Education Ethics from PreK- to Higher Education

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Texas Child Care Administrators Conference, 2019
Session Objectives

- Caregiver’s role in education
- Pre-K-12 education policies and laws
- Higher education research
- Education Reach for Texans
- Review higher education and vocational benefits
  - Extended Foster Care
  - SIL
    - Foster parents
    - Universities
    - Transition centers
- Tuition Waiver
- ETV
- Resources
Activity

1 notecards (1 side for Pre-K-12 concerns/questions & 1 side for higher education concerns/questions)

What are the most pressing issues you face regarding education at your agency? Elaborate if possible.

Do you have suggestions on how to fix some of these issues?

If you want me to personally follow up with your concerns, provide your name, agency, and email on the back of the card.
We’re all in this together!
Education Regulations

• Make sure caregiver has all needed information to enroll the child in school (§748.1213)
• You must complete a non-emergency admissions assessment that includes the child’s education level; any known school problems; the child’s school history, including the names of previous schools attended and the dates the schools were attended; grades earned; and special achievements (§748.1217; §749.1133)
• You must complete a preliminary service plan that addresses enrolling the child in school within 72 hours of admission(§749.1301)
• Education responsibilities for a child in care (§748.1301):
  (1) Ensuring the child in care attends an educational facility or program that is approved or accredited by the Texas Education Agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or by the out-of-state school district funding the child;
  (2) Ensuring a school-age child has the training and education in the least restrictive setting necessary to meet the child’s needs and abilities;
  (3) Ensuring a child in care attends an educational facility or program that implements a special education student’s individual education plan (IEP); and
  (4) Advocating that a school-age child receives the educational and related services to which he is entitled under provisions of federal and state law and regulations.

For children receiving treatment services you must designate a liaison between the agency and the child’s school.
Education Regulations

• Responsibilities to individual education needs (§748.1303):
  • (1) Review report cards and other information received from teachers or school authorities with the child and provide necessary information to caregivers;
  • (2) Counsel and assist the child regarding adequate classroom performance;
  • (3) Permit, encourage, and make reasonable efforts to involve the child in extracurricular activities to the extent of the child’s interests and abilities and in accordance with the child’s service plan;
  • (4) Provide a quiet, well-lighted space for the child to study and allow regular times for homework and study;
  • (5) Know what emergency behavior interventions are permitted and being used with the child;
  • (6) Let the parent know that an IEP (Individual Education Plan) meeting should be requested if you are concerned with the child’s educational program or if the child does not appear to be making progress; and
  • (7) Attend IEP meetings and other school staffings and conferences, if requested by the parent, to represent the child’s educational best interests, including the child being evaluated for and provided with related services needed to benefit from educational services, and positive behavior supports designed to decrease the need for negative disciplinary techniques or interventions.
If you provide onsite education, you must include the following information in the discussion and in the written material you give to parents when you admit the child (§748.1305):

- The name of any educational program operated on the premises of your operation
- Whether the program is accredited
- Whether the Texas Education Agency has approved the program
- Whether the educational course work is transferable to public schools
- The credentials of the teachers, if the teachers are not approved and regulated by the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC).
In the child’s initial service plan, you must include (§748.1337; §749.1309):
• Educational needs and how those needs will be met, including planning for high school completion and post-secondary education and training, if appropriate, and any school evaluations or recommendations.
Texas Education Codes

- Data sharing and data collection requirements in PEIMS - TEC § 7.029 (Chapter 1 (PDF), p. 16; Chapter 5 (PDF), pgs. 45-46)
- Immediate school enrollment without records - TEC § 25.002(g) (Chapter 7 (PDF), p. 56)
- Attendance in the school the student was enrolled immediately before entering conservatorship, even when placed outside of the district attendance zone, until the student successfully completes the highest grade level offered by the school - TEC § 25.001(g) (Chapter 8 (PDF), p. 62)
- Excused absences for court-ordered appointments - TEC § 25.087 (Chapter 10 (PDF), p. 75)
- 11th or 12th grade student who transfers to a new school district and does not meet the graduation requirements of the new school district may request a diploma from the former school district, when on-track to graduate at the previous school - TEC § 28.025 (Chapter 9 (PDF), p. 92)
- Free eligibility for PRE-K - TEC § 29.153(b)(6) (Chapter 10 (PDF), p. 74)
- Free lifetime college tuition and fees waiver. The waiver is activated when a student enrolls in dual credit or another course where a student may earn college credit - TEC § 54.366 – (Chapter 13 (PDF), pgs. 104-106)
- School districts and open enrollment charter schools are required to appoint a Foster Care Liaison and notify TEA of their Foster Care Liaison appointment - TEC § 33.904 (Chapter 5 (PDF), p. 44)
- Transition Assistance from one school to another of students in foster care - TEC § 25.007 (Chapter 11 (PDF), pgs. 84-91).
TEA Resource Guide

