



May 19, 2022

10:00 A.M. -
11:30 P.M.

FOSTER CARE &
STUDENT SUCCESS GUIDE
Chapter 6

Foster Care Guide

FOSTER CARE & STUDENT SUCCESS:



TEXAS SYSTEMS WORKING TOGETHER TO
TRANSFORM EDUCATION OUTCOMES OF
STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE



Link:

<https://tea.texas.gov/foster-care-guide>



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Foster Care & Student Success Guide Collaboration

FOSTER CARE & STUDENT SUCCESS:



TEXAS SYSTEMS WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION OUTCOMES OF STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE





Objectives

To provide educators and all those working with students in foster care a brief overview of the foster care and student success guide.

Familiarize educators with the foster care guide and relevant laws and policies that affect the educational experience of students in foster care.

Provide access to the foster care guide for purposes of ensuring students in foster care are provided the proper assistance.

Agenda

Foster Care Guide Overview

Chapter 6

Pause for Understanding

Continue Chapter 6

Questions

Foster Care Guide Training Series

Let's see
who is
here.



In the chat, please indicate your job title.



What has been your concerns with
working with students in foster care?



AskTed Update

REMINDER

LEA Foster
Care Liaisons

LEAs need to confirm that their FC Liaison listed in AskTED is accurate.

If not, contact the LEA AskTED Coordinator to request any changes or updates to the AskTED directory.

More information is available on TEA's Foster Care and Student Success website, under the Foster Care Liaison tab.

ESC Foster Care Champions also posted in AskTED

Sign Up for Updates!

The screenshot shows the TEA website header with navigation links: Popular Applications, AskTED, ECOS for Educators, Grant Opportunities, Secure Applications, TEAL Login, TSDS, and Help Desk. The main navigation bar includes: About TEA, Texas Schools, Academics, Finance & Grants, Reports & Data, Student Assessment, and Texas Educators. A search bar is present with the text 'Search TEA.Texas.gov'. Below the search bar, a red circle highlights the 'Sign Up for Updates' link. A banner for 'Coronavirus (COVID-19)' is visible, with a 'GET UPDATES' button. Below the banner are three categories: Coronavirus (COVID-19), Supplemental Special Education Services, and Texas Home Learning. The 'The Latest TEA News' section is also visible, with sub-sections for Emergency Support, Texas Schools, and About.

- Special Student Populations
 - At-Risk and Highly Mobile Student Program Division
 - Early Childhood Education
 - English Learners
 - Foster Care and Student Success
 - Gifted/Talented Education
 - Languages Other Than English
 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Education
 - Mental and Behavioral Health
 - Military Connected Students
 - Pregnancy Programs
 - Spanish Curriculum Standards
 - Special Education Updates

Icons within the guide

The icons are located throughout the guide to assist with finding information needed.

The table of contents and the chapters are grouped by color.



Preface, Appendices, and References



Overview



Cross-System and Collaboration



District and LEA (Local Educational Agency) Responsibilities

Use the icons as a valuable resource for understanding of specific information.



Tip



Reminder



Collaboration



Note



Law



Resources







New Items



Best Practice

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Where can I get more information about Foster Care at TEA?

Visit:

[TEA Foster Care & Student Success Webpage](#)

Subscribe:

[TEA Foster Care & Student Success Newsletter](#)

Email:

Fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov

Stronger than

Chapter 6

You
EXPECTed

School Enrollment, Withdrawal, and Other Transition Considerations for Students in Foster Care



- Why prompt enrollment is important
- Timeframe for enrollment in a new school
- Records needed to admit and enroll a student in a school
- Information necessary for admission and enrollment described
- Actions to take when a student in foster care withdraws or changes schools
- DFPS coordination to support school transitions



- Other school transition considerations
 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Services and Child Welfare
 - Eligibility for School Meal Programs
 - Children In Foster Care Are Eligible for Free Pre-K Programs in Public Schools
 - Daily Attendance



■ Challenges to Enrollment

- Partial and Missing student records
- Lack of knowledge of the Enrollment process
- Lack of clarity about who may enroll a student in foster care
- Unclear directions about who is responsible for transfer of records
- Misinformation about foster care





- Immediately Enroll students in Foster Care
 - DFPS to enroll a student within (3) school days
 - Placed in conservatorship
 - Moving to a new school or foster care placement
 - DFPS has 30 days to ensure necessary enrollment paperwork is provided to the school.



- The receiving school should immediately contact the sending school when a new student in foster care is enrolled.
 - School staff must ensure:
 - Have the records from previous school
 - Placed in correct grade level & classes
 - Receives books & materials needed
 - Coded in PEIMS using foster care indicator
 - Special Education or 504 services, if appropriate
 - Receives free school meals without completing meal application
 - Provided information on school activities
 - Enrollment conference within the first two weeks of enrollment
 - Provided school introductions



Enrollment
Conference

Welcome
Packet

School
Introductions

Nutrition
Benefits



Admission

- Legal guardian
- Proof of Residence

Enrollment

- Proof of student's identity
- Immunization records
- School records from last school attended
- DFPS Placement Authorization Form 2085 or 2085-E





- #1 Admission
 - Who may enroll a student?
 - Acceptable forms to show legal authority
 - 2085
 - 2085-E
 - Court order naming DFPS (TMC) or (PMC)



If a parent or other person with legal responsibility for a student under a court order enrolls the student in a public school, that individual, or the transferring school district, shall furnish to the receiving school district:

- Student's birth certificate or other proof of identity,
- Records from the school most recently attended,
- Immunization records



#2 Proof of Residence

- Where the foster parents reside

3 Proof of Student's Identity

- Birth Certificate or other proof

4 Immunization Records

- students in foster care may be admitted provisionally (for 30 days) even if acceptable evidence of vaccination is not available

#5 School records from last school attended

- Receiving district should try to secure all records & required documentation from previous school
- After requested, records should be transferred within 10 working days via TREx

Actions to Take When a Student in Foster Care Withdraws or Changes Schools



Who is responsible for withdrawing students from school?

