Foster Care Peer-to-Peer Exchange Series: State Collaboration with Child Welfare Agencies

Subject Matter Experts: Kristin Kelly and Kathleen McNaught, American Bar Association

Facilitators: Frank Rider and Kelly Wells, American Institutes for Research

State Support Network
Partnering for School Improvement

July 19, 2018

Welcome!

Please consider joining us by video!

Please type into the chat box:

1. Your name

2. Your Agency/State, *and*

3. One of your favorite ways to refresh yourself on a hot summer day ☺ !

We collaborate with states, districts, and technical assistance providers to:

- **Improve student outcomes**
- **Scale systemic solutions**
- **Share learning and leverage effective, evidence-based practices**
- **Build sustainable partnerships**

Meet the State Support Network Team

Frank Rider

P2P Facilitator

American Institutes for Research

Kelly Wells

P2P Facilitator

American Institutes for Research

Dana Chambers

P2P Exchange Lead

State Support Network

Meet Our Foster Care Subject Matter Experts

Kristin Kelly, J.D.

American Bar Association

Center on Children and the Law

Kathleen McNaught, J.D.

American Bar Association

Center on Children and the Law

Foster Care P2P Series Objectives

- Understand Title I, Part A educational stability requirements for students in foster care.

- Identify promising practices, innovative solutions, and tools and resources from peer states and technical assistance providers to support implementation of Title I, Part A educational stability requirements for students in foster care.

- Define specific action steps to address challenges and/ or needs discussed during the P2P exchange series.

Foster Care P2P Series Overview

- Session 1: **Collaboration with Child Welfare Agencies** (today)

- Session 2: **Data Systems** – August 2, 2018

- Session 3: **Transportation** – August 16, 2018

- Session 4: **Supporting Local Educational Agencies** – August 23, 2018

Session 1 Agenda:
State Collaboration with Child Welfare Agencies

1. Welcome and Overview of P2P Series

2. Overview of Title I, Part A:
   Educational Stability of Children in Foster Care

3. Discussion: **State Collaboration with Child Welfare Agencies**

4. Questions

5. Resources

6. Next Steps

Session #1 Objectives

At the end of session 1, participants will have…

1. Understanding of promising practices to meaningfully collaborate with child welfare agencies to ensure the educational stability of students in foster care.

2. Access to resources from other states that can be adapted.

3. Increased understanding of required and promising practice roles in collaborative processes for all stakeholders.

4. List of additional tools, training, and technical assistance available on this topic.

Norms for Interaction

- Be Present
- Share the Air
- Assume Goodwill
- Respect What Is Shared
- Productive Disequilibrium
- Others?

Poll #1

How are you currently working with your state child welfare agency to fulfill Title I, Part A foster care requirements?
Choose the one answer that best describes your work:

❑ We are not currently working with CW agency.

❑ We share information with them

❑ We coordinate activities with one another

❑ We collaboratively plan and act together

❑ We share resources (e.g. staff, budgeted funds) with one another.

Poll #2 (Open-ended questions)

What is the biggest challenge you are facing in working with your state's child welfare agency?

What is your biggest success in collaborating with your state's child welfare agency?

Overview of Title I, Part A:

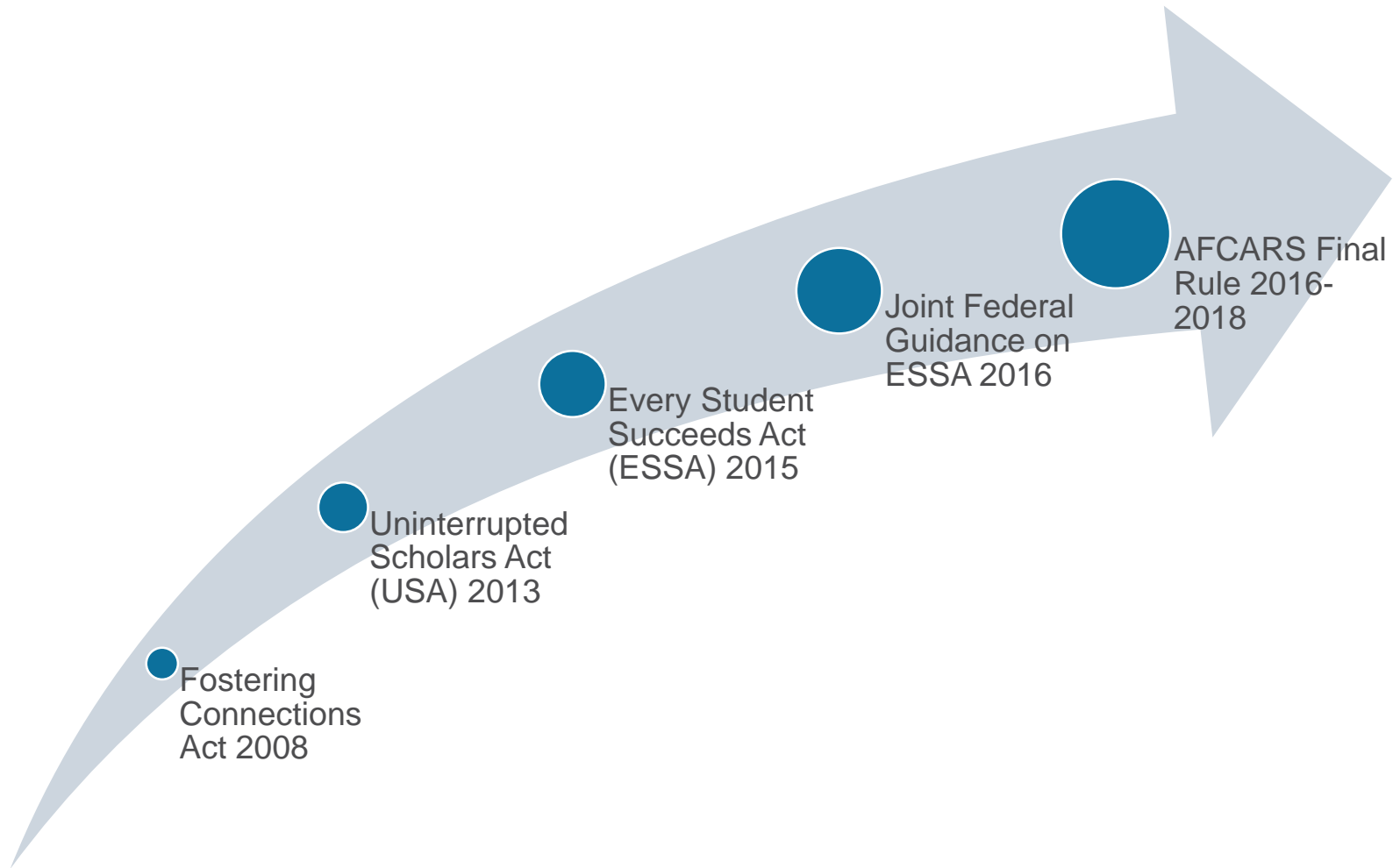# Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

