The Every Student Succeeds Act: Serving Students Experiencing Homelessness and in Foster Care



Office of Whole Child Supports

Alexandra Nardo & Susannah Wayland

Today's Presenters

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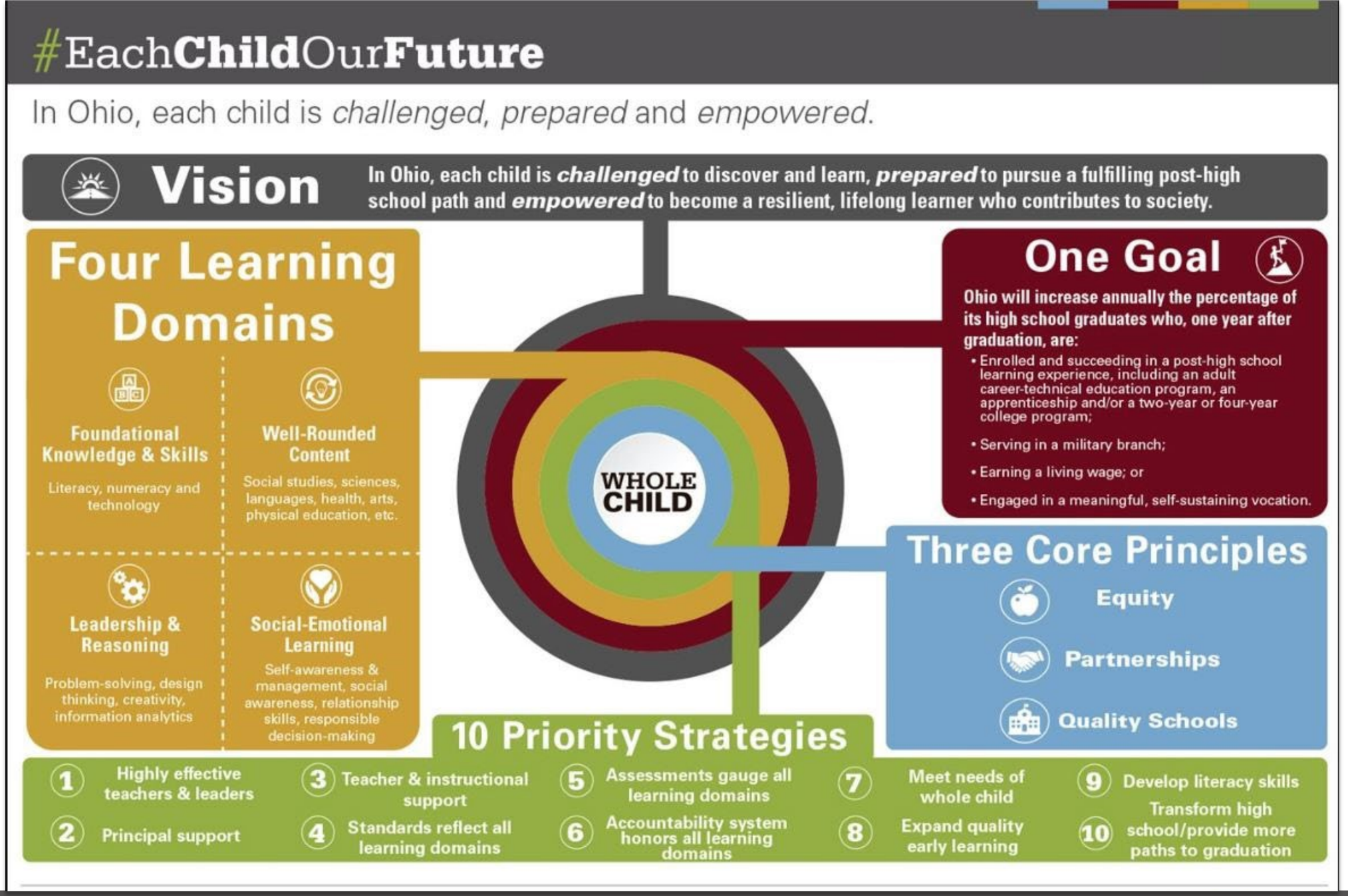
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Agenda

