

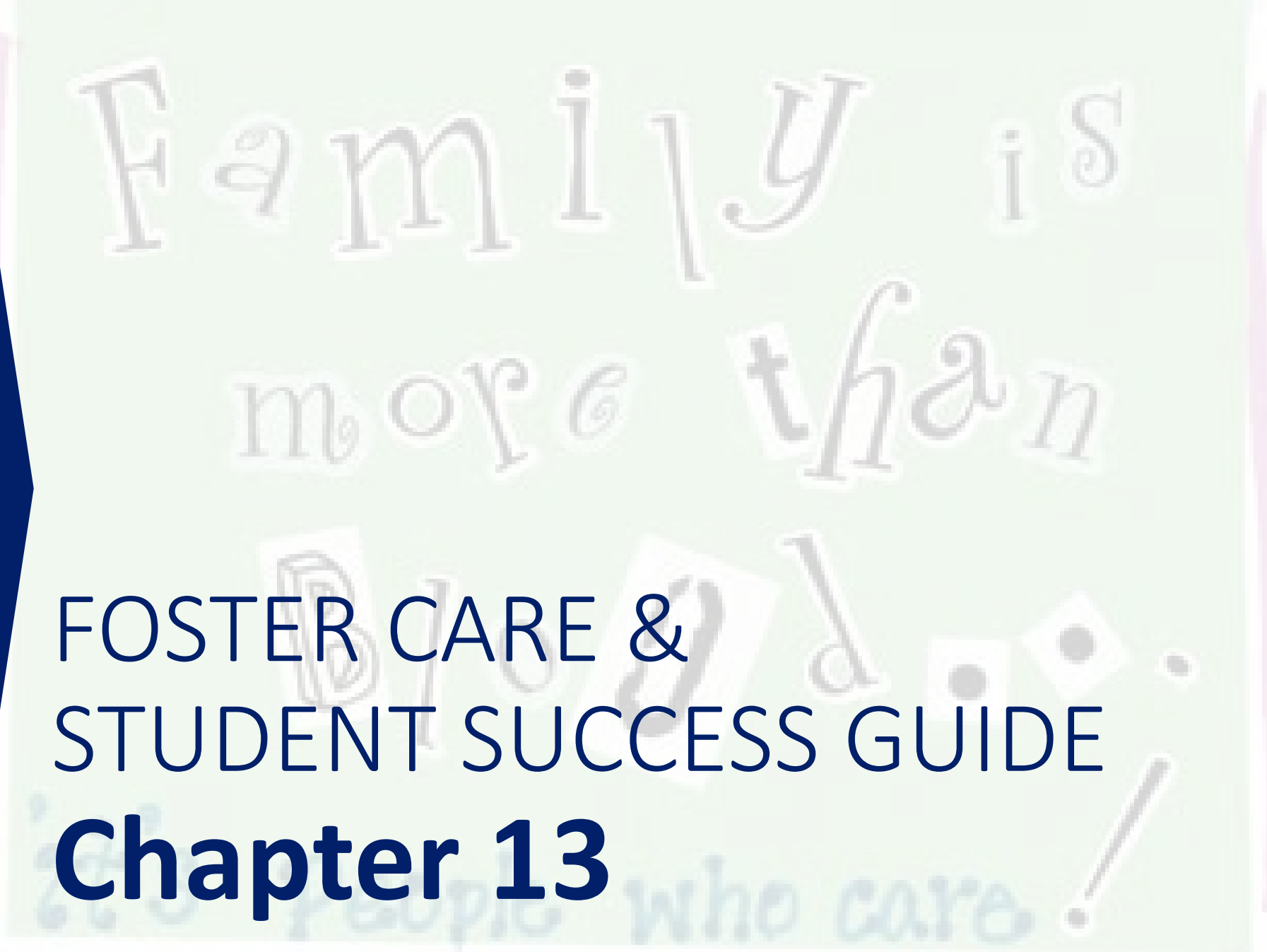


March 30, 2023

10:00 A.M.

