

Supporting Students After They Leave Foster Care

At the Time of Foster Care Exit*

- * *Includes both students exiting foster care and students aging out of foster care. Note that students aging out of foster care at 18 years of age can enter into Extended Foster Care (EFC). If they opt into EFC, they continue to be seen as students in foster care and are entitled to all federal and state provisions.*
- ✓ Confirm exit status and date with child welfare.
 - Child welfare may or may not share this information due to confidentiality.
- ✓ If student is 18 years old, clarify with child welfare if they have enrolled in Extended Foster Care. If they have, they are still considered students in foster care.
- ✓ Notify relevant school district and school level staff about the students' status.
- ✓ Collect up-to-date contact information for caregiver(s) and/or relevant adults.
- ✓ **Best Practice Suggestion** - If the student moves to a new placement (i.e. returning home to bio/adoptive parents or a new personal living setting) and the address is outside of school of origin zone or district, schedule a meeting with the neighborhood school district to discuss school stability. The purpose of this meeting will be to determine if the student is able to continue attending the school of origin for the rest of the school year.
- ✓ If possible, ensure the student can finish the school year in their school of origin to maintain coursework and curriculum level, credit accrual and on-time graduation.
- ✓ Transportation
 - Review and continue transportation if possible.
 - If transportation isn't possible, assist the student/caregiver in obtaining transportation to maintain school of origin.
 - If there are no transportation opportunities to maintain school of origin, work with the student/caregiver to determine school options.
- ✓ If the student is transferring to another school, provide caregiver(s) and/or relevant adults with requirements for transferring and assist with records transfers as needed.
 - The Foster Care Liaison for the school of origin may do a courtesy call to the receiving district Foster Care Liaison to share information regarding the student to guarantee a warm handoff.
- ✓ Review housing stability, if unstable apply student for McKinney-Vento.
- ✓ If housing is unstable, connect to local community housing resources.
- ✓ Ensure all school fees and fines incurred during care are waived or paid for.
 - Any fees and fines incurred during the duration of the student's time in foster care are the responsibility of DCYF and should not be carried over once the student exits foster care.



- See [Paying School Fees and Fines for Students](#)
- Outstanding fees and fines should not prevent a student from graduating or receiving a diploma.
- ✓ Students receive free meals until the end of the school year.

Academic Review

- ✓ Review transcripts and credits and update as necessary.
- ✓ Review High School and Beyond Plan and update as needed.
- ✓ Confirm IEP/504 service continuance and identify IDEA Parent if needed.
- ✓ Identify tutoring or credit recovery needs.

Student Support and Well-Being

- ✓ Schedule a student check-in meeting to address any support needs.
- ✓ Offer school-based counseling services.
- ✓ Regularly check attendance of student.
- ✓ Connect with or make a referral to [Treehouse](#) for any needed supports and assistance.
- ✓ Monitor any social, emotional, and behavior changes.

Caregiver Engagement

- ✓ Meet with new caregiver or reunited family.
- ✓ Explain available school supports and resources.
- ✓ Give school staff contact information.

Postsecondary and Career Planning

- ✓ Review college and career goals.
- ✓ Assist with FASFA and financial aid planning.
- ✓ Connect student to career pathways, CTE, or internships.
- ✓ Provide [scholarship and resource information](#).

Students Aging Out of Foster Care

- ✓ Discuss independent living and self-advocacy skills.
- ✓ Connect to housing, transportation, and food resources.
- ✓ Ensure continued enrollment and engagement.
- ✓ Provide ongoing check-ins through graduation.
- ✓ Connect the student to Treehouse for additional support.

Ongoing

- ✓ Monitor attendance, academic progress, and behavior.