- ✓ Ohio Department of Education – Overview
- ✓ Supports for students experiencing homelessness
- ✓ Supports for students in foster care
- ✓ Questions and dialogue


#EachChildOurFuture
In Ohio, each child is challenged, prepared and empowered.
Vision
In Ohio, each child is challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society.
Four Learning Domains
Foundational Knowledge & Skills
Literacy, numeracy and technology
Well-Rounded Content
Social studies, sciences, languages, health, arts, physical education, etc.
Leadership & Reasoning
Problem-solving, design thinking, creativity, information analytics
Social-Emotional Learning
Self-awareness & management, social awareness, relationship skills, responsible decision-making
WHOLE CHILD
One Goal
Ohio will increase annually the percentage of its high school graduates who, one year after graduation, are:
• Enrolled and succeeding in a post-high school learning experience, including an adult career-technical education program, an apprenticeship and/or a two-year or four-year college program;
• Serving in a military branch;
• Earning a living wage; or
• Engaged in a meaningful, self-sustaining vocation.
Three Core Principles
Equity
Partnerships
Quality Schools
10 Priority Strategies
1 Highly effective teachers & leaders
2 Principal support
3 Teacher & instructional support
4 Standards reflect all learning domains
5 Assessments gauge all learning domains
6 Accountability system honors all learning domains
7 Meet needs of whole child
8 Expand quality early learning
9 Develop literacy skills
10 Transform high school/provide more paths to graduation







Office of Whole Child Supports

Who is in the room?

- Name
- Are you the McKinney-Vento liaison, foster care liaison, both, or other?
- What is your title in the school or district?

ESSA Requirements and Supports for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Homelessness Defined

- Campgrounds
- Shelters
- Public Places
- Bus and Train Stations
- Shared Housing
- Hotel Motels



Shared Housing



"Sharing the housing of other persons ***due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason.***"

Fixed, Regular and Adequate



Fixed: Stationary, permanent, not subject to change



Regular: Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis; consider the relative permanence



Adequate: Lawfully, reasonably sufficient; sufficient for meeting physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment

Eligibility Considerations

Why did the parties move in together?

How permanent is the living arrangement intended to be?

Where would the party in crisis live if not sharing housing?

School Selection

School of origin

The school the child attended when permanently housed; or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

Attendance Area

Any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

Enrollment

Must develop, review and revise policies to remove barriers to school enrollment and retention.

Defines *enrollment* as attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

The McKinney-Vento Act (federal law) supersedes state or local law or policy

Enrollment

Homeless children and youth have the right to enroll in school immediately, *even if lacking documentation normally required for enrollment.*

Transportation

School districts must provide transportation to and from school of origin.

District ultimately determines mode of transportation.



TEAM Approach

- Transportation director
- Local liaison
- Neighboring school district
- Other service providers, as appropriate

Dispute Resolution

If a disagreement occurs, the district must:

