



LEGAL CENTER FOR FOSTER CARE & EDUCATION

Publications and Resources

The Legal Center is constantly developing materials and resources on relevant issues around foster care and education. A sampling of our available publications includes:

Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Children in Foster Care

The cornerstone publication of the Legal Center, the Blueprint for Change is a tool for change. The 8 *goals* and 56 corresponding *benchmarks* are a framework or checklist for both direct case advocacy and system reform efforts.

Blueprint Goals

- **Goal 1 - Youth Are Entitled to Remain in Their Same School If In Their Best Interest**
- **Goal 2 - Youth Have Seamless Transitions Between Schools**
- **Goal 3 - Young Children Enter School Ready to Learn**
- **Goal 4 - Youth Have the Support to Fully Participate in School**
- **Goal 5 - Youth Have Support to Prevent School Dropout, Truancy, and Disciplinary Actions**
- **Goal 6 - Youth Are Involved and Empowered**
- **Goal 7 - Youth Have Education Advocates and Decisionmakers**
- **Goal 8 - Youth Have Support to Enter Into and Complete Postsecondary Education**

The Blueprint for Change also includes hundreds of national, state, and local examples of policies, practices, programs, and resources. Use the Blueprint for Change framework to identify a jurisdiction's strengths and areas needing. To access the Blueprint for Change as well as a searchable database, visit:

www.ambar.org/LegalCenter BLUEPRINT.

Fostering Connections Implementation Toolkit

Since the passage of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections), the Legal Center has been providing training and technical assistance at the federal and state level. The Fostering Connections Implementation Toolkit not only details the education provisions of the law, but also outlines state examples and practical strategies to best serve the needs of youth in each jurisdiction. Examples of tools included in the Fostering Connections Implementation Toolkit include:

- Short Question and Answer Factsheet
- Step-by-Step Implementation Checklists
- Detailed Issue Briefs on All Requirements With State Examples
- Factsheet About Overlap with McKinney-Vento
- Appendix of Statutory Language, Administrative Guidance, and Additional Tools and Resources

Use this publication to understand the education provisions of the law, learn practical strategies from other jurisdictions, and develop plans to effectively implement the law. To access the Fostering Connections Implementation Toolkit, visit:

www.ambar.org/LegalCenter TOOLKIT.

Solving the Data Puzzle: A How-To Guide on Collecting and Sharing Information to Improve Educational Outcomes for Children in Out-of-Home Care

The Legal Center has expertise in data collection and information-sharing and has developed a number of publications, including this comprehensive manual and accompanying tools. Use this publication to identify what your jurisdiction's information-sharing goals are and understand what mechanisms that must be in place to allow for information-sharing to occur, including addressing federal and state confidentiality laws. To access *Solving the Data Puzzle*, as well as other publications to support data collection and information-sharing, visit:

www.ambar.org/LegalCenterDATA.

Questions & Answer Factsheets

The Legal Center develops two page Q&A Factsheets on the full spectrum of issues related to foster care and education. Examples of Q&A Factsheets include:

- The Link Between Education and Permanency
- Mobility and Special Education
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Tuition Waivers for Postsecondary Education
- Credit Transfers and School Completion
- Surrogate Parent Programs
- Education of Older Youth and Coordinated Transition Planning

Special Education Decisionmaking Series

Who can make special education decisions for a child in foster care is a complex and state-specific issue. The Legal Center has developed an entire series on special education decisionmaking for children in foster care, including factsheets and articles. To access the Special Education Decisionmaking Series, visit:

www.ambar.org/LegalCenterMATERIALS.

Courtroom Education Advocacy

The Legal Center has developed a Courtroom Education Advocacy Series to support the needs of attorneys, advocates, and judges in improving education outcomes for children in foster care. This series includes:

- Judicial Checklist Around Fostering Connections
- Half- or Full-Day Courtroom Education Advocacy Training Curriculum
- Q & A Factsheet: Courtroom Education Advocacy
- Compilation of Education and Child Welfare Laws and Regulations Around Foster Care and Education

McKinney-Vento Overlap Series

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, a federal education law, has long been supporting the importance of education stability and serving many children in foster care. The Fostering Connections Act, a federal child welfare law, now supports education stability for all children in foster care. Each law affords youth different rights and responsibilities. The Legal Center has developed a series about the overlap of these two important laws, available at:

www.ambar.org/LegalCenterMATERIALS.

State Technical Assistance Publications

The Legal Center develops, in collaboration with state partners, tools to support training and technical assistance around education and foster care. A sampling of tools adaptable to states includes:

- Screening Tools for Child Welfare and Education Agencies
- Step-by-Step Guides for Educators
- Juvenile Court Rules
- Trainings for Judges, Advocates, Child Welfare and Educators
- Data-Sharing Agreements
- Interagency Memoranda of Understanding