

Foster Care Education



COLORADO
Department of Education

E-Communication

September, 2019

Bookmark us!

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

Congratulations to the First Ever Educational Stability Grantees!

In 2018, Colorado passed House Bill 18-1306; Concerning Ensuring Educational Stability for Students in Out-of-Home Placement. This bill included the creation of the Educational Stability Grant Program, which is intended to support educational stability of highly mobile students. In this context, highly mobile refers to students who experience (or are at risk of experiencing) multiple school moves during their K-12 education outside of regular grade promotion. This includes youth in foster care, those experiencing homelessness, and migrant students. The intent of the Educational Stability Grant Program is to provide academic and social-emotional services and supports to highly mobile students. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to remove educational barriers and support educational stability. The emphasis is on improving school attendance, reducing behavioral and discipline incidents, increasing grade-level promotion, reducing dropout rate, and increasing graduation and completion rates.

Congratulations to the first ever Educational Stability Grantees:

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools
- Greeley-Evans Weld County District 6
- Hanover School District
- Mapleton Public Schools
- Montrose County School District
- Mountain Valley School District
- Poudre School District
- San Luis Valley BOCES
- Thompson School District
- Wiggins School District

Foster Care Champion Spotlight

New this year, the monthly E-Communication will celebrate a foster care education champion to highlight all of the positive work happening in improving the educational experiences and outcomes for students in foster care. This month, please join us in celebrating Judith Martinez. Judith was the Director of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-Engagement for the last 12+ years at CDE. She played an instrumental role in creating the Foster Care Education program at CDE. Judith recently accepted a

position in a newly created role at Stand for Children. Her advocacy, ability to convene partners, and true dedication to ALL students will be missed at CDE. Best wishes to Judith in her new role!

Please contact Kristin Myers (contact information at the end of this document) to recognize your peers as Foster Care Education Champions!

Congratulations to Jeffco Public Schools and the Colorado Action Lab on "Fostering Opportunities"

Congratulations to Jeffco Public Schools and the Colorado Action Lab at the University of Denver in the release of the "Fostering Opportunities" program manual. Fostering opportunities is an innovative student engagement program for middle school and high school students who have experienced foster care. The goal of the program is to help young people who have experienced foster care be successful in school and ultimately earn a high school credential. This program is aligned to the standards for the Title IV-E Clearinghouse- that sets the bar for evidence-based interventions under the Families First Prevention Services Act. The manual is a free resource and is available for download at www.ColoradoLab.org/Library/, download document 105A, "Fostering Opportunities Program Manual-Middle and High School Version."

Colorado Selected to Represent in the First Cohort for State Support Network Community of Practice

The Foster Care Education Program at CDE was selected as one of 12 states to participate in a cohort of State Education Agency Foster Care Points of Contact by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education State Support Network. The Foster Care CoP will convene a cohort of SEA POCs who have demonstrated emerging expertise in the implementation of the ESEA's educational stability provisions. CoP participants will share best practices, develop resources to overcome implementation challenges, and identify additional technical assistance needed to effectively implement these ESEA provisions.

ESSA and C.R.S. 22-32-138 Implementation News

New County Human Services Points of Contact for Education List

Many thanks to Samantha Garrett at the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) for compiling a database of educational points of contacts at county human services agencies. Please [click here](#) to access this list and other helpful sample documents from CDHS!

Accessing Transportation Funds for Students in Foster Care

CDHS will continue to assist counties and school districts in accessing reimbursement dollars allocated for foster care education. If your school district has established a reimbursement procedure, please continue to follow that plan this year. If a plan for reimbursement is still in negotiation, school districts may bill CDHS directly. Please note: the definition of out-of-home placement is not inclusive of kinship placements where the county does not have legal custody. CWELs may contact the educational points of contact at the county (see above link) to inquire as to whether or not the county has legal custody. Contact Samantha Garrett at CDHS for transportation billing questions at samantha.garrett@state.co.us or at (303)866-2005.

Technical Assistance Requests

This school year marks the fourth school full school year in implementing the foster care provisions in ESSA. Many thanks to the CWELs, county, state agencies, and supporting non-profit and foster care serving organizations for your tireless efforts create a stable and safe learning environment for students in foster care. So far this school year, I received technical assistance requests in the following areas:

- Immediate enrollment for students on Individualized Education Plans
- Free lunch and fee waivers for students in out-of-home placement
- Clarifying the definition of students in out-of-home placement
- Accessing points of contacts at county human services agencies
- Immediate enrollment as related to school policies and procedures

Please keep reaching out to me with questions and concerns, and feel free to request a technical assistance training or meeting between districts and counties.

Quick Reference Guide for ESSA and C.R.S. 22-32-138 Implementation

This guide was created in response to recent technical assistance inquiries as a quick reference guide to school stability law implementation. This document will continue to be updated throughout the year to address current trends in the field. Access this document on the Foster Care Education Webpage by [clicking here](#).

Conferences and Presentations

Upcoming Conferences and Presentations

National Dropout Prevention Conference

When: October 5-8, 2019

Where: Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center Aurora, CO.

Cost: Individual registration for nonmember is \$525. The code for Colorado participants to receive a 10% discount is "COED2019".

More Information: [Click here](#)

2019 Equity and Excellence Conference

When: October 24 and 25, 2019

Where: Denver, Colorado

Cost: FREE!

More Information: [Click here](#)

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) National Conference (note: there is a foster care education track)

When: November 2-5, 2019

Where: Washington Hilton, Washington DC

Early registration: \$570

More Information: [Click Here](#)

Past Conferences and Presentations

Highly Mobile Students and Charter Schools

Kerry Wrenick and Kristin Myers presented at the 2019 Annual Finance Seminar for Charter Schools in Colorado. Please contact Kerry or Kristin for more information about working with Charter Schools in your district on implementing school stability laws for students in out-of-home placement and students experiencing homelessness.

Back to School Webinar for CWELs

Did you miss the Back to School Webinar for CWELs this month? We have you covered! Please contact Kristin Myers to request a recording of this webinar.

SERVE Center Summit

The SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro held the second annual Foster Care Education Summit in August. This event brought together state points of contact for foster care education and their child welfare counterparts to discuss successes and challenges in implementing school stability laws for children and youth in foster care. SERVE Center compiled resources from across the nation and continues to be a resource for states in navigating implementation. [Click here](#) to access the SERVE Center webpage.

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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http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/fostercare_index