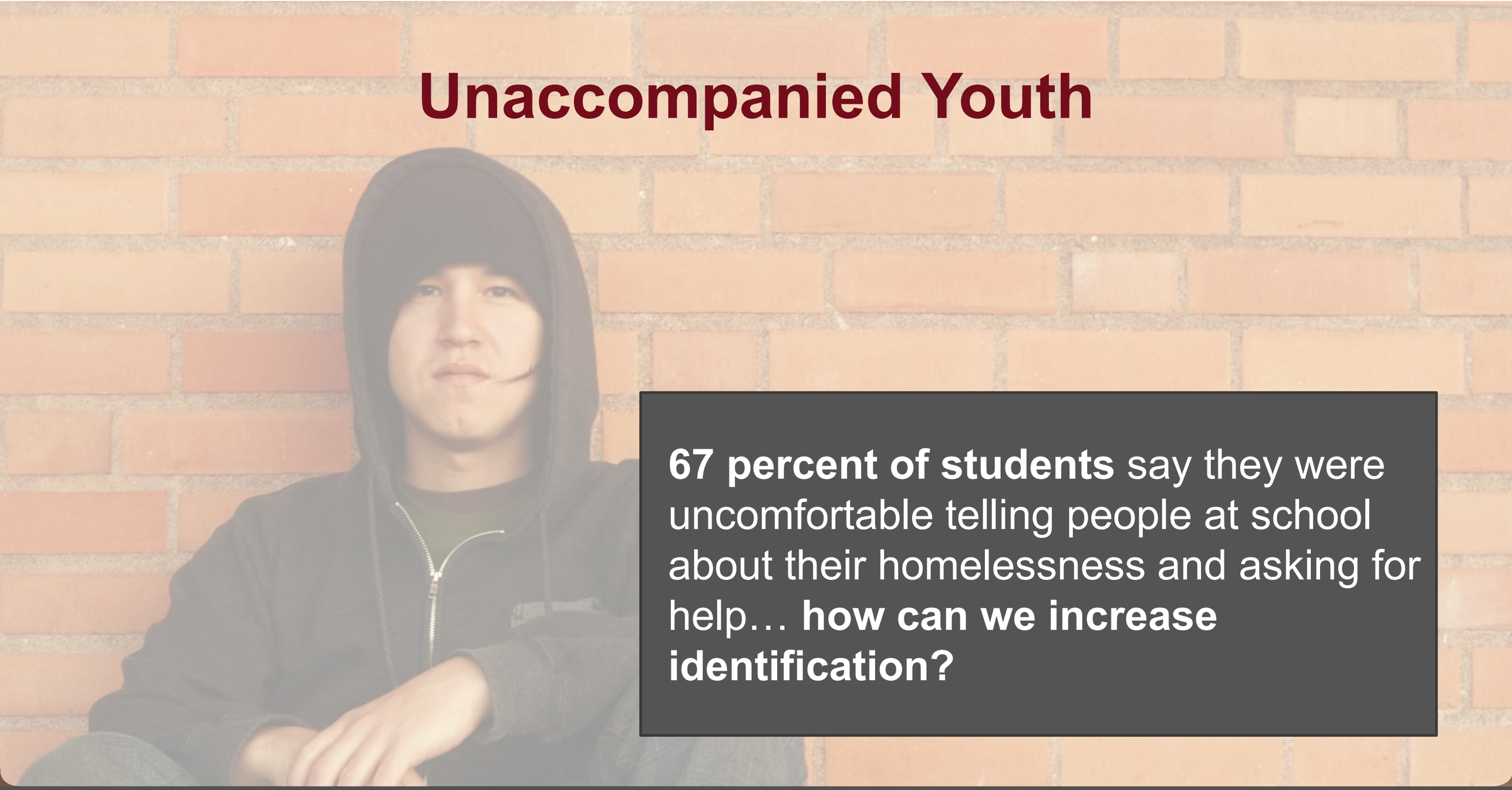
- **Provide written explanation of decision, including right to appeal the decision.**
- **Refer the parent/ caretaker/youth to the local liaison.**

Dispute Resolution

While the dispute is in process, students must be:

- ✓ Enrolled immediately in the school in which enrollment is sought
- ✓ Provided with school of origin transportation, if requested

Unaccompanied Youth



67 percent of students say they were uncomfortable telling people at school about their homelessness and asking for help… **how can we increase identification?**

Identifying McKinney-Vento students

- → Provide training
- → Educate the community
- → Spread the word
- → Use Housing Questionnaire
- → Avoid the word “homeless”

McKinney-Vento Liaisons must ensure:

- ✓ Educational Services
- ✓ Public Notices
- ✓ Enrollment Dispute Resolution
- ✓ Professional Development
- ✓ School Enrollment

ARP-HCY For Ohio

	ARP-HCY II
	$ 21,970,819
	Distribution to LEAs
	Designed to support ALL interventions and supports for students experiencing homelessness

Funding Priorities

- Title I Set Aside (Homeless)
- ESSER I & II (expanded allowable uses to 16 M-V)
- Districts received ARP-ESSER funds to support reengagement needs for all students and specifically points to using funds for populations that were disproportionally impacted by pandemic
- ARP-HCY II (expanded uses to extra-ordinary 16+) funds should be used after other funding sources have been used for all students (supplement not supplant)

Funding Priorities

Funding should be used to:

1) **Identify** homeless children and youth

2) **Aid** needed for homeless children and youth to **attend** and **participate fully** in school activities

3) **Provide wraparound services** needed as a result of the recent pandemic

ARP-Homeless II

1) **Increase outreach** and identification

2) **Enhance communication** options with students and families

3) **Increase counseling and social work services**

4) **Hire "systems navigators"** to help families and youth access education and other ARP services, such as shelter, utilities, housing and rental assistance, child care, Head Start, unemployment, and tax credits

ESSA Requirements and Supports for Students in Foster Care

Every Student Succeeds Act



December 2015: Congress passes Every Student Succeeds Act.

December 10, 2016: New guidelines and resources to support children in foster care

ESSA: Foster Care Highlights

Collaboration and joint decision-making between districts and child protection agencies

Enhance similar provisions governing child welfare agencies

Educational stability of children in foster care **is a joint responsibility** between schools and child welfare agencies



ESSA Collaboration



- **Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**
- **Local school districts and county child welfare agencies**

Foster Care Definition

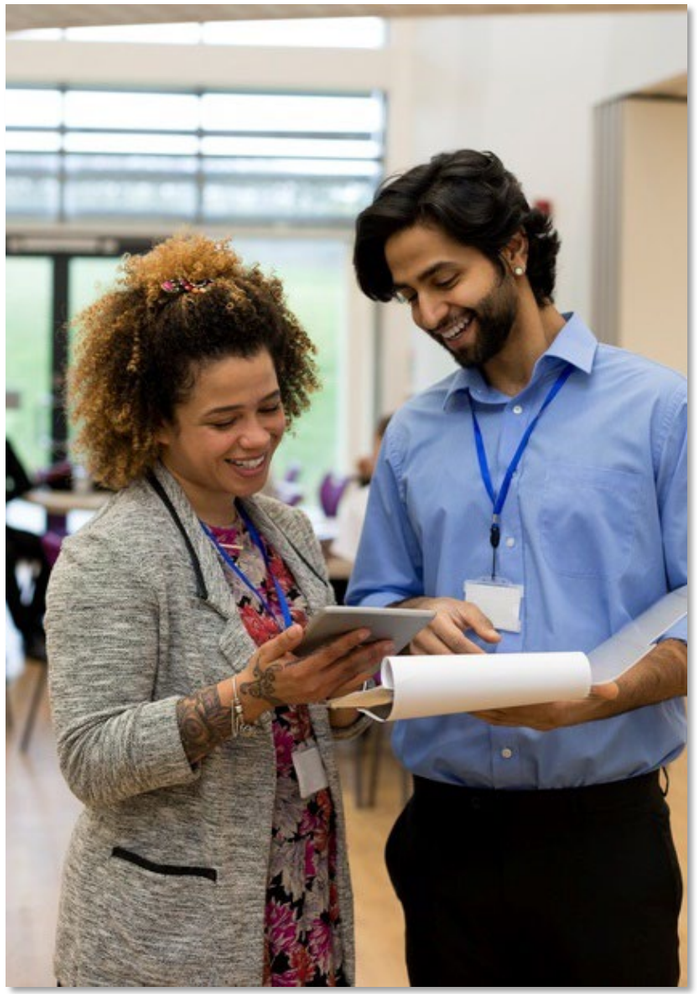
"24-hour substitute care for children placed away from parents/guardians and for whom the child protection agency has placement and care responsibility"



ESSA Foster Care Provisions

- Local point of contact
- Best Interest Determination and school of origin
- Immediate enrollment and records transfer
- Transportation to and from the school of origin

ESSA: Foster Care Liaison



Designate a point of contact with the **time, capacity and knowledge** to carry out all required duties.

