



**Questions?**

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## 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