# FOSTER CARE & STUDENT SUCCESS GUIDE

## Chapter 13



# Foster Care Guide

## FOSTER CARE & STUDENT SUCCESS:



TEXAS SYSTEMS WORKING TOGETHER TO  
TRANSFORM EDUCATION OUTCOMES OF  
STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE



**Link:**

<https://tea.texas.gov/foster-care-guide>



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# Foster Care & Student Success Guide Collaboration

**FOSTER CARE & STUDENT SUCCESS:**



TEXAS SYSTEMS WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION OUTCOMES OF STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE



**TEA** Texas Education Agency

TEXAS Department of Family and Protective Services

Children's Commission  
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



# Objectives

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Provide educators and all those working with students in foster care a brief overview of the foster care and student success guide.

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Familiarize educators with the foster care guide and relevant laws and policies that affect the educational experience of students in foster care.

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Provide access to the foster care guide for purposes of ensuring students in foster care are provided the proper assistance.

# Agenda

Foster Care Guide Overview

Chapter 13

Pause for Understanding

Continue Chapter 13

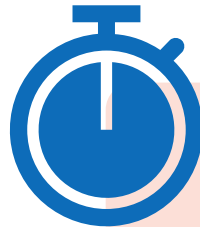
Appendices

Foster Care Guide Training Series Survey

Let's see  
who is  
here.



In the Q &A, please indicate your job title.



What is your working knowledge of post-secondary opportunities for students in foster care?



# AskTed Update

## REMINDER

LEA Foster  
Care Liaisons

Local Education Agency (LEA) must confirm that their Foster Care Liaison listed in AskTED is accurate.

If not, contact the LEA AskTED Coordinator to request any changes or updates to the AskTED directory.

More information is available on TEA's Foster Care and Student Success website, under the Foster Care Liaison tab.

**ESC Foster Care Champions also posted in AskTED**



# Sign Up for Updates!

The screenshot shows the TEA website header with a navigation bar containing links for Popular Applications, AskTED, ECOS for Educators, Grant Opportunities, Secure Applications, TEAL Login, and TSDS. A search bar is present with the text 'Search TEA.texas.gov'. Below the search bar, a row of links includes 'A - Z Index', 'Contact', 'Employment', 'Sign Up for Updates' (highlighted with a red circle), and 'TEA Correspondence'. The main navigation menu includes 'About TEA', 'Texas Schools', 'Academics', 'Finance & Grants', 'Reports & Data', 'Student Assessment', and 'Texas Educators'. A large banner for 'Coronavirus (COVID-19)' features a 'GET UPDATES' button. Below the banner are three categories: 'Coronavirus (COVID-19)', 'Supplemental Special Education Services', and 'Texas Home Learning'. The 'The Latest TEA News' section includes a sub-header and a description, followed by three news categories: 'Emergency Support', 'Texas Schools', and 'About'.

- Special Student Populations
  - At-Risk and Highly Mobile Student Program Division
  - Early Childhood Education
  - English Learners
  - Foster Care and Student Success
  - Gifted/Talented Education
  - Languages Other Than English
  - McKinney-Vento Homeless Education
  - Mental and Behavioral Health
  - Military Connected Students
  - Pregnancy Programs
  - Spanish Curriculum Standards
  - Special Education Updates

# Icons within the guide

The icons are located throughout the guide to assist with finding information needed.

The table of contents and the chapters are grouped by color.



Preface, Appendices, and References



Overview



Cross-System and Collaboration



District and LEA (Local Educational Agency) Responsibilities

Use the icons as a valuable resource for understanding of specific information.



Tip



Reminder



Collaboration



Note



Law



Resources







New Items



Best Practice

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# Where can I get more information about Foster Care at TEA?