FOSTER CARE & STUDENT SUCCESS:
Texas Systems Working Together to Transform Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care

PRODUCED BY TEA TExAS EClucATIoN AGENCY

Children's Commission
Suggestions for Providers

• Create the mandated education plan for each child with as much input from support systems as possible
• Meet with caregiver and DFPS to find the best transportation plan
• Consider school of origin and best interest decision making
• Know your education specialist
• Know your K-12 school district liaisons
  • To find liaisons, visit: https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Special_Student_Populations/Foster_Care_and_Student_Success/Foster_Care___Student_Success_-_Texas_School_Foster_Care_Liaisons
Suggestions for Providers

**Normalcy**
- Try not to disrupt the student’s day w/appointments
- Encourage extra curricular involvement
- Purchase school photos

**Pre-K Eligibility**
- Free, full-day Pre-K is available for all children involved in foster care
- DFPS policy heavily suggests that children be in pre-K, not in day care (DFPS handbook 15212 Enrollment for Children Ages 3, 4, and 5)
- Must have a letter from the education specialist to access free pre-K

**Reoccurring absences - § 25.087(b)**
- Foster care related absences are excused (doctor’s visits, court dates, etc.)
- Must fill out DPFS excuse form: [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/State_Care/education.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/State_Care/education.asp)
House Bill 3

- pays for free, full-day pre-K for eligible 4-year-olds;
- increases funding for educating low-income students;
- allocates more to special education students;
- incentivizes dual-language programs;
- pays SAT and ACT test fees;
- ease the state's reliance on "Robin Hood" payments from wealthier schools; and
- creates a permanent state fund to lower school district tax rates.
Date:

To: School Attendance Officer
From: Caseworker/Caregiver
Re: Excused Absence(s) for student

Please excuse ______ from school on ______. He/she was participating in a court-ordered/case plan activity.

A school district shall excuse a student from attending school, including travel, if the student is in the conservatorship of DFPS, participating, as determined and documented by DFPS, in an activity:

- Ordered by a court under Texas Family Code Chapter 262, or Texas Family Code Chapter 263, provided that it is not practicable to schedule the participation outside of school hours; or

A student whose absence is excused under Texas Education Code, §25.087(b) may not be penalized for that absence, shall be counted as if the student attended school for purposes of calculating the average daily attendance of students in the school district, and must be allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed on those days. Texas Education Code § 25.087(c).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Caregiver/Caseworker

Phone
DFPS Regional Education Specialists

1, sometimes 2, in every district

1 at the CPS State Office

Their Role

- Act as liaisons to local school districts, CPS staff, community agencies
- Serve as regional subject matter experts for school-related issues
- Provide training to internal and external stakeholders
- Attend school-student meetings to support children/youth in substitute care, Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD), school manifestation hearings, transition planning, Circles of Support, and court hearings as needed.
Higher Education & Students Formerly from Foster Care
Higher Education Data

2.3% have a post-secondary credential by age 24

1.3% of former foster youth have a bachelors degree

0.3% of former foster youth have an associate degree

.7% of former foster youth have a certificate

Preliminary data analysis presented by Dr. Toni Watt at the 2019 Education Reach for Texans Conference.
Figure 1: Higher Education Enrollment (all youth)

- Enrolled: 64%
- Did not enroll: 36%

Preliminary data analysis presented by Dr. Toni Watt at the 2019 Education Reach for Texans Conference.
Figure 2: Waiver Eligibility

- Eligible: 39%
- Not Eligible: 61%

Preliminary data analysis presented by Dr. Toni Watt at the 2019 Education Reach for Texans Conference.
Figure 3: Waiver Utilization

Enrolled Waiver Eligible Youth

- 59% for Waiver
- 41% for No Waiver
Enrolled Waiver Eligible Students

- Factors associated with waiver utilization:
  - Higher for 4 year relative to 2 year institutions
  - Higher for those completing high school versus earning a GED
  - Higher for emancipated youth versus other placement types
  - Higher for those receiving PAL classes
  - Higher for those attending universities with campus support programs

- Waiver utilization unrelated to:
  - Gender
  - Race/ethnicity
  - College readiness
  - College GPA
More Findings

• Youth who use the waiver are 4 times more likely to graduate with a bachelor’s degree than youth who do not use the waiver
  • Controlling for gender, race/ethnicity, waiver eligibility, and GPA
  • Accounting for nesting within different schools
Campus Support Programs
4-Year Universities

Youth attending universities with campus support programs are 6.8 times more likely to graduate.
Implications for Research and Practice

- Keep doing what you are doing!
- Encourage legislators to support waivers and campus programs
- Identify best practices for campus support programs
  - Financial/housing
  - Academic performance
  - Mental health
- Track outcomes
Education Reach for Texans

