COLORADO
Department of Education

To: **Colorado Child Welfare Education Liaisons (CWELs)**

From: Jamie Burciaga, State Coordinator for Foster Care Education

Date: October 19, 2026

Re: Back-to-School Information for CWELs

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance and tools for implementation of House Bill 22-1374, the Foster Care Success Act. This Act aims to identify specific goals and outcomes for Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) Foster Care Education Program to improve the educational success and achievement of youth in foster care.

This memo includes:

- An overview of the HB22-1374-Foster Care Success Act
- Ensuring Educational Stability and Success for Students in Foster Care Non-Regulatory Guidance
- An overview of the training for Child Welfare Education Liaisons (CWELs) and county case workers

Background

HB22-1374 - Foster Care Success Act

The Foster Care Success Act was signed into law on May 31, 2022. This state law requires CDE to identify specific goals to improve the educational attainment of youth in foster care. The Foster Care Success Act also requires CDE to report annual outcomes and improvements to Legislative Committees of the state's General Assembly. More information on the legislation can be found here: https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22- 1374.

New and Exciting

In November of 2024 the US Department of Education and the US Department of Health and Human Services released *Ensuring Educational Stability and Success for Students in Foster Care Joint Non-Regulatory Guidance*. This guidance updates previous joint guidance from 2016 and provides critical new information about how federal laws support students in foster care, including the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (Fostering Connections). The guidance covers a range of topics, including school stability, academic success, special populations, funding, and data collection.

Please visit the link below for more information:

https://www.fostercareandeducation.org/overview/education-stability

To accompany the non-regulatory joint guidance the American Bar Association released an in-focus video series. The in-focus video series is divided up into 5 areas of focus from the joint non-regulatory guidance which includes: introduction, educational stability, academic success, special populations, funding, and data. You can access the videos on the link below:
https://www.fostercareandeducation.org/overview/education-stability

Educational Rights for Students in Foster Care Modules:

In the 2022-2023 legislative session House Bill 22-1374 the Foster Care Success Act was passed. The act requires the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to identify specific goals for its foster care education initiative related to the improvement of educational attainment for youth in foster care. Progress on these identified goals are reported annually to specified committees of the general assembly.

Along with identifying specific goals, HB 22-1374 requires Child Welfare Education Liaisons (CWEL's) at Colorado school districts, Child Welfare Caseworkers at the county departments of human services, and their supervisors to complete a 1.5-hour web-based training on their roles and responsibilities. In addition to explaining rights, roles, and responsibilities, this training explores the educational resources available in local communities and how CWELs and county caseworkers can collaborate with other agencies to provide children and youth in care with a stable educational experience. Per state statute, the web-based training must be retaken every two years by CWELs. Caseworkers and supervisors to maintain certification in Colorado. Spring 2026 marks the first two-year renewal deadline.

This Fall will mark the two-year expiration for module completion for some of you. If this applies to you an email will be sent indicating your need to renew your module completion. To remain incompliance, you will need to renew your module completion on or before the date provided.

The modules can be accessed using this link:

Educational Rights for Students in Foster Care (WBT) 2026-2027

Fall Office Hours

In collaboration with the Department of Human Services CDE will be hosting Fall office hours for CWEL's and Certified County Caseworkers. Office hours will be an opportunity to collaborate or discuss barriers and challenges with Jamie Burciaga, State Coordinator for Foster Care Education and Maitri, Jensen Foster Care Education Specialist at the Department of Human Services. Dates and times are included below:

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Thursday, October 15, 2026, 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Thursday, November 19, 2026, 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Thursday, December 10, 2026, 10:00 am to 11:00 am

The login information will be included with the calendar invite.

Foster Student Identification Process

Identification of students who are in foster care is now available for CWELs. Please work with your district IMS team to access the list of students in foster care in your district.

Foster Care Training Opportunities

Trainings and meetings will be scheduled throughout the year and are also available upon request. Feel free to reach out to Jamie Burciaga at CDE (Burciaga_j@cde.state.co.us) to request training for your local region or school district.

Dates and registration information will be sent via email, and through The CDE *Scoop*, an electronic weekly update to schools and districts, as appropriate. Click here to sign-up for the Scoop. Please reach out with additional requests or specific technical assistance needed.

Thank you, as always, for your dedication and commitment to ensuring our most vulnerable students have access to educational opportunities and for your continued efforts in supporting Colorado students on their path to academic success.