

Toolkit for Foster Youth Education Success

Education Evaluations

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Foster Youth Education Toolkit



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UNIQUE NEEDS OF FOSTER YOUTH

Foster Youth Education Outcomes

- 80% repeat a grade by the 3rd grade
- Only 21% of foster youth are proficient in English Language Arts by 11th grade and only 6% in Math
- Less than 60% of foster youth graduate high school
- Less than 3% obtain a higher education degree
- Within 2 years of aging out of foster care, more than 50% are **homeless, incarcerated or on welfare**

See Barrat, V. X., & Berliner, B. (2013). The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part 1: Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care in California's Public Schools. San Francisco: WestEd., *available at* https://www.wested.org/wp-content/files_mf/1400283692Invisible_Achievement_Gap_Full_Report.pdf

Foster Youth Change Schools Often

- Foster youth change schools an average of 8 times while in care
- With each school change, foster youth lose 4-6 months of learning
- This means that just by virtue of being in the foster care system, foster youth lose on average 32-48 months, or up to 4 years of learning, when compared with their peers that are not in the system

EDUCATION RECORDS

Records Challenges for Foster Youth

- All of these school changes mean that foster youth education records are often more complicated or potentially incomplete
- Foster youth often do not have a consistent adult tracking and keeping their records
 - They change caregivers frequently
 - They change social workers frequently
- As a result of these things, CalPADs and other sources of records that schools rely upon may not be accurate or complete
- These records challenges may hide important needs of the youth, such as partial credits or unaddressed special education needs

EDUCATION EVALUATIONS

<http://kids-alliance.org/edtoolkit/>



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Questions? Contact us



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