

Foster Care Information For Educators

- Confidentiality is essential and important. Children and youth in foster care, should not be identified as such in conversation among staff and with the student. Do not discuss the student's foster status with staff that do not need to know.
- Ensure foster student access to the free and reduced lunch school programs.
- Foster parents, surrogate parents, DFPS caseworkers and caregivers are to be notified of all school events and educational progress (e.g. report card, progress reports.) They collectively are to be engaged in disciplinary proposals and actions via notification from the school as a parent would.
- Request for the caregiver of the student to provide the school with the student's caseworker and other pertinent state staff's contact information. (Utilize the Klein ISD foster care website's state representation request forms)
- Be informed that trauma and care related concerns present differently for every student
- Make efforts to assist the student in their transition to a new environment.
- Be aware of recent legislature that permits schools provisions regarding access to credit course, post-secondary elective tracks and credit allowances to transcripts for previously enrolled like courses. Be aware of ESSA and school stability laws.
- Foster parents, surrogate parents and DFPS caseworkers have the same rights as a parent
- Students receiving specialized services via special education residing in residential facilities, where parental rights are revoked, require a school or court appointed surrogate parent

YOUR RESOURCES



WE SUPPORT EVERY STUDENT

We encourage our foster parents, caregivers, guardians, state support staff and surrogate parents to be active and engaged in your foster care student's school. Collaboration is key in your student's success.

Educators: Become a campus champion for foster care on your campus. Contact foster@kleinisd.net for additional information

You may contact your foster care liaison for educational foster care information:

Crystal Coleman, Ed.D.

Klein ISD TEA Foster Care Liaison & Klein ISD Foster Care Coordinator

Ph.: 832.249.4397 E: Foster@kleinisd.net

Additional Resources:

Klein ISD Foster Care Webpage www.KleinIsd.net

Dept. of Family & Protective Services: www.dfps.state.tx.us

Texas Education Agency: www.tea.state.tx.us

ESSA: https://tea.texas.gov/ESSA/fostercare_qa.pdf



It is the policy of the Klein Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression in its educational or employment programs and activities.

KLEIN ISD FOSTER CARE

Foster Care Student Supports

YOUR GUIDE TO SERVICES





The Key Players in a Foster Student's Life

There are several adults involved in the life of a foster student:

- Caseworkers
- Relatives and fictive kin caregivers
- Foster parents
- Surrogate parents, if applicable
- Residential case managers
- Attorney Ad Litem
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- DFPS Education Specialist
- TEA Foster Care Liaison

School Stability Rights

The Every Student Succeeds Acts (ESSA) provides protections for your foster care student under the provisions of federal and state law. To promote school stability, foster care students have provisions to remain in their school or origin at the time of placement. This provision permits access to continue in the same school despite district rezoning and foster placement changes, if found to be in the best interest of the student. Contact your DFPS caseworker or Klein TEA Foster Care Liaison for information.

Foster Care Student Enrollment

The law requires all school districts to accept children and youth in DFPS custody for immediate enrollment

Children ages 3-5 in DFPS custody must be enrolled in a public school's free pre-kindergarten or early childhood education program if available in the caregiver's community. Children older than 5 must be enrolled in a Texas Education Agency accredited public or private school.

Documents Needed to Enroll a Foster Care Student in a Public School:

- Birth Certificate or other proof of identity
- Copy of previous school records
- Proof of immunizations
- Placement Authorization form (e.g.2085)
- Copy of child's school records
- Proof of residency

Klein ISD Online Enrollment Process:

In Klein ISD, it is encouraged to begin the enrollment process for your student online at www.kleinisd.net. Upon completion of the online enrollment, caregivers are provided school of origin information for initial enrollment.

****NOTE**** The school district must enroll a child in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) immediately in school regardless of documentation (Texas Family Code, Section 262) (g) A school district shall accept a child for enrollment in a public school without the documentation required by Subsection (a) if the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services has taken possession of the child under Chapter 262, Family Code. The Department of Protective and Regulatory Services shall ensure that the documentation required by Subsection (a) is furnished to the school district not later than the 30th day after the date the child is enrolled in the school.



What is Foster Care?

When children can't live safely at home and no appropriate non-custodial parent, relative, or close family friend is willing and able to care for them, the court can give temporary legal possession to Child Protective Services (CPS). CPS temporarily places these children and youth in foster care.

Foster care is meant to be temporary until a permanent living arrangement is found. However the temporary placement can become permanent if the foster parent adopts the child or accepts permanent managing conservatorship of the child.

Foster children and youth settings include:

- Foster family homes
- Foster family group homes
- Residential/ group care facilities
- Facilities overseen by another state agency

CPS strives to ensure quality service placements for children in foster care, however changes in placements for a student may occur often as a result of licensing standards violations, court rulings, and changes in the foster home/facility. In review of the frequent changes, federal standards for school stability are enforced via ESSA and new DFPS standards (see www.dfps.state.tx.us)