

# Foster Care and Student Success

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## ***What is Foster Care and Student Success?***

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children’s Commission) and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) collaborated to address improving the education outcomes of students in foster care. The Foster Care and Student Success is a resource guide that reflects the efforts of many professionals working together and may be found on TEA’s website at <http://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/>.

## ***What does Texas Law say about high school completion for students in foster care?***

If an 11th or 12th grade student in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services transfers to a different school district and the student is ineligible to graduate from the district to which the student transfers, the district from which the student transferred shall award a diploma at the student’s request, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the district from which the student transferred. S.B. No. 1404, Acts of the Texas Legislature, 83<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session, 2013, amends Tex. Educ. Code § 28.025.

A student in substitute care who was previously enrolled in a course required for graduation must be allowed the opportunity, to the extent practicable, to complete the course at no cost to the student before the beginning of the next school year. S.B. No. 1404, Acts of the Texas Legislature, 83<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session, 2013, amends Tex. Educ. Code § 25.007.

## ***What does Texas Law say about post-secondary opportunities for students in foster care?***

State law requires that all students in grades 11 or 12 in substitute care are provided information about the tuition and fee waiver, dual credit, or other courses where a student may earn joint high school and college credit. S.B. No. 1404, Acts of the Texas Legislature, 83<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session, 2013, amends Tex. Educ. Code § 25.007.

Students in foster care are eligible to have college tuition and fees waived at Texas state-supported colleges or universities, public medical schools, public dental schools, public junior colleges, and public technical institutes (as defined by Texas Education Code §61.003, §54.001, and §54.002). More information can be found in the Foster Care and Student Success Guide.

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## *Topics in the Foster Care and Student Success Guide*

Building Partnerships

School Stability and Effective Transfers

Understanding the Foster Care System

Education Decision Making and FERPA

District Foster Care Liaison Responsibilities

Key Considerations to Confidentiality

Providing Student Support and Promoting High School Completion

Transitioning Out of Foster Care and Post-Secondary Opportunities

### **RESOURCES: Planning for Post-Secondary Education**

For more information about financial resources available for students in foster care, visit the DFPS Youth Connection website: <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/education/financial.asp>

Legal Center for Foster Care and Education, “Post-Secondary Education Resources for Youth in and Transitioning Out of the Child Welfare System” — provides information on filing the FAFSA and a step-by-step checklist for accessing financial resources available for students in foster care: [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child\\_law/what\\_we\\_do/projects/education.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/what_we_do/projects/education.html)

College for All Texans: <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=429>

Texas Education Agency. (2014). Foster care and student success: Texas systems working together to transform education outcomes of students in foster care. Retrieved from <http://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/>