Toolkit for Foster Youth Education Success

Early Intervention

February 4, 2016

Foster Youth Education Toolkit

ALLIANCE
for CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS
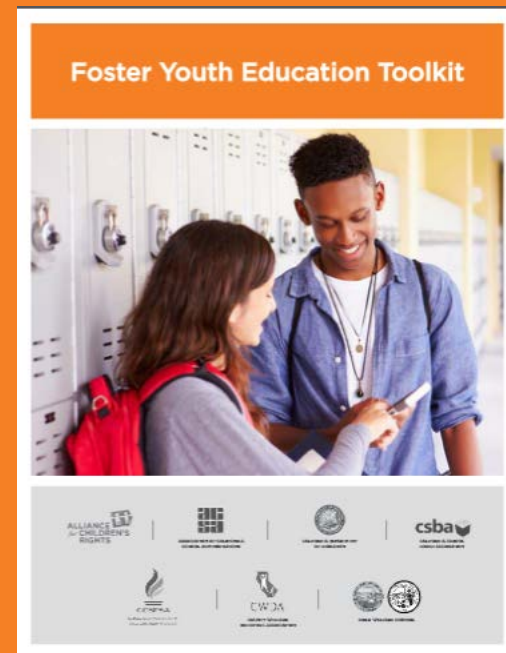
Amy Mejia
Sandy Perez

Saltz Family Early Intervention Advocacy Center
Alliance for Children's Rights

Early Education Needs of Foster Youth

Why are you here?

You'll Learn:
1. About how trauma can impact a child's development
2. Signs that indicate a young child might require mental health services
3. Best practices to ensure young children transition from early intervention to special education without interruptions
4. Early Education Options for young children in foster care.
5. LCFF and Preschool

Developmental Delays & Young Children in Foster Care

- Prenatal substance exposure

- Abuse/Neglect

- Disrupted attachments to parents and/or caregivers

- Multiple Placement Changes

Early Education Challenges

- Not enough early education slots

- Waitlists can discourage caregivers from applying

- Identifying young foster young

- Some caregivers do not understand how early education can help/find it too difficult to manage an early education program schedule and child care.

LCFF & Early Education

An investment of district LCFF dollars in early education programing and services for foster youth ages 3-5 will ensure that children entering kindergarten will have the pre-academic and social/emotional/behavioral skills to be successful.

LCFF & Early Education

State Priorities particularly relevant for preschool aged children in foster care:

- Parental Involvement
- School Climate
- Student Achievement
- Student Engagement

http://childrennow.webfactional.com/issue-areas/education/school-finance-reform/el-lcff

LCFF & Early Education

GOAL:	Ensure incoming Kindergarten students in foster care (including students with disabilities) have access to high quality and developmentally appropriate pre-school programs	Related State and/or Local Priorities: 1__ 2__ 3__ 4 X 5__ 6__ 7__ 8__ COE only: 9__ 10__ Local : Specify _____
Identified Need :	Foster children experience a high rate of disruption and trauma in their early lives which prevents many children from developing the foundational pre-academic and socio-emotional skills necessary to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. Ensuring foster children have access to high quality early education allows them to be better prepared academically and socially for kindergarten.	
Goal Applies to:	Schools: All	
	Applicable Pupil Subgroups: Foster youth	

LCAP Year 1		
Expected Annual Measurable Outcomes:	District will have policies and systems in place to identify preschool aged foster children living within their district boundaries and increase their enrollment in education setting settings by 25%.	

Actions/Services	Scope of Service	Pupils to be served within identified scope of service	Budgeted Expenditures
Establish policy and data infrastructure necessary to identify and increase enrollment of foster children in early education programs: (a) Collaborate with and enter into MOUs with county child welfare agency to share information to identify preschool aged foster children living within district boundaries; (b) Collaborate with and enter into MOUs with geographically close early education programs not run by the district, to ensure foster children are provided with priority enrollment, as required by state law, into their available spots and develop a plan to increase the number of spots available for foster children; (c) Develop policies to ensure priority enrollment of foster children in district run early education programs, as required by state law; (d) Develop a data system to track the type of education programs foster children enroll in and at what frequency; (e) Develop policies/practices to ensure foster children attending early education programs receive the academic and socio-emotional supports necessary to be successful.		__Low Income pupils __English Learners X Foster Youth __Redesignated fluent English proficient __Other Subgroups:(Specify)_____	District-level liaison and oversight staff.
Increase identification and enrollment of foster children in early education programs by ensuring they have access to necessary education and counseling services. Ensure that foster youth receive at least equal access to necessary services and supports include: a) Pre-academic support services including tutoring, academic enrichment programs, and summer/intersession programs; b) Socio-emotional and behavioral support services		__ALL OR: __Low Income pupils __English Learners X Foster Youth __Redesignated fluent English proficient __Other Subgroups:(Specify)_____	District-level liaison and oversight staff; sufficient counselors to serve at least 25% of foster youth at ratio no higher than 1:25.