

What is Foster Care?

Thousands of children and families in Kansas are impacted each year by services provided by the Department for Children and Families (DCF). When serious and/or chronic problems prevent the safety of children in their own homes, DCF works with law enforcement and the court system to ensure the physical and emotional safety of the child. Safety sometimes means removing the children from their homes. At any given time, there are about 5200 children in foster care. More than 30 percent of these children are cared for by relatives.

Teaming for Success

The Department for Children and Families, the Kansas State Department of Education, foster care providers and school districts are working together to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care.

Who can I contact for more information?

www.dcf.ks.gov

www.ksde.org



Students In Foster Care

What School Staff Need to Know



School Stability

Educational outcomes for students in foster care are significantly lower than those of children not in care. Many factors influence these low outcomes including the disruption of the educational process due to frequent school moves.

Many children are forced to leave their schools and communities when they enter foster care because there are not enough foster home resources within the child's school district.

How Can Schools Help?

Work with foster care agency staff to keep the student in the school they were attending when they enter foster care or change placements.

Create an engaging environment that makes the student feel comfortable, included and safe.

Be sensitive to the need for confidentiality. Many foster children hide the fact they are in foster care from their peers.

Ask the caregiver to include the social worker's name and phone number on the student's emergency card.

Ensure caregivers and social workers receive report cards, testing results and other important school information.

Encourage the student to participate in extra-curricular and other school-engaging activities.

Assist with credit transition for students in high school who are changing schools.

What Should I Do When Contacted by the Foster Care Agency?

The foster care agency social workers will need your help throughout the school year to gather information on student school attendance, performance and behaviors. Your assistance in obtaining this information will help the child's social worker provide more effective case planning and service delivery.

School Staff Can Help by:

Answering any questions the social worker may pose about the student.

Reporting accurate information regarding the student's performance and behavior.

Reporting positive experiences you have had with the student.

Telling the social worker about concerns you may have about the student.

Asking to be notified of court dates and medical appointments that may take the child out of school or cause emotional upheaval.

Inviting the caregiver and social worker to attend school conferences, meetings and other school events.

Schools can help children in foster care by creating an environment that makes the student feel comfortable, included and safe.



Who May be the Adults in a Foster Child's Life?

- DCF Social Worker
- Foster Care Agency Family Support Worker
- Relative Caregiver
- Non-Related Kin
- Therapist
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Foster Parent
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Group Home Case Manager
- Birth Parent(s)
- Educational Advocate
- Foster Care Agency Social Worker
- SSI/SSA (Supplemental Security Income) Case Manager

What Types of Living Arrangements Might Foster Youth Experience?

- Receiving Home Care
- Return to Parents
- Assessment Center
- Emergency Shelter
- Family Foster Care
- Therapeutic Foster Care
- Licensed Relative Care
- Hospitalization
- Unlicensed Relative Care
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF)
- Residential Facilities
- Inpatient Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Pre-adoptive home