

Foster Care 101 for Educators



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Non-Agenda:

Spend anytime discussing the moral or ethical pros & cons with regards to providing services to students in foster care

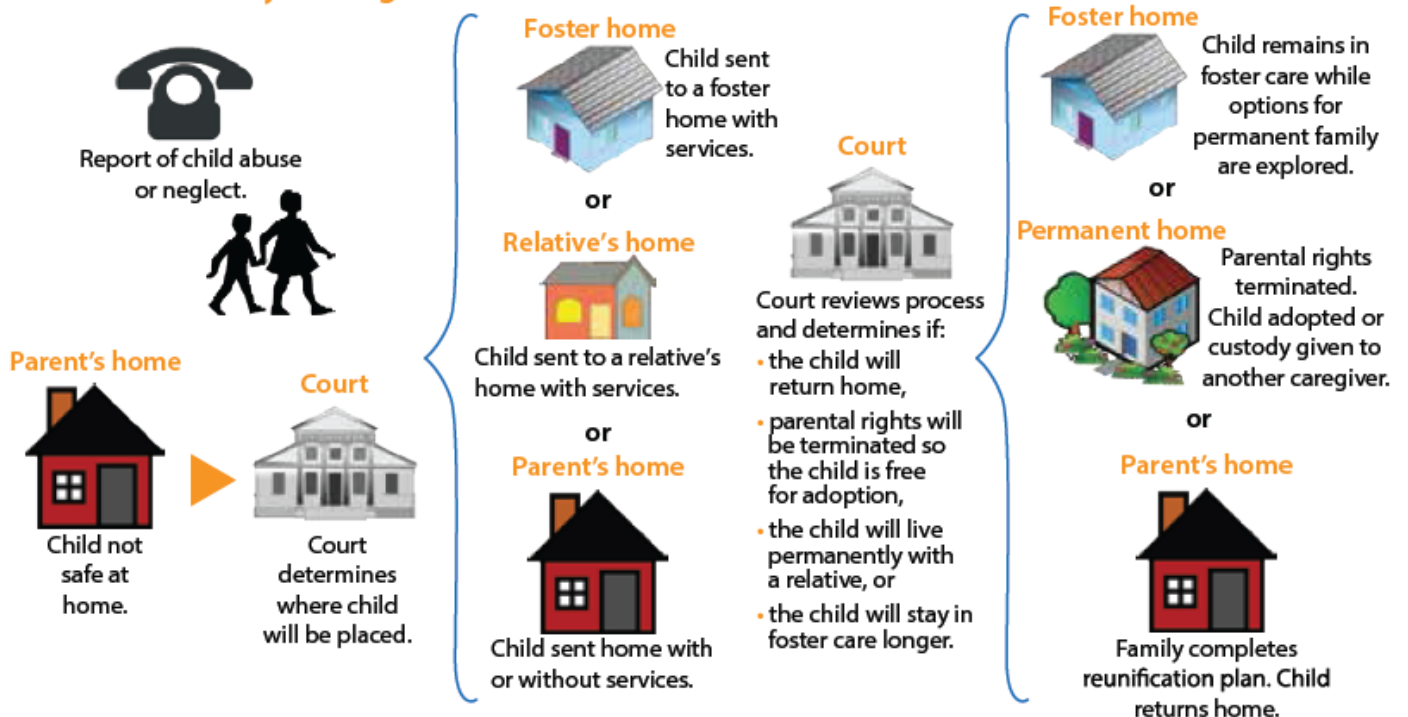
Agenda:

1. Vocabulary
2. Students' Path
3. Placement Types & Stages of Service
4. Enrollment Procedures
5. Who? (2085)
6. Common Concerns

Acronyms, Definitions & Roles

- DFPS
- CPS
- CASA
- Conservatorship & Substitute Care
- Guardian
- Surrogate
- Caseworker
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Foster Care Liaison
- Judge
- Education Decision Maker
- Others Appointed by Judge

A Child's Journey Through Foster Care



Placement Types:	Description:
Kinship Caregiver	A relative of fictive kin who provides care for a child. A relative is a member of the child’s biological family. A fictive kin is a person who has a longstanding and significant relationship with a child in DFPS conservatorship or with the child’s family.
Foster Home	A state-licensed home (usually temporary) for children in foster care. Caregivers known as “foster parents” receive a reimbursement for providing room, board, and transportation for children living in their home.
Emergency Shelter	A shelter facility that houses youth for up to 90 days while awaiting a longer-term foster placement.
Group Home	A licensed facility where multiple youth live. Staff oversee the facility and students live there 24/7.
Residential Treatment Centers (RTC)	Residential Treatment Centers are regulated by DFPS to provide placements and services to youth who require specialized services.

CPS Stages of Service:	Description:
Intake	DFPS administers a toll-free 24-hour hotline for reporting suspected abuse and neglect of children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.
Investigation	Intake reports are assigned and CPS workers interview children, parents, and others with knowledge of the family. The interviews help determine if abuse or neglect has occurred and evaluate child safety.
Family Based Safety Service (FBSS)	When it is safe to do so, CPS provides in-home services to help stabilize the family and reduce risk of future abuse or neglect. Most children and youth continue to live in their own homes or with relatives during this time. Parents maintain legal custody of the children.
Foster Care/Substitute Care/Conservatorship	When it is not safe for children or youth to live with their own families, CPS petitions the court to remove the children or youth from their homes. This process formally places a child in what is referred to as foster or substitute care.
Adoption	Once a child is available for adoption because parental rights have been terminated, the court may name other individuals as the child or youth’s legal parent. (A lifetime college tuition and fees waiver is available for qualifying children who remain in foster care until age 18 and some of those who are adopted from DFPS)

