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LEGAL CENTER FOR **FOSTER CARE & EDUCATION**

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Our Project

The Legal Center for Foster Care and Education (Legal Center FCE) is a collaboration between [Casey Family Programs](#) and the [ABA's Center on Children and the Law](#), in conjunction with the [Education Law Center-PA](#) and the [Juvenile Law Center](#).

The Legal Center FCE serves as a national technical assistance resource and information clearinghouse on legal and policy matters affecting the education of children in the foster care system. The Legal Center FCE provides expertise to states and constituents, facilitates networking to advance promising practices and reforms, and provides technical assistance and training to respond to the ever-growing demands for legal support and guidance.

The Legal Center FCE focuses on supporting direct education advocacy efforts for children in foster care, as well as promoting federal, state and local laws and policies that address the education needs of this population. The Legal Center builds on the ever-increasing momentum behind meeting the education needs of children in foster care; an issue that can help establish safety, permanency and well being for children involved with the child welfare system.

This project was made possible with the support of Casey Family Programs, whose mission is to provide, improve - and ultimately prevent the need for - foster care.

[Legal Center for Foster Care and Education Brochure](#)

New Project Publications!

NAEHCY Report

The McKinney-Vento Act and Children and Youth Awaiting Foster Care Placement: Strategies for Improving Educational Outcomes Through School Stability

This report from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) describes how eight jurisdictions are defining awaiting foster care placement and how they are implementing the McKinney-Vento Act for youth in out-of-home care. It offers concrete strategies for building and maintaining effective collaborations between child welfare and education agencies and supporting the educational success of youth in care.

Please click [here](#) to download the report.

McKinney-Vento AFCP

State Chart -- Providing School Stability Through McKinney-Vento – “Awaiting Foster Care Placement”

This chart outlines existing state and local laws and policies that provide rights and protections to children in foster care to assist with school stability and continuity under the federal McKinney-Vento Act through interpretations of “awaiting foster care placement.”

[Click here](#) to download chart

Identifying Special Education Decision Makers for Children in Foster Care: State Law Questions

This [article](#) identifies state law questions you must answer to understand how the IDEA rules work in your state.

Special Education Decisionmaking Series

These factsheets, designed for specific stakeholders, address the issues surrounding special education decisionmaking for children in out-of-home care.

- [Factsheet for Youth](#)
 - [Factsheet for Caseworkers](#)
 - [Factsheet for Judges](#)
 - [Factsheet for Children?s Attorneys](#)
 - [Factsheet for Foster Parents](#)
 - [Factsheet for Educators](#)
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Questions and Answers: Tuition Waivers for Post-Secondary Education

To access all of the monthly factsheets from 2008, please [click here](#)



The Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Children in Foster Care

The Blueprint for Change is a tool for change. The 8 Goals for Youth and Benchmarks for each goal indicating progress toward achieving education success are a framework for both direct case advocacy and system reform efforts. Following each goal are National, State, and Local Examples of policies, practices, programs, and resources that exist to improve educational outcomes for children in foster care.

[Click here](#) to download the Blueprint
[Click here](#) to download the Blueprint Insert Card listing all the Goals and Benchmarks.
[Click here](#) to download a Fact Sheet about the Blueprint.

Please [click here](#) to access a list of all materials and publications developed by the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education, including the Blueprint for Change, fact sheets, and articles.

National Working Group on Foster Care and Education

To ensure successful educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care across the country, ten organizations have joined together as the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education. The working group heightens national awareness of the educational needs of children and youth in care, and promotes best and promising practices and reforms across educational, child welfare, and juvenile and family court systems.

- [National Working Group Website](#)
- [Tools and Resources Brochure](#)
- [Compilation of Data and Statistics about Foster Care and Education](#)

[Resource Library](#)

Featured Resources: Please [click here](#)

to access a page of selected tools and resources to find out about the education needs of youth in out-of-home care and improve advocacy around these issues. This page highlights resources developed by the Legal Center as well as other organizations. This is a great resource for beginning to explore the issues related to education for youth in foster care.

Searchable Database: Please [click here](#)

to access our interactive database of resources and documents related to the education needs of children in foster care. It is searchable by topic, state, and type of document. This database includes hundreds of state and national tools and resources about the education needs of youth in out-of-home care. This is a great resource for in depth research around specific issues and topics. We continue to update it with new resources and documents. Please [send us](#) anything that we should include.

ABA Policy Resolutions

Transitioning Youth Services (August 2007)

This policy includes recommendations addressing a wide range of issues related to youth in care, specifically, including definitions in federal law regarding financial aid for current and former youth in care, amending the McKinney-Vento Act to cover all children in out-of-home care, and amending FERPA as it pertains to sharing education information of foster youth with child welfare agencies, foster care providers, and the courts

- [Transitioning Youth Services Policy](#)
- [Transitioning Youth Services Report](#)

McKinney-Vento Act (August 2007)

This policy includes recommendations to amend the McKinney-Vento Act to clarify that it applies to all children and youth in foster care, and to significantly increase funding to support the newly eligible population of all students in foster care, with particular focus on improved funding mechanisms to support transportation to keep students in their school of origin when in their best interest to do so.

- [McKinney-Vento Act Policy](#)
- [McKinney-Vento Act Report](#)

Conference Calls

The Legal Center FCE sponsors conference calls that focus on important and timely topics of interest to advocates working in the field of foster care and education. All are welcome to participate in the calls. Each will be held at 3pm (EST).

Upcoming dates:

February 10, 2009

May 12, 2009

August 11, 2009

November 11, 2009

Conference Dial-in Number:

218-339-4300

Participant Access Code:

427775

[Click here](#) for archived conference notes



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