Visit:

[TEA Foster Care & Student Success Webpage](#)

Subscribe:

[TEA Foster Care & Student Success Newsletter](#)

Email:

[Fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov](mailto:Fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov)

Chapter  
13



# Transitioning From Foster Care & Post-Secondary Education Opportunities



- Transitional Living Services Described
- Helping Students Prepare for the Transition to Successful Adulthood
- High School to College & Career – Creating Post-Secondary Pathways
- Post-Secondary Education Opportunities
- Financial Supports for Post-Secondary Education
- Preparing Students for College
- College Support Network and College Campus Programs

# Transitional Living Services Described



Preparation  
for Adult Living  
(PAL) Staff

Transition  
Centers

Circle of  
Support (COS)

Extended  
Foster Care

Supervised  
Independent  
Living (SIL)





There are a number of colleges and universities that are SIL locations. This partnership between DFPS and local colleges and universities assists students with their post-secondary goals by providing housing and transitional living support and assistance. [Education Reach for Texas](#) maintains a list of Texas colleges that participate.



# Prepare Students for Transition to Adulthood



## Insurance

- All children and youth in the conservatorship of DFPS are enrolled in STAR Health.
- Medical coverage to young adults ages 18 to 25 who remain in extended foster care at age 18.

## Driver's License

- Students in DFPS conservatorship, and those 18-21 living in a DFPS-paid foster care placement, are eligible for waived driver's license and state identification fees

## Certified Copies of Birth Certificate, Social Security Card and I.D. Card

- Youth should receive certified copies (or the original) of these documents before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. School personnel can follow up with students to make sure they have received copies.

# Prepare Students for Transition to Successful Adulthood

Documents students should receive or have no later than 30 days before exiting foster care:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Personal Identification (ID) card
- Immunization records
- Information contained in youth's Health Passport
- Proof of enrollment in Medicaid, if appropriate
- Any existing medical power of attorney regarding the youth



- DFPS, [“Access Granted – Texas Foster Care Handbook for Children, Youth & Young Adults”](#) (available in English & Spanish)
- DFPS, [Transitional Living Services](#)
- Texas Foster Youth Justice Project, [“A Guide for Those “Aging Out” of Foster Care in Texas”](#)

# High School to College & Career



## Texas College and Career Readiness School Models (CCRSM) Model

- Close gaps and equalize access to high-quality education
- Programs and opportunities to acquire specialized skills, hands-on training, knowledge and experience

## Early College High School (ECHS)

- Open-enrollment program that blends college and high school coursework
- Students can earn up to two years of college credit, tuition-free, while enrolled in high school

