

## Foster Care Education



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

### E-Communication

November, 2018

Bookmark us!

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/fostercare\\_index](http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/fostercare_index)

*This e-communication is intended to provide Child Welfare Education Liaisons (CWELs) and other foster care stakeholders informed about current news and events related to students in foster care.*

### News and Updates

#### ***CDHS Welcomes Samantha Garrett as the new Foster Care Education Specialist!***

The Colorado Department of Human Services welcomed Samantha Garrett in October in the new role of foster care education specialist. In her role, Samantha will serve as an educational point of contact for county departments of human services. Samantha will be working to support counties and other foster care stakeholders in improving educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care. Samantha has experience in both education and child welfare. She started her career in education as a high school English teacher and worked in the child welfare field as a licensed social worker. She can be reached at [Samantha.garrett@state.co.us](mailto:Samantha.garrett@state.co.us).

#### ***FAFSA Webinar for Highly Mobile Students (Foster, Homeless, Migrant)***

CDE partnered with the Colorado Department of Higher Education to record a webinar that is aimed to assist in filling out the FAFSA for youth who are eligible as independent students. This webinar provides guidance for young people, financial aid administrators, high school counselors, and anyone who is advocating for youth experiencing foster care, homelessness, or migrant students. Access this webinar by [clicking here](#).

#### ***Former Foster Care Youth Steering Committee***

Kristin Myers and Dana Scott are representing CDE on this committee that was created as a part of Colorado House Bill 18-1319. This committee is charged with developing an implementation plan that allows former foster care youth to receive services for a successful adulthood, or assistance in returning to placement, or identifying alternatives to returning to placement after reaching eighteen years of age. [Click here](#) for meeting minutes and more information.

### ESSA and Colorado HB 18-1306 Implementation News

#### ***Accessing Transportation Funds for Students in Foster Care***

CDE and CDHS are offering a joint webinar to provide technical assistance on the process to access transportation funds. This webinar will take place on November 6 from 3:00pm-4:00pm. [Click here](#) to access the webinar. The webinar will also be recorded and posted on the [Foster Care Education Webpage](#).

**Transportation reimbursement basics under HB 18-1306:** School districts may submit an invoice to counties for reimbursement for 100% of transportation costs they incurred for providing transportation for foster students to their school of origin since July 1, 2018. Districts are eligible to receive up to 90% of the total cost of transportation back from the county. To obtain these funds, the county department of human services submits the invoice to the state (CDHS) and receives the money to reimburse the school districts. Schools are not responsible for billing CHDS and will receive funds from the county human services department directly. Transportation agreements do NOT have to be signed to receive funds.

#### **CWEL Meetings**

Kristin Myers hosted several CWEL meetings in counties and districts that have the highest numbers of students in foster care in October. These meetings were primarily focused on updating transportation plans to include a process for reimbursement between districts and counties. Contact Kristin Myers to request a meeting in your district.

#### **Double Check CWEL Contacts**

School districts are required to report the name and contact information for Child Welfare Education Liaisons by August 15 each year. This year, the reporting took place through the Consolidated Application. Several of the contact names provided through the application were not accurate. Please ensure your contact information is correct on the list provided on the Foster Care Education Webpage. Send any corrections or updates to Kristin Myers at CDE.

### **Conferences and Presentations in October**

October was a BUSY month of conferences and presentations. Please find a list of presentations below. Contact Kristin Myers for more information or to request a copy of any presentation listed.

#### **Foster Care Education Summit**

The SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro hosted the first ever Foster Care Education Summit October 2-3. The summit brought together 27 foster care state coordinators and their child welfare counterparts for two full days of information sharing and learning about ESSA implementation for students in foster care. The participants shared sample documents and resources in one location to help each other with some of the common challenges in ESSA implementation. [Click here](#) to access resources and examples from other states.

#### **U.S. Senate Briefing on Foster Care Education**

Casey Family Programs and American Bar Association invited Kristin Melton (CDHS) and Kristin Myers to present at a Congressional briefing with the bipartisan U.S. Senate Caucus on Foster Youth. The briefing focused on educational stability and success for youth in foster care. There were 55 representatives from 21 US Senate offices, the American Bar Association, National Association of School Psychologists, Government Accountability Office, and other foster care advocates. Improving education outcomes for children and youth in foster care continues to be of interest nationwide.

#### **National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) National Conference**

This year the NAEHCY conference had a foster care education track in order to provide assistance to members working in both McKinney-Vento and foster care education programs. Kristin Myers and Dana Scott were invited to present a pre-conference session on building capacity in states and

districts in order to fully serve both populations of students. There were 130 people in attendance from 37 states. Kristin also presented breakout sessions on ESSA and IDEA considerations, postsecondary enrollment for foster youth, and a local capacity building session.

#### **Colorado School Counselor Association Annual Conference**

Kristin Myers, Kristin Melton (CDHS), and Dr. Elysia Clemens (Denver University) presented a session about implementing Colorado House Bill 18-1306 and the key role school counselors play in supporting students in foster care. The session provided attendees with school stability data as well as considerations for credit attainment and graduation for highly mobile students. Kristin Myers also presented a session on postsecondary access and enrollment for youth in foster care.

#### **School Counselor Corps Grantee Meeting**

Kristin Myers and Kerry Wrenick presented a session to school counselor corps grantees about improving educational outcomes for highly mobile students (foster, homeless, migrant).

#### **Alliance for Strong Families and Communities National Conference**

Kristin Melton (CDHS), Kristin Myers (CDE) and Dr. Elysia Clemens (Denver University) presented at this child welfare and community focused conference on educational stability and improving educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care.

### **For More Information**

#### **CWEL Toolkit**

Resources for CWELs available on the foster care education website

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/cweltoolkit>

#### **Foster Care Education Website Updates**

Keep checking the Foster Care Education webpage for new resources! In the upcoming months, toolkits for various foster care education stakeholders will be available by topic area.

If you have general questions or need assistance, contact:

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