Caregiver, DFPS or
Community-based
caseworker

How can school personnel promote effective records transfer?

Local child welfare and education agencies are encouraged to coordinate and establish collaborative practices to improve overall communication and records transfer.

What is the importance of withdrawal and the 10-day records transfer time?

Notification of withdrawal and formal exit provides the sending school with the opportunity to prepare the student's records for transfer via TREx to the new school



- TREx is the system that facilitates records exchange of all student records across Texas.
- When a student moves from one Texas public school district or charter school to another, the student's records must be transferred via TREx within 10 working days of receiving a written request.
- Special education records are often stored separately from enrollment records and many public school districts or charter schools require requestors to request records from multiple entities within the same public school district or charter school.



DFPS Coordination to Support School Transitions

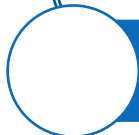


DFPS Education Resource Guide

DFPS Education Policy Handbook



DFPS Educational Specialist



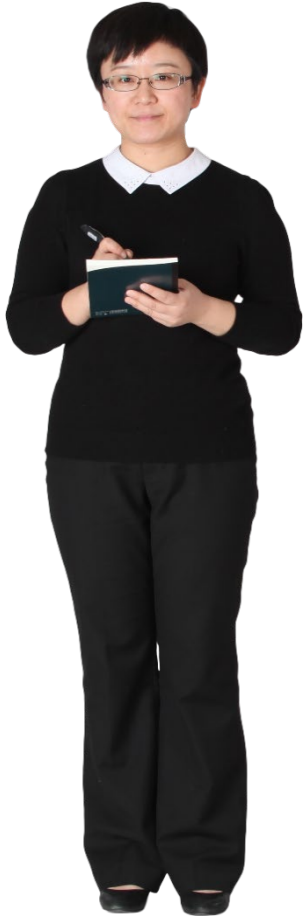
Child Welfare partners may provide academic information from previous school



DFPS Education Portfolio



Familiarity with DFPS Enrollment & Withdrawal process



- When a student enters foster care, the change can be abrupt and immediate, which may not allow the caregivers the opportunity to formally withdraw the student.
- The previous LEA may not be informed of the student's departure, or the receiving LEA may not know where the student was previously enrolled
- When a student enters foster care, the school staff may be unsure about who is legally allowed to have the student's records as well as who has the legal authority to make education-related decisions.



Pause for Understanding

* What information was new to you so far within Chapter 6?



Resources: McKinney-Vento & Foster Care

[Letter to Chief School Officers, ESSA & ESSA Changes, Removal of Awaiting Foster Care](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education: A Look at Child Welfare from an Education Perspective Brief](#)

Eligibility for School Meal Programs



- Students in foster care are eligible for USDA child nutrition programs. Caregivers for students in foster care do not have to complete a separate application for these programs.
- The DFPS Placement Authorization Form 2085 provides for immediate authorization of the student to participate in the programs offered through the USDA.

Students in DFPS Managing Conservatorship are eligible for nutrition benefits.

Students from another state's child welfare system, placed by a court, where the state retains legal custody of the child are eligible for this benefits.

Students who are an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) agreement and in foster care in another state & are currently being monitored by Texas are eligible.

Students who are Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) & are placed by the federal government in non-DFPS foster care placement are eligible.

Students who were adopted out of foster care or who are no longer in foster care are not eligible for this benefit, unless the student's family meets the categorically eligibility guidelines in another way.

Children in Foster Care are Eligible for Pre-Kindergarten Programs in Public Schools



- ALL children three, four, and five years of age who are currently in or were ever in Texas foster care as a result of an adversary hearing receive a Letter of Verification to enroll in a public school's pre-kindergarten program from DFPS.
- Letter verification: prekverificationsltrs@dfps.texas.gov
- Children who turn five after September 1st of the school year are not eligible for kindergarten enrollment but are still eligible for pre-kindergarten enrollment.



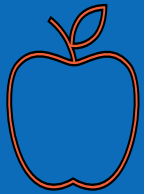
- School attendance is mandatory for students in foster care, as it is for all other 6- to 18-year-old Texas students.
- Absences related to court-ordered activities (such as medical appointments, including mental health or therapy, or family visitation), and college visits (two per year during the junior and senior years of high school) are excusable, according to Texas law.



If a school determines that a student's absences are the result of foster care, the district must offer additional counseling to the student and may not refer the student to a truancy court.



Pause for Understanding



What information are you going to share from today's training?



Upcoming Trainings



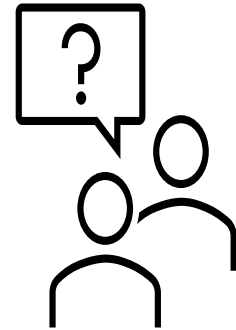
Overview of Chapters 7-13 will begin for the upcoming school year 2022-2023.

Information will be sent in the Foster Care newsletter and posted on the Foster Care webpage.

<https://tea.texas.gov/fostercare>

Questions?

If you have further questions, please email:
fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov



Survey



https://tea.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6sNFrRUFWH3kwXs