



Training Opportunities

Foster Care Continuum (FCC) Coffee Talks

This is an opportunity for **CWEL's** to learn what is new around foster care education and to talk with each other about current successes and barriers in a collaborative way. RSVP below, so we can assure we have enough space for everyone who plans to attend. The next one is on: February 25, Thursday 10 am-12 pm **Colorado Springs**: Stir Coffee Shop, 2330 N Wahsatch Avenue in Colorado Springs (719) 418-6188.

Please RSVP to our Event Bright [here](#).

Updates and Information

2016 Helen M. McLoraine Scholarship for Foster Care & Emancipating Youth is now available for eligible students. This scholarship program was created to provide educational scholarships for foster care youth who are emancipated or are in the process of preparing to emancipate from the foster care system in Colorado. Scholarship awards can be up to \$10,000 per year for a total of four years.

Eligibility and Application: Please click [here](#) for a link to the online application and an overview of the eligibility requirements. This program is open to students who have spent a minimum of 24 months in Colorado's foster care system between the ages of 13 and 18.

Deadline: The 2016 application deadline is **March 24th**, but we would encourage students to start on the application NOW, to allow ample time for essays, references, etc.

Scholarship Details - Awards can be used toward part-time or full-time undergraduate study at any accredited U.S. university, career/technical school or community college. Award amounts will vary based on the individual student's academic plan, cost of attendance, and the financial need of the applicant. For more information, please visit The Denver Foundation's [website](#).

The **Foster Care Education Program FAQ** are commonly asked questions around educational issues for youth in foster care which include enrollment and transfer questions. Below is a sample question around enrollment from this document. To read this document in its entirety click [here](#).

The question of the month:

Do students in foster care automatically lose credits mid-year for changing schools?

No. When a student in an out-of-home placement transfers from one school to another school, the sending school shall **certify** to the receiving school what course work was done by the student as fully or partially completed while enrolled at their school.

The receiving school or school district shall **accept** the student's certified course work and the course work certified by previous schools in which the student was enrolled, as reflected in the student's records, as if it had been completed at the receiving school. The receiving school or school district shall apply all of the student's certified course work toward completion of the student's requirements for graduating from the grade level in which the student is enrolled at the receiving school or school district or for graduation from the receiving school or school district if the student is enrolled in

twelfth grade. The receiving school or school district may award elective credit for any portion of the student's certified course work that is not aligned with the curriculum of the receiving school or school district. (C.R.S. 22-32-138)

Vocabulary and Acronyms

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The 2011-12 Federal Student Aid (FSA) Application and Verification Guide (AVG) states the definition of foster care is a student who at any time since the age of 13, was a foster child or a dependent/ward of the court is independent, for the purposes of Title IV financial aid, even if her status changed later. A foster parent or a legal guardian is not treated as a parent for FSA purposes. When a dependency court creates a guardianship over a dependent child and “closes the court case,” the court still retains jurisdiction over the child. This is true even when the court-appointed legal guardian is not a relative. The child is therefore a ward of the court for purposes of the FAFSA.

Click [here](#) to read the entire Foster Care Education: Higher Education Document.

To learn more about Foster Care Education

- CDE Foster Care Education webpage at http://www.cde.state.co.us/DropoutPrevention/fostercare_index.htm
- Sheree Wheeler , CDE State Coordinator of Foster Care Education, 303-866-6007, Wheeler_S@cde.state.co.us
- American Bar Association has the Fostering Connections Act of 2008 Implementation Toolkit Improving Education Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care: www.americanbar.org