Foster Care Liaison

Coordinating with the child protection agency **point of contact**

Leading the development of a process for making the best interest determination

Documenting the best interest determination for each student in foster care



Foster Care Liaison



Facilitating the transfer of records and immediate enrollment

Facilitating data sharing with child welfare agencies

Developing and coordinating local transportation procedures

Foster Care Liaison

Managing best interest determination and transportation cost disputes

Ensuring children in foster care are enrolled in and regularly attending school

Providing professional development and training to school staff





Update the Ohio Education Directory System with local point of contact



Working Together to Ensure Educational Stability

- What is in the best interest of the child?
  - Remain in the school of origin
  - Enroll in the attendance area district



The school of origin is the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care



A child should remain in the school of origin unless it is determined to not be in his/her best interest.

Best Interest Determination: Considerations

Child's emotional well-being **should** be considered.

Transportation cost **should not** be a factor in the decision.



Student Attendance

The student should attend school of origin **until a best interest determination is made.**



Collaborate for Best Interest

School District and Child Protection Agency

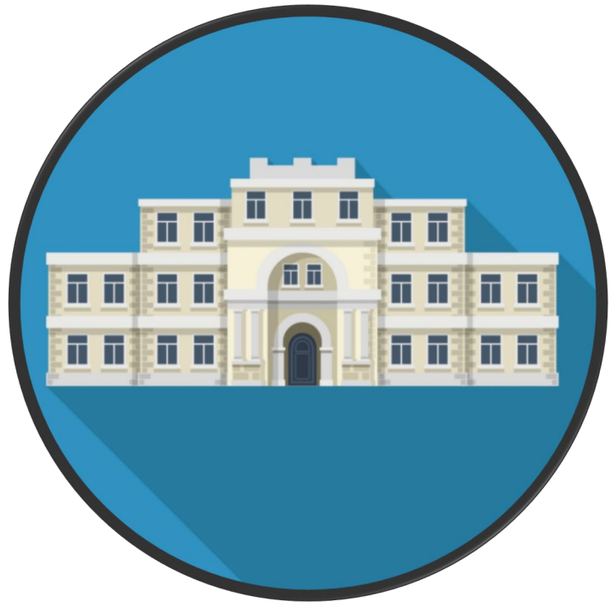
Establish guidelines to be used in the decision-making process

If a decision cannot be reached…

Child protection agency should decide the best educational placement for the child

If it is not in the student's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child should be immediately enrolled in the new school





Do not wait for student records. The enrolling school should immediately contact the school of origin to obtain relevant academic records.

IEPs

Student Success Plans

Transcripts

Course of Study





Transportation must be provided, arranged and funded for students in foster care.



Ensure all children promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner.

Ohio | Department of Education

Transportation

Prioritize the child's **educational stability.**

Ensure transportation is provided **through the end of the school year.**



Transportation

Additional cost incurred in providing transportation, can be assumed in the following ways:

- Local child protection agency agrees to reimburse district for cost of such transportation;
- District agrees to pay cost; or
- District and local child protection agency agree to share cost.

education.ohio.gov/fostercare



- Overview of foster care provisions
- Educational stability for foster youth
- Information about the district point of contact
- Information about transportation

Ohio | Department of Education

Questions

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@OHEducation

Share your learning community with us!

#MyOhioClassroom





Celebrate educators!

#OhioLovesTeachers