & Policy, and Homeless/McKinney-Vento,  
State Coordinator, Kelly Kravitz

[fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov](mailto:fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov); [kelly.kravitz@tea.texas.gov](mailto:kelly.kravitz@tea.texas.gov);

512-463-9235

*Committed to Transforming the Education  
Outcomes of Students in Foster Care!*

THANK YOU FOR THE  
IMPORTANT WORK THAT  
YOU DO!

