Why Focus on Foster Care and Education?

Each year more than 400,000 children and youth are in foster care in the United States. Foster youth who are able to succeed in school have better chances for economic self-sufficiency, over-coming their abusive childhood, personal fulfillment, and are more likely to contribute positively to society. However:

- Fewer than 50% of foster youth finish high school by age 18.
- While 84% of 17-18 year old foster youth want to go to college, only 2-9% of former foster youth obtain a bachelor's degree.

THE MISSION of the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education is to promote successful educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care across the country. The Working Group is committed to heightening awareness of the educational needs of children and youth in care and to promoting best and promising practices and reforms across the education, child welfare, and court systems.
National Working Group on Foster Care and Education
American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law
American Public Human Services Association/National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Casey Family Programs
Center for Law and Social Policy
Chapin Hall
Children's Defense Fund
Child Trends
Child Welfare League of America
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute
Education Law Center
First Focus
Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
John Burton Foundation
Juvenile Law Center
National CASA Association
National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues
National Child Welfare Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Council on Crime and Delinquency
National Foster Care Coalition
National Foster Care Review Coalition
National Foster Parent Association
Stuart Foundation
Education Advisory Group
America’s Promise Alliance
American Association of College Teachers
American Association of Community Colleges
American School Counselor Association
Council for Exceptional Children
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Center for Homeless Education
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
National College Access Network
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Education Association
National Head Start Association
National School Board Association
Parent Teacher Association
School Social Work Association of America

Facilitated by the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education