


Child Dependency Courts



Students in foster care face significant educational challenges and have worse outcomes than peers on every academic measure, including achievement, attendance, and graduation. The court has an important role in assessing and monitoring the educational well-being and progress of children in care.

State Laws

[RCW 13.34.045](#) Educational liaison-Identification.

[RCW 74.13.550](#) Child placement-Policy of educational continuity

[RCW 74.13.560](#) - Educational continuity - Protocol Develop.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more RCW's that pertain to the educational stability of students in foster care in Washington state.

Federal Laws

[Every Student Succeeds Act](#)

[Fostering Connections Act](#)

[Uninterrupted Scholars Act](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about federal laws governing educational stability students in foster care



KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT (HB 1227)

The Keeping Families Together Act has the potential to improve their educational experience by **requiring courts to mitigate the harm of removal by addressing school stability** and ensuring that children and youth in care stay connected to people and programs that matter to them.

Effective July 2023



RESOURCES

Foster Care Program at OSPI

The Foster Care Program at OSPI supports students in foster care by encouraging innovative practices that reduce educational disruptions, strengthen school stability, and improve academic performance.

[Learn More](#)

School District Foster Care Liaisons

Every school district is required to have a foster care liaison to facilitate district compliance with state and federal laws related to students who are the subject of a dependency proceeding.

[Learn More](#)

Regional DCYF Contacts

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) has regional staff who assist school districts, foster parents, social workers, and advocates as they navigate K-12 education for students in foster care.

[Learn More](#)

Treehouse

Treehouse has become Washington's leading organization addressing the academic and other essential supports of youth in foster care.

[Learn More](#)

