



## Education Outcomes for Kids in Foster Care

### Fact Sheet

1. 47.5 percent of foster youth graduate from high school (as opposed to 83.9 percent of non-foster care students).\*
2. Most students in foster care change schools at least once or twice a year. In Clark County, by the time a child exits foster care they will have changed placements on average ten times. Keep in mind that children lose about 4 to 6 months of progress when they change schools.\*
3. 40 percent of children in foster care have IEPs.\*
4. 21 percent of grades received by foster children were Fs as opposed to 6 percent of non-foster children.\*
5. Foster children are more likely to be discipline than non-foster children.\*
6. Only 3 percent of foster children graduate college.\*\*
7. State-based tuition assistance programs act as a form of stability aid, creating an additional layer of financial support not always met by larger national funding streams.\*\*
8. 28 states have some form of tuition assistance for foster youth – Nevada does not.\*\*
9. In California, nearly three times as many foster youth who participate in campus support programs remain in college than their peers nationwide. \*\*

\*At the Tipping Point: Educational Outcomes of Youth in Foster Care in Clark County School District. The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities, [https://guinncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Guinn\\_Foster-Care-October-2016.pdf](https://guinncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Guinn_Foster-Care-October-2016.pdf) (2016).

\*\*Information Packet: Foster Youth Attending College. Sara Cohn and Rachel Kelly, National Center for Child Welfare Excellence at the Silberman School of Social Work. <http://nccwe.org/downloads/info-packs/CohnandKelly.pdf> (2015).

\*\*\*Rule 1147. Educational Decision Maker.

- A. *Generally.* At any proceeding or upon motion, the court shall appoint an educational decision maker for the child if it determines that:
- 1) the child has no guardian; or
  - 2) the court, after notice to the guardian and an opportunity for the guardian to be heard, has made a determination that it is in the child's best interest to limit the guardian's right to make decisions regarding the child's education.
- B. *Notice of hearings.* The educational decision maker shall receive notice of all proceedings.
- C. *Duties and responsibilities.* The educational decision maker shall:
- 1) make appropriate inquiries and take appropriate actions to ensure that:
    - a) issues concerning the child's educational stability are addressed;
    - b) school discipline matters are addressed;
    - c) the child is receiving appropriate education that will allow the child to meet state standards, including any necessary services concerning special education in the least restrictive environment, or remedial services;
    - d) the child, who is sixteen years of age or older, is receiving the necessary educational services to transition to independent living;
    - e) the child, who is receiving services concerning special education, is engaged in transition planning with the school entity beginning no later than the school year in which the child turns fourteen; and
    - f) the child, who is aging out of care within ninety days, has a transition plan that addresses the child's educational needs, and if applicable, the plan is coordinated with the child's transition planning concerning special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
  - 2) address the child's educational needs by:
    - a) meeting with the child at least once and as often as necessary to make decisions regarding education that are in the best interests of the child;
    - b) participating in special education and other meetings, and making decisions regarding all matters affecting the child's educational needs in a manner consistent with the child's best interests;
    - c) making any specific recommendations to the court relating to:
      - i) the timeliness and appropriateness of the child's educational placement;
      - ii) the timeliness and appropriateness of the child's transitional planning; and
      - iii) services necessary to address the child's educational needs;
    - d) appearing and testifying at court hearings when necessary; and
    - e) having knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the child.

\*\*\*237 Pa. Code Rule 1147 (2011).