

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

**From:** Jamie Burciaga, State Coordinator for Foster Care Education

**Date:** September 3, 2025

**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-](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1374) [1374.](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:

Based on recent HB22-1374, child welfare education liaisons (CWEL’s) and child welfare caseworkers and their supervisors are required to take this new 1.5-hour web-based training with guidance on their roles and responsibilities to improve educational stability for young people in foster care. In addition to explaining rights, roles, and responsibilities, this training explores the educational resources available in local community and how CWELs and county caseworkers can collaborate with other agencies to provide children and youth in care with a stable educational experience. After the initial completion, this course must be retaken every two years by CWELs. Caseworkers and supervisors are also required to complete it every two years to maintain certification in Colorado. We are now approaching the two-year renewal deadline.

In collaboration with the Department of Human Services, CDE is the process of updating the mandatory training based on joint non-regulatory guidance, and feedback from the field. CWEL’s will receive a message in early October with an invitation to renew module completion. **Please wait to renew your module completion until you receive the invitation from CDE**

Fall Office Hours

CDE will be hosting Fall office hours for CWEL’s. Each office hour will focus on a topic and include subject matter experts. Meeting invites will be sent monthly.

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. Below is link for a short byte video that includes the process of accessing foster care data in your district.

<https://www.>[.state.co.us/datapipeline/inter\_student](https://www.cde.state.co.us/datapipeline/inter_student%22%20/t%20%22_blank)

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](http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/home/?u=bee6c43ae6102530cf98cadf9&id=ab7e1e5d57) [the](http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/home/?u=bee6c43ae6102530cf98cadf9&id=ab7e1e5d57) [Scoop.](http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/home/?u=bee6c43ae6102530cf98cadf9&id=ab7e1e5d57) 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.