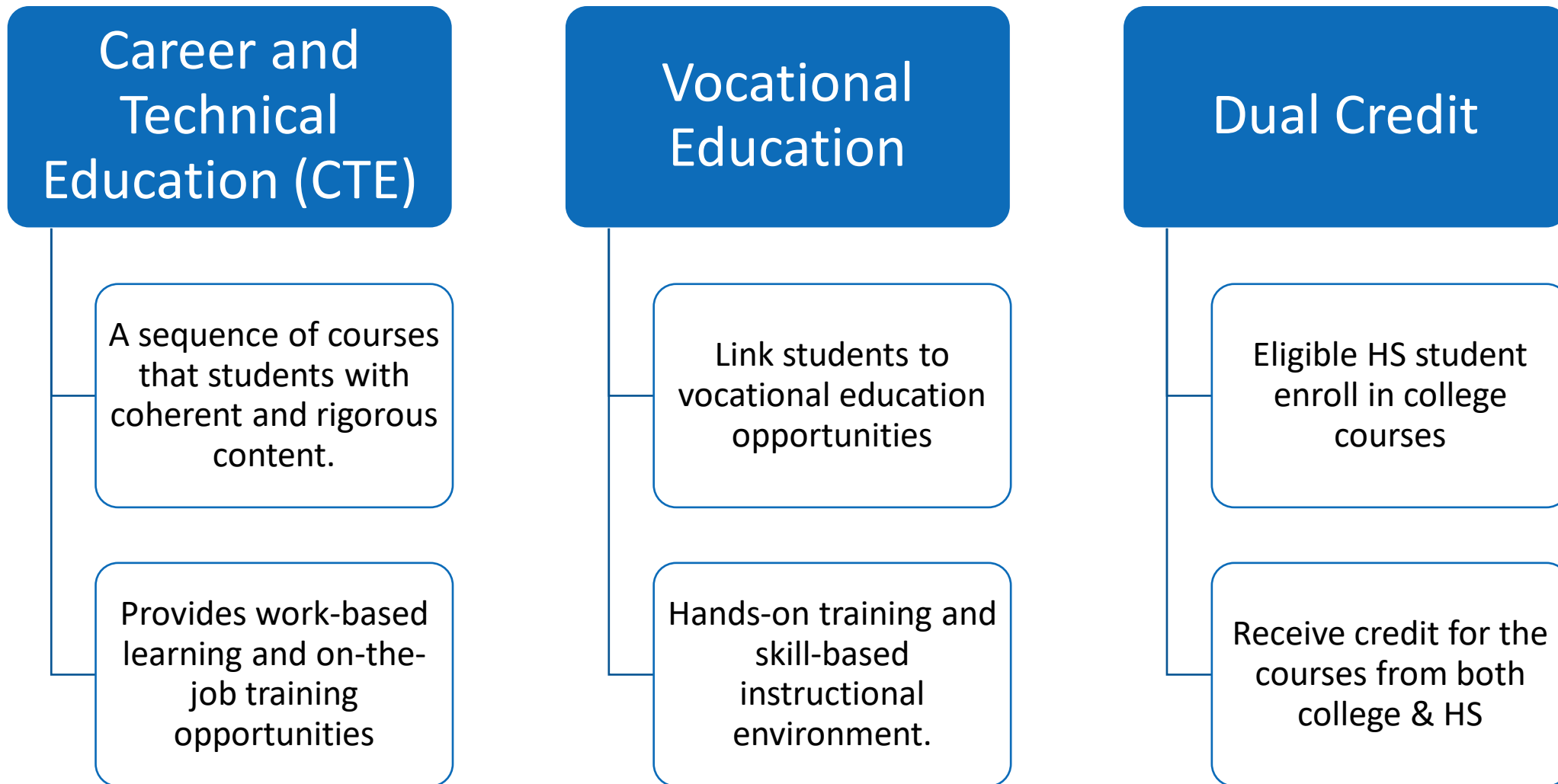
## Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (T-STEM)

- Open-enrollment program that engages students in rigorous STEM curriculum
- Students learn real-world contents; STEM enrichment activities: clubs and competitions

## Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (PTECH)

- Open-enrollment program that creates workforce pathways aligned with high-demand & high wage fields in the state
- Student work toward an associate degree while gaining hands-on work experience

# Creating Post-Secondary Pathways





### Workforce Development Boards – Workforce Solutions

Workforce Solutions office

Offer vocational education, job training and certificate programs, job preparedness, career exploration

### Job Corps

Residential career training program

Helps eligible youth ages 16 -24 complete their HS education, train for meaningful careers and obtain employment



**Note:** Enrollment in a dual credit course activates a student's lifetime Tuition and Fees Waiver (*See Financial Supports for Post-Secondary Education, on page 143*)



ACT

TSIA

SAT







## Pause for Understanding

What information in  
Chapter 13 is new so far?



# Post-Secondary Education Opportunities



**LAW:** Each public institution of higher education must designate a Higher Education Foster Care Liaison and report the name and contact information for the liaison to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). THECB also has a designated Foster Care Liaison.



**Law:** State law requires that school staff provide information to all students in grades 11 or 12 in substitute care about the tuition and fee waiver, dual credit, or other courses where a student may earn joint high school and college credit.



**TIP:** LEA Foster Care Liaisons are encouraged to link with local colleges and campus-based support programs to develop connections and facilitate effective transitions into post-secondary learning for students in foster care.