• 501c3 non-profit
• 10 years
• Research group
• FAAN
• Annual conference
• Higher education liaisons:
  http://www.educationreachfortexans.org/foster-care-liaison-list-and-resources.html
Extended Foster Care

- Can access up to age 21
- SIL
- Foster parents
- Universities
- Transition centers
STAR Health

Medical care up to age 26

STAR Health Healthy Rewards Program

For more information, visit: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Medical_Services/
STAR Health Extended Benefits

- Expanded vision benefits providing prescription glasses or $100 towards the cost of any feature or frame not covered by Medicaid.
- Small cash grants, called Care Grants, that may be used for items like art supplies, clothing, or other personal items.
- Boys and Girls Club membership for members ages 5 through 18 years old.
- Age-appropriate rewards (Toddy Bear or $10 gift card) when a member goes to her 7 day follow-up appointment after their psychiatric hospital discharge.
- STAR Health mobile crisis services in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Lubbock and Corpus Christi if children/youth are placed with Pathways and Covenant Kids.
- $30 every 3 months for over-the-counter medications through a mail order program.
- a3A CareAccount® Rewards Program offering rewards dollars for members completing wellness visits, dental checkups and other health screenings for members ages 13 through 18 year old.
- Sports or camp physicals for members ages 4 to 18 year old.
- Health Passport access through smart phones.
- Online resources to help improve mental health and overall well-being.

Superior is always planning new and exciting programs and services to help keep you or your child healthy. If you need help in getting these extra services or would like more facts, call Superior at 1-888-000-9283.

*Restrictions and limitations may apply.
Q: What does the waiver cover?
A: The Tuition and Fee Waiver only waives the cost of tuition and fees; it does not include books, supplies, housing, meal plans, living expenses, etc. Students are responsible for the expenses. Other resources may be available to youth to help with additional expenses (Ex.: Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Education and Training Voucher).

Q: Who can qualify?
A: Eligibility for the tuition and fee waiver is based upon youth and young adults who were in DFPS managing conservatorship or adopted pursuant to Texas Education Code Sections 54.366 and 54.367 respectively.

Q: Where is the waiver available?
A: Texas public institutions of higher education including any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, medical or dental unit, public state college, or other agency of higher education as defined in Texas Education Code Section 61.003.

Q: Where can I find additional resources?
A: Pursuant to Texas Education Code 51.9356, each public institution of higher education must designate an employee to act as a foster care liaison officer for current and incoming students who were formerly in the conservatorship of DFPS pursuant to Texas Education Code Section 51.9356. A list of designated foster care liaisons is available at http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=429.

For more information, including how to contact your local PAL staff, see https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/.
Tuition and Fee Waiver Video

- https://youtu.be/xnJynT4gjl0
ETV

• Ages 16-23
• Up to $5,000/year
• Enrolled in at least 6 hours at an accredited institution
• https://discoverbcfs.net/texasetv/
Resources

- The Texas Blueprint
- The Texas Blueprint: Transforming Education Outcomes For Children & Youth In Foster Care
- Texas Blueprint Implementation Task Force Final Report
- ABA Child Law Practice: The Texas Blueprint - A Model for Improving School Experiences for Children in Foster Care
- Texas Foster Care & Education Collaborative Reports:
  - Foster Care and Student Success Resource Guide
  - Foster Care College Tuition & Fee Waiver Process
    - Map
    - Video
- Infographic: Texas commits to transform education outcomes of students in foster care: Findings from the Texas Blueprint Implementation Data Workgroup
- Information Sharing Between Child Welfare and Schools: Maintaining Privacy and Promoting Educational Success, April 2017
- Regional CPS Education Consortia: The Building Blocks to Engaging Community Stakeholders
- Statewide Survey on Local Collaboration Summary and One-pagers (School, Caregiver, CPS, and Legal)
- Texas CASA: Educational Advocacy Toolkit
- Texas Higher Education Information and Resource Guide for Foster Care Liaisons, September 2018
- The Road to College: Texas Foster Youth & Post-Secondary Education
- Transition Planning Guide for Students in Foster Care Receiving Special Education Services, July 2018

To access these resources, visit - http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/reports-and-resources/
Resources Cont.

- Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS):
  - Regional Education Specialist Contact Information
  - Regional Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Coordinators
  - DFPS Regional Offices

- Education Service Center: Foster Care Champions

- Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons

- School District Foster Care Liaisons

- Links
  - American Bar Association (ABA) Legal Center on Foster Children & Education
  - Casey Family Programs
  - Education Reach for Texans
  - National Working Group on Foster Care & Education: Education Outcomes for Children in

Foster Care National Fact Sheet

- Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA)

- Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)

- Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

- Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE)

- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
  - DFPS CPS Handbook, Education Policy
  - Services for Youth and Young Adults

- Texas Education Agency Foster Care and Student Success Page (TEA)

- Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO)

- U.S. Department of Education: Students in Foster Care

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Questions?

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