Enrollment Procedures

Registrars, Front Office Staff, PEIMS, Other?
My training with these people will be on

_____ @ _____



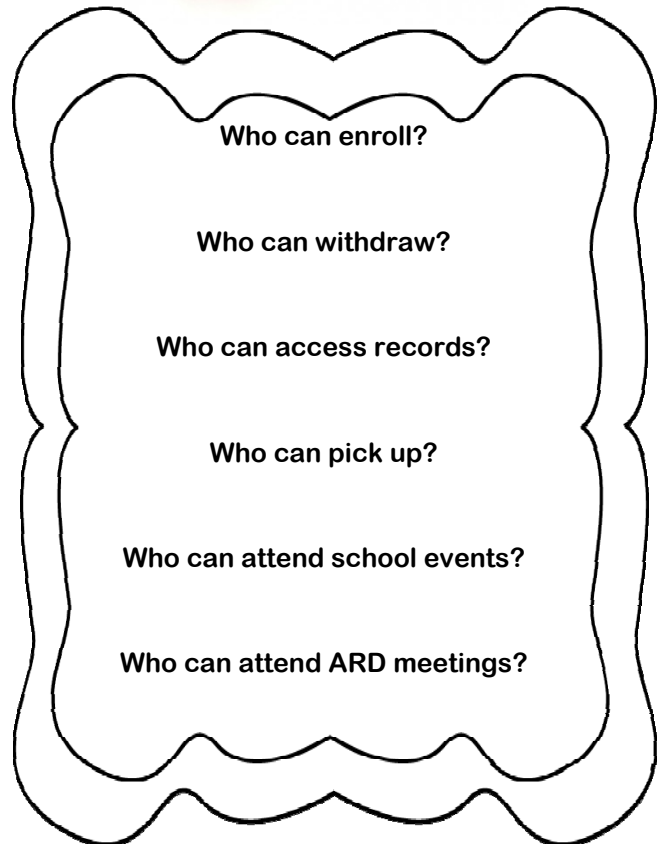
Documentation required for a school to report a student as a Foster Care student is as follows:

For Foster Care Indicator Code 0, no documentation is required because the student is not currently in the conservatorship of the Texas DFPS when enrolling in the school.

For Foster Care Indicator Code 1, the enrolling caregiver must provide a copy of the Texas DFPS Placement Authorization Form (Form 2085) or a court order that designates the student is in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

For Foster Care Indicator Code 2, the Pre-kindergarten student is enrolling in school for the purpose of participating as an eligible student in a Pre-kindergarten program and eligibility documentation must be provided. At least annually, the Texas DFPS and Child Protective Services will mail verification letters of PK eligibility to the parents and caregivers of eligible children who in turn must provide this verification documentation to the school at enrollment.

Foster care status data should be handled with the utmost sensitivity and in accordance with all FERPA guidelines.



PEIMS 102 Record Column 30

Indicator Code	Student Age	Grade Level	Student Foster Care Status
0	Any	Any	Student is not currently in the conservatorship of DFPS
1	Any	Any	Student is currently in the conservatorship of DFPS
2	3 or 4 on Sept. 1	PK	Pre-kindergarten student was previously in the conservatorship of DFPS following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code.

2085-B/D: Designation of a Medical Consenter/
Preventative Care

2085FC: Placement Authorization Foster Care/
Residential Care

2085E: Education Decision Maker Form

2085SIL: Placement Authorization: Supervised
Independent Living

Where do 2085 forms and court orders go?

All folders flagged for visitors?

Does the person enrolling have a process to communicate with PEIMS personnel?

Do we know what to ask for from TReX?

Texas Education Code:

TEC § 25.002(g) – Immediate School Enrollment

TEC § 25.002(a-1) – Timely Records Transfer

TEC § 25.007 – Transition Assistance

TEC § 25.001(g) – Students grades 9-12 are entitled to finish high school where they were enrolled at the time of placement.

TEC § 29.081(d)(11) – Accelerated Instruction (at-risk indicators & compensatory education)

TEC § 29.153(b)(6) – Free eligibility for Pre-K

TEC § 33.904 – Designated district liaison(s)

TEC § 54.366 – Free college tuition & fee waiver (including dual credit or other course where high school students may earn college credit)

Federal Law:

The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, Public Law 110-351, requires state child welfare agencies to work with their state and local education systems to support initiatives to improve educational outcomes for children in foster care. On August 25, 2011, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a joint letter to all Chief State School Officers and State Child Welfare Directors informing them of provisions in the federal law that require local education agencies and child welfare agencies to coordinate to ensure that children in foster care maintain "education stability."

FERPA:

The Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the confidentiality of a student's education records. Recent amendments to the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Uninterrupted Scholars Act, allows education agencies to release education records to child welfare case workers or other representatives of a state or local child welfare agency. School staff should follow FERPA regulations when releasing school-related records to persons other than the caregiver and DFPS staff. However, FERPA's confidentiality protections should not be an obstacle to providing records and information for students in foster care (*adapted from Baskin, Joy (2011) "Inquiry & Analysis, Legal Issues Related To The Educational Needs of Children in Foster Care." Texas Association of School Board. Austin, TX.*)

Common Concerns

FERPA & other LEA Employees
Visits from Biological Parents
Homelessness or Foster Care
DAEP, ISS, OSS, Behavioral Interventions
Transportation
FAFSA & Post-Secondary Education
Truancy
UIL & Extra Curricular Activities
Lack of School Success
Frequent Interruptions due to Court/Counselors/ Caseworks/Probation/Other CPS Issues