## College Tuition and Fee Waiver

- Some individuals formerly in TX foster care system qualify for a lifetime tuition and fee waiver at any TX state-supported institution of higher education, as long a student enrolls in at least one college or dual credit before turning 25.

# College Tuition and Fee Waiver

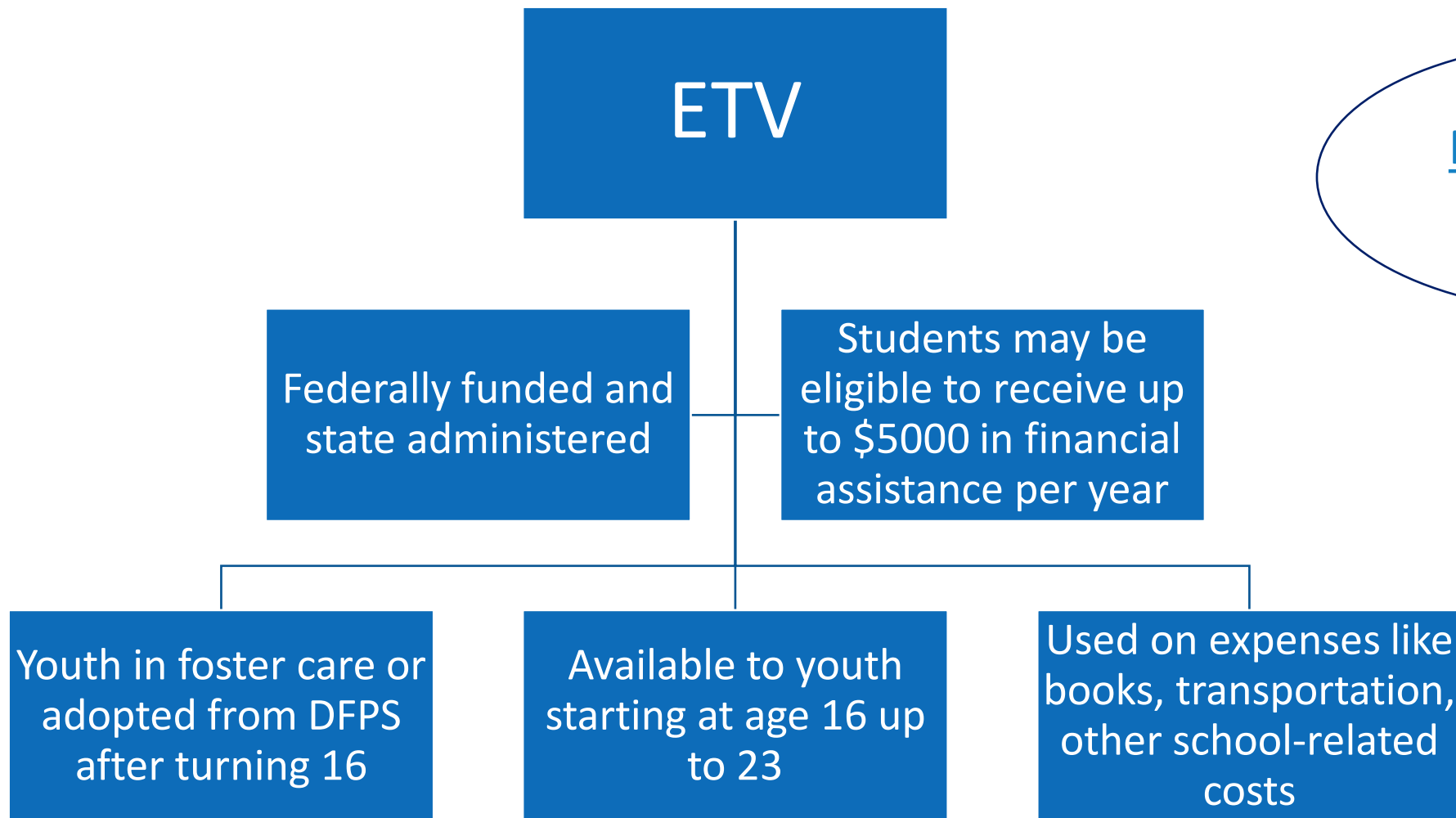


- Youth are eligible to have college tuition and fee waived in TX state-supported colleges or universities, public medical schools, public dental schools, public junior colleges, and public technical institutions.
- A youth must have been in DFPS conservatorship before an adoption or PMC was granted to be eligible for the college tuition and fee waiver.
- School staff should help students to activate the college tuition and fee waiver while they are still in high school.



**Note:** The tuition and fee waiver is verified in the form of a letter from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services provided to the youth to present to their institution of higher education. Schools may require that the student provide new letter each academic year.

# Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program



[DFPS ETV Program page](#)  
for more information.

# Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



It is important that students applying for college fill out their FAFSA accurately to qualify for the maximum number of scholarships and financial resources available.

Students applying for financial aid in Texas should submit their FAFSA applications by the priority deadline in order to maximize the amount of aid they may receive.




## Did You Know?

In accordance with TEC § 28.0256, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year with students enrolled in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, each student must do one of the following in order to graduate:

- ✓ Complete and submit a FAFSA;
- ✓ Complete and submit a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA); or
- ✓ Submit a signed opt-out form.

# Preparing Students for College



**Reminder:** When students complete their college application via [applytexas.org](https://applytexas.org), close attention should be paid when filling out their current or prior foster care status. These questions help colleges and universities identify students who may be eligible to receive additional financial and campus supports.



## TIP: Texas Lifetime Tuition and Fees Waiver

- is activated regardless of whether a student completes a course
- Contact student's PAL staff to confirm eligibility
- DFPS State Tuition and Fee Waiver Form is provided in a hard copy by TX DFPS. Request multiple copies.