ABA Center on Children and the Law

- **Mission** - To promote access to justice for children and families.

- **Structure** - Nonprofit grant-funded entity in the American Bar Association with team of attorneys and core staff who work on projects across the country unified by two goals:
  - *to improve legal representation, and*
  - *to improve the legal systems that impact children and families' lives.*

- **Approach** - Collaboration and coalition building at local, state and national levels to build the capacity of legal practices and systems that serve children well and to help change those that do not.

americanbar.org/child

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
Center on
Children and the Law

A Decade of Federal Law Improvements

Fostering Connections Act 2008

Uninterrupted Scholars Act (USA) 2013

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015

Joint Federal Guidance on ESSA 2016

AFCARS Final Rule 2016-2018

ESEA Foster Care Provisions

- **School stability protections**
    - Presumption to stay in school of origin / Best interest decision - 20 U.S.C. § 1111(g)(1)(E)(i)
    - Immediate enrollment - 20 U.S.C. § 1111(g)(1)(E)(ii-iii)
    - Transportation - 20 U.S.C. § 1112(c)(5)(B)

- **Points of contact** 20 U.S.C. §1111(g)(1)(E)(iv) / 20 U.S.C. § 1112(c)(5)(A)

- **Removal of "awaiting foster care placement"** 42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)(B)(i)

- **Required disaggregate data collection and reporting** 20 U.S.C. § 1111(h)(1)(C)(ii-iii)
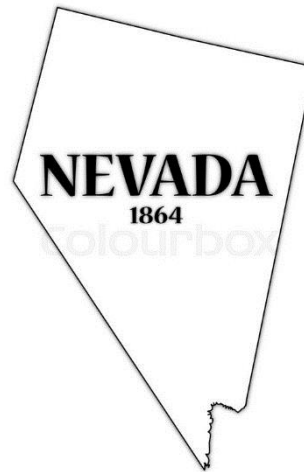
Thought Partner States:

Kristin Myers
Myers_K@cde.state.co.us

Kristin Melton
Kristin.melton@co.state.us

Colin Usher
cusher@doe.nv.gov

Jamie Bernstein
Jamie.Bernstein@txcourts.gov

Discussion on Identified Needs: Facilitation Format

1. Invite thought partner states to share 1-2 minutes about their salient strategies for collaboration.

2. Facilitators to identify themes from poll responses of state participants and select one to begin with.

3. States that identified that theme to share 1-2 minute description of their challenge/success or question.

4. Thought partner states to share their thoughts/ideas on the challenge or question.

5. Peers and facilitators to share feedback, probe with additional questions, and offer peer feedback or guidance.

6. Process to repeat for as many identified challenges as time permits.

Additional Discussion Questions:

- Would you like to share examples of how you are working with your child welfare liaison?

- Have you developed a Memorandum of Understand or other Interagency Agreements?

- How are you involving stakeholders—caregivers, birth parents, foster parents, youth, court system, child welfare, education—in co-creating agreements? In defining roles and responsibilities?

- Do you have any resources you would like to share?

Final Reflections?

Resources

- U.S. Department of Education

  - https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html

    - Resources such as joint guidance issued by the Department; archived webinars on topics such as effective collaboration, transportation procedures, best interest determinations and immediate enrollment.

- Administration on Children, Youth, and Families Child Welfare Information Gateway

  - https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/service-array/education-services/meeting-needs/educational-stability/

    - Resources such as state and local examples, data sharing, and administrative resources for child welfare agencies.

LEGAL CENTER FOR FOSTER CARE & EDUCATION

[WWW.FOSTERCAREANDEDUCATION.ORG](http://www.fostercareandeducation.org)

- Listserv, training materials, webinars, factsheets, and issue briefs

- Searchable database (includes state laws and policies)

- Facilitate networks: National Working Group/Education Advisory Group

- Provide state and local technical assistance and support

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
Center on Children and the Law

Juvenile Law Center
advancing the rights and well-being of children in jeopardy

EDUCATION LAW CENTER

Next Steps

Session # 2: **Data Systems**

- Data and information sharing

- Confidentiality laws

- Collecting and maintaining data

- Examples of data sharing between education and child welfare at the local level

August 2, 2018
12:00 – 1:30 pm ET

Questions?
Contact Dana Chambers
dchambers@air.org

Thank you for your participation!

Your feedback is important to us to help us better support your work. Please take a moment to provide feedback in response to two questions.