- If new form is needed, contact Regional DFPS PAL staff where youth is from or DFPS state office
- Student must present hard copy when enrolling at a public TX higher education institution.



## Education Reach for Texans

Do students need a bacterial meningitis vaccination in order to enter college?

- A statewide network focused on increasing college access and retention for foster care alumni.
- Works with colleges and universities promoting best practices for higher education for students formerly in foster care
- Yes. Texas college or university students cannot start classes until they show documentation that their vaccination or booster dose is current.
- [Texas Department of State Health Services website](#)



# Resources: Planning for Post-Secondary Education

## State Foster Care Resources:

- [DFPS Higher Education Services/Information for Current & Former Foster Youth, Adopted Youth, and youth in PCA/PMC](#)
- [Education Reach for Texans, Texas Post-Secondary Programs for Students Formerly in Foster Care](#)
- [Texas Children’s Commission, “Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons Resource Guide.](#)

## National Resources:

- [U.S. Department of Education, “Foster Care Transition Toolkit”](#)
- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid, “Foster Care Help”](#)
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway, College Scholarships and Supports for Higher Education](#)

## General State Resources

- [College for All Texans](#)
- [Texas Gear Up](#)
- [TEA Dual Credit FAQ](#)

# Appendices



A: Glossary of Terms

B: Rights of Children and Youth in Foster Care

C: Key People involved in the Life of a student in Foster Care

D: CPS Process – Flow Chart

E: Placement Authorization Form (2085)

F: Designation of Education Decision-Maker (2085-E)

# Appendices (cont.)



G: List of School Records to be transferred through TREx system

H: Education records collected by CPS system case record and Education portfolio

I: A Description of the responsibilities and duties of DFPS Regional Education Specialist

J: Resource Section

K: DFPS forms, Enrollment, and Identification FAQs



## Pause for Understanding

What information from today's presentation will you make sure staff is trained on?



# Survey

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Thank you!

[https://tea.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b1tELNiEiZHPUXk](https://tea.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b1tELNiEiZHPUXk)

# Questions?

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If you have further questions, please email:

[fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov](mailto:fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov)