



MARCH 25, 2022

10:00 A.M. -
11:30 P.M.

FOSTER CARE &
STUDENT SUCCESS GUIDE
Chapters 1-3



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





Objectives

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

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

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

Preface

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Questions

Foster Care Guide Training Series

Let's see
who is
here.



In the chat, please indicate your job title.



What information is important to your work with students in foster care?

Sign Up for Updates!

The screenshot shows the TEA website header with navigation links: Popular Applications, AskTED, ECOS for Educators, Grant Opportunities, Secure Applications, TEAL Login, TSDS, and Help Desk. The TEA logo is on the left, and a search bar is on the right. Below the header is a menu with icons for About TEA, Texas Schools, Academics, Finance & Grants, Reports & Data, Student Assessment, and Texas Educators. A central banner features a photo of Governor Greg Abbott and other officials, with text about Coronavirus (COVID-19) and a 'GET UPDATES' button. Below the banner are three categories: Coronavirus (COVID-19), Supplemental Special Education Services, and Texas Home Learning. At the bottom, there are three columns for 'The Latest TEA News': 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

Letter from Alumna of Texas Foster Care System

- The first-hand experience of a student that was in foster care.
- The letter shows the support and guidance that is needed to assist students.
 - "My hope is that professionals in all systems and communities realize that my story can become norm when everyone involved does their part to ensure the best interest of children and youth are not only talked about, but more importantly follow through on."
- With all supports working together for the best interest of the student, it will ensure the student has a great start to their future.



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

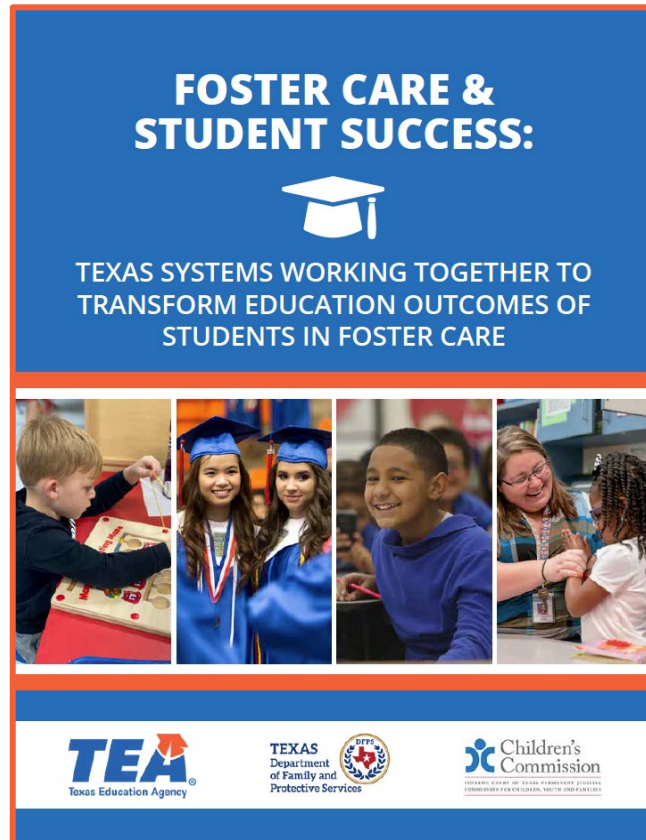
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Foster Care &
Student
Success Guide
Preface





- Defining: Foster Care
- Guide Background
- How to use the guide

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

Top Things Educators Should know about Students in Foster Care

MAINTAINING
CONFIDENTIALITY AND
SENSITIVITY IS VERY
IMPORTANT.



TRAUMA AND ADVERSE
EXPERIENCES MAY IMPACT
STUDENT LEARNING,
BEHAVIOR, AND
SOCIALIZATION.

STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE
WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN
DECISION-MAKING AND
ENGAGE IN
GOAL SETTING.

SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES ARE
AVAILABLE TO HELP STUDENTS
TRANSITION OUT OF FOSTER
CARE AND PAY FOR COLLEGE.

Chapter
1





- Introduction
- National Overview
- Maintaining School Stability
- Texas Foster Care Data



- Students in foster care in Texas
- Students in foster care are highly mobile
- The National Working Group on Foster Care Education



Maintaining School Stability



- School stability is a necessary component to improving the educational experience and outcomes of students in foster care.



Working Collaboratively

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Texas Foster Care Data



- In 2019, children from the ages of 14–17 made up approximately 17% of children in the Texas child welfare system.
- 1,212 young people aged out of foster care in 2019 and lived on average in 6 different placements.
- **PEIMS**
 - 2013, Texas Law required capturing students in foster care thru Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).
 - 2015, ESSA included foster care as a reported sub-population for data collection & analysis to be performed by state & LEAs.



Graduation Rates

- 2019, foster care graduation rates dropped from 63.4% to 62.6%.
- The state graduation rate held steady at 90.0%.

Dropout Rates

- 2019, 25.0% of students in foster care dropped out of school.
- 1 out of every 4 students in foster care dropped out compared to 5.9% state rate.

Child Welfare & Disproportionality



Disproportionality is a term used to describe the over- or underrepresentation of a particular group in comparison to their percentage in the general population.

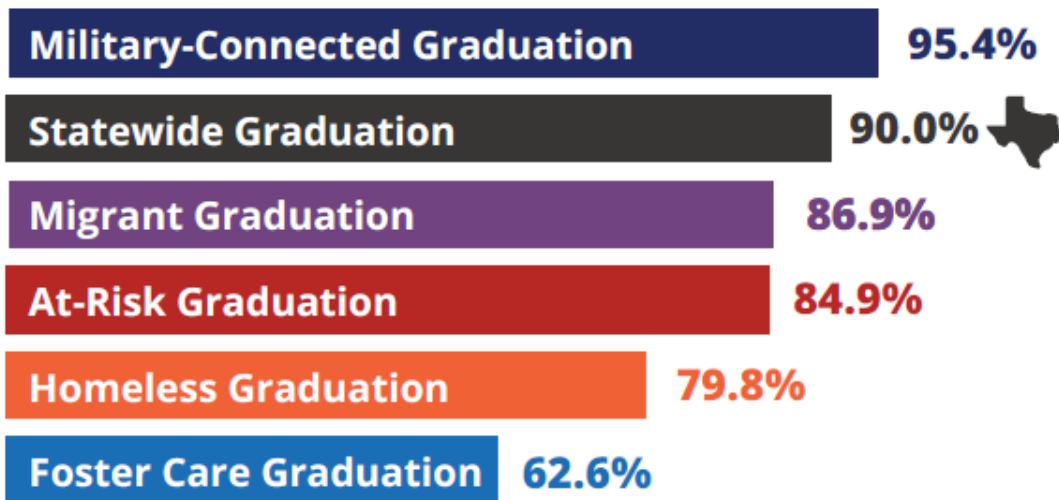
Children of color are overrepresented in the child welfare system.

There is research available to increase understanding of the theories regarding the disproportionate representation of children of color in foster care, including parent and family risk factors, community factors, and organizational and systemic factors.

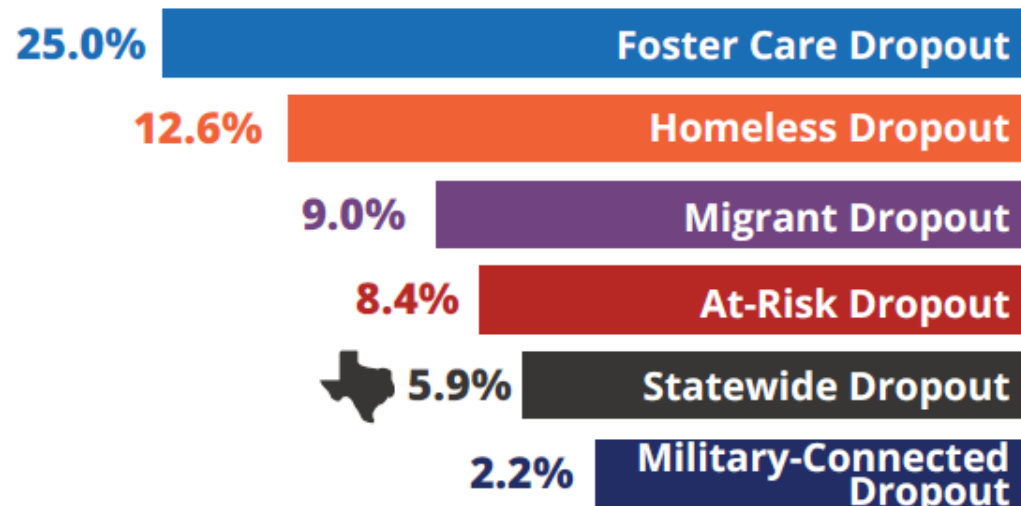
Graduation & Dropout Rates



Graduation Rates



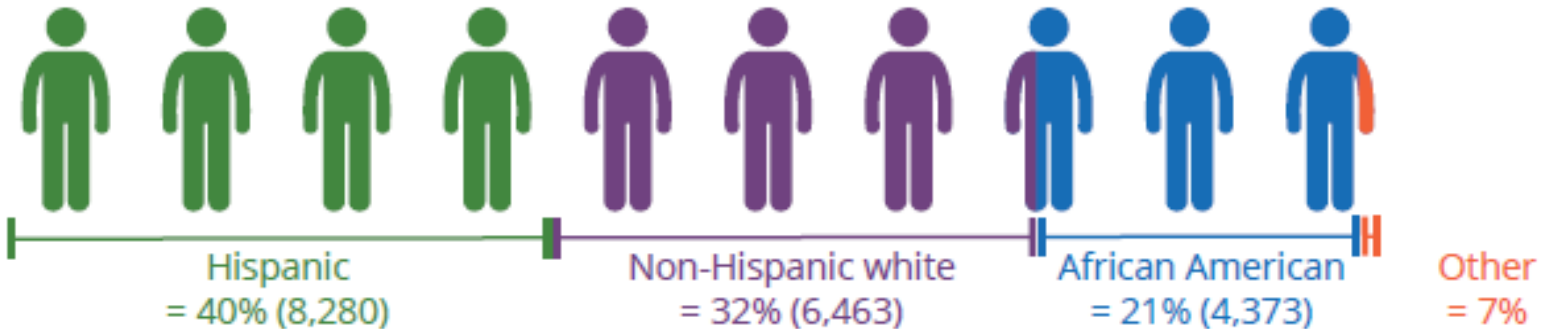
Dropout Rates



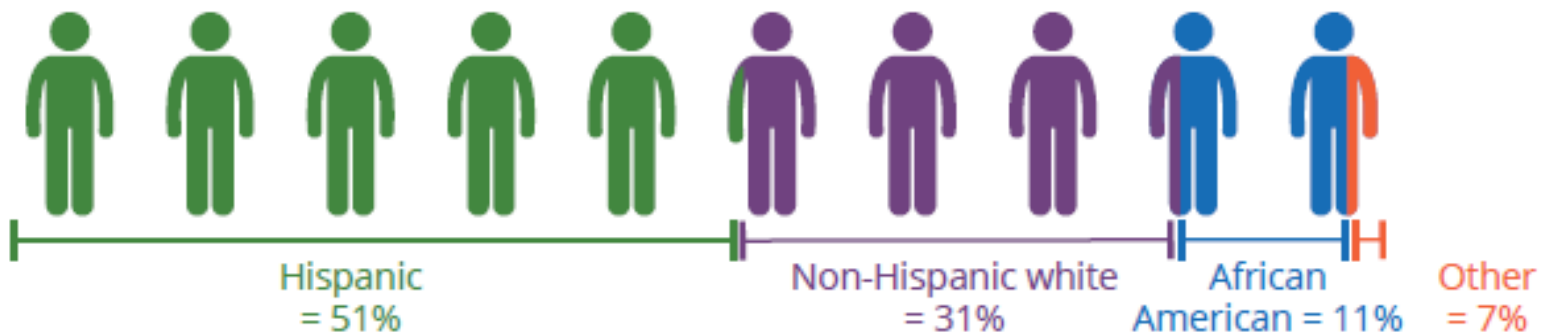
Demographics of Texas Students in Foster Care



Students in Foster Care:



Total Population of Students in Texas:





Resources

[Texas Education Agency, Foster & Student Success](#)

[The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services](#)

[Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families, Foster care and Education](#)

[U.S. Department of Education, Foster Care](#)

[Data Report from DFPS/Children's Commission/TEA](#)



Pause for Understanding



What information is new to you from the guide?

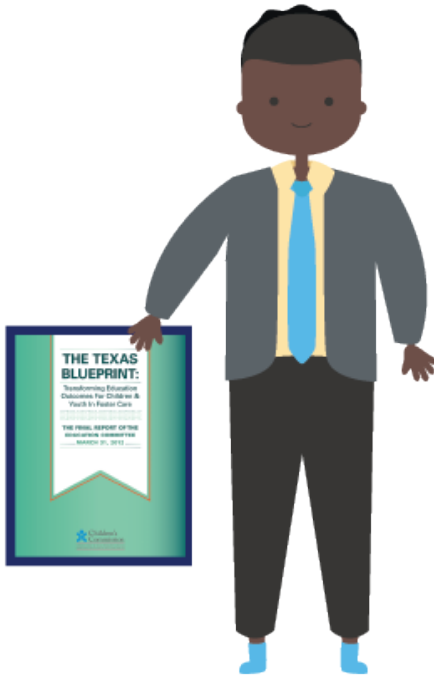


How would you share this information within your LEA?



Chapter 2





- Texas Commits to Improving Education Outcomes of Students in Care
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Court System
- Education System
- Workforce System



- In 2010, The Supreme Court of Texas issued an Order Establishing the Education Committee of the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families (the Children's Commission).
- The Texas Blueprint Task Force was created in 2012 with the Children's Commission, DFPS and TEA for recommendations and monitor implementations.



Key Resources for Educators:

[Foster Care College Tuition & Fee Waiver Process: Flow chart](#)

[Information sharing between Child Welfare & Schools](#)

[Regional CPS Education Consortia](#)

[Texas CASA](#)

[Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons](#)

[Statewide Survey on local collaboration: One-pager](#)



DFPS staff are responsible for:

- Providing services to children and families in their own homes;
- Placing children in foster care;
- Providing services to help youth in foster care make the transition to a successful adulthood; and
- Placing children in adoptive homes.

Within each DFPS region, there are a number of services and opportunities to support students in foster care.



- **State Education Agency: SEA**

- Texas Education Agency is the state agency responsible for administering federal and state education laws and policies.

- **Local Education Agency: LEA**

- Texas has more than 1,200 Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) operating more than 8,800 public schools, including charter schools.

- **Education Service Centers: ESC**

- The support services and technical assistance ESCs provide to LEAs enables LEAs to operate more efficiently, implement legislative and commissioner initiatives, and assist in improving student performance.

Institutions of Higher Education

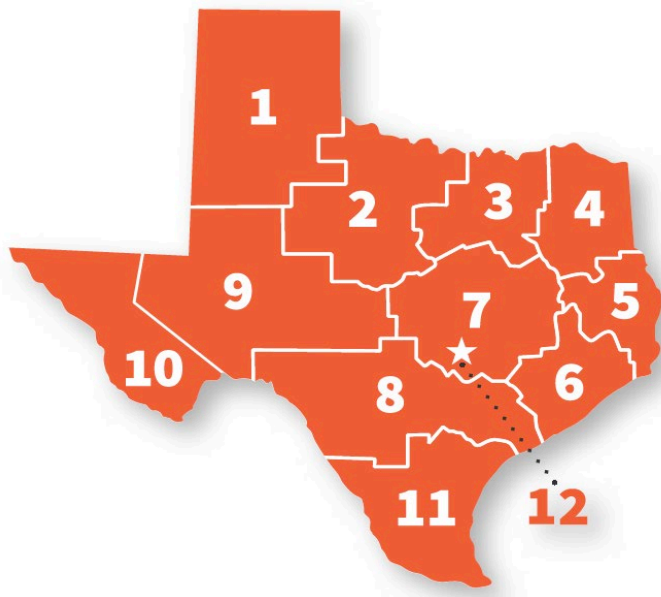


IHE is any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, medical or dental unit, public state college, or other agency higher education.

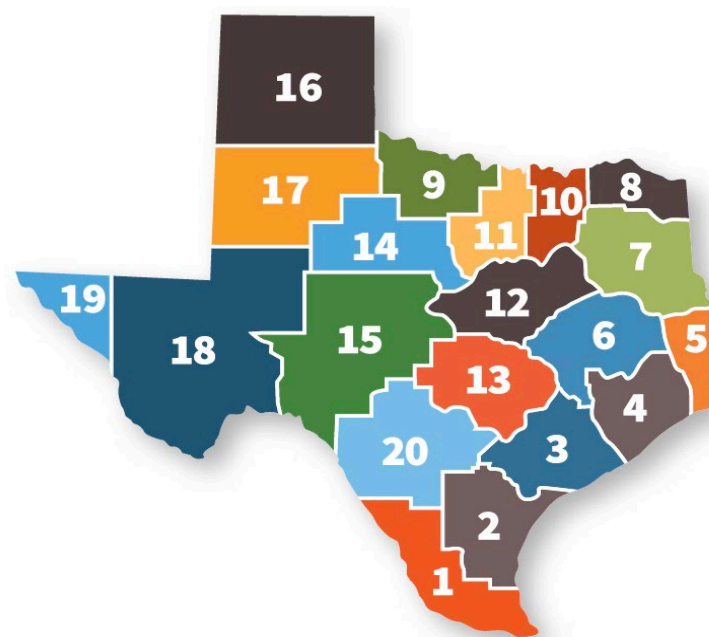
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) designated a foster care liaison to support and assist students in foster care.
The name and contact of the foster care liaison must be made public.



DFPS Regions



ESC Regions



TIP: DFPS and ESC service region boundaries differ. It is important to clarify which type of region is being referred to when working with partners from the child welfare system. As Community-Based Care rolls out across the state, the DFPS map will change. See the [Community Based Care](#) webpage for the most up-to-date map and which contractors are operating in each area.



- TWC is part of [Texas Workforce Solutions](#), a local and statewide network comprised of TWC 's twenty-eight workforce development boards and their contracted service providers and community partners.
- Eligible youth in foster care may receive priority over other equally qualified individuals—except eligible veterans—in the receipt of federal- and state-funded TWC services.


[TWC Foster Care Programs](#)




Where is this information located?

1. Things Educators should know about students in foster care
2. 2018-2019 STAAR Results for students in foster care
3. ESC Foster Care Champions information

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
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Chapter 3

Stronger
than

You
Expected



- Cross-System Collaboration is Necessary
- Guiding Principles and Ground Rules
- Practical Steps for Establishing Collaboration and Local Partnerships
- Collaboration in Action





- The child welfare system, educational agencies, and legal system stakeholders must work together to remove barriers, strengthen partnerships, and work in new and different ways to institute shared practices that promote the educational success of students in foster care.

Guiding Principals and Ground Rules

**Guiding Principle #1**

Children and youth in foster care are entitled to remain in the same school unless it is not in their best interest.

Guiding Principle #2

Children and youth in foster care experience seamless transitions between schools.

Guiding Principle #3

Young children in foster care enter early grades ready to learn.

Guiding Principle #4

Children and youth in foster care have the opportunity and support to fully participate in all developmentally appropriate activities and all aspects of the education experience.

Guiding Principle #5

Children and youth in foster care have supports to prevent school dropout, truancy, and disciplinary actions, and to reengage in the education experience.

Guiding Principle #6

Children and youth in foster care are involved, empowered, and prepared to self-advocate in all aspects of their education.

Guiding Principle #7

Children and youth in foster care have consistent adult support to advocate for them and to make education decisions.

Guiding Principle #8

Children and youth in foster care have support to enter and complete post-secondary education.



- The “Guiding Principles” and “Ground Rules” were important components to the successful collaborative work of the Education Committee and the Texas Blueprint report.

GROUND RULES

- ⇒ Students in the Texas foster care system are our collective responsibility; finger-pointing is counterproductive and divisive.
- ⇒ Courts, education, and child welfare must all be represented in the discussion if a coordinated approach is to be established.
- ⇒ Collaboration requires people within systems to work in new ways. The student must remain at the center of decisions for collaboration to work most effectively.
- ⇒ Assume best intent of the person you are working with to support win-win collaborative solutions.
- ⇒ Do not let a lack of current funding options deter creative ideas.
- ⇒ All members must develop an understanding of the challenges other partners face and remain open to learning more about the system they are working with.
- ⇒ Communication is key to developing collaboration and continuing it in the future.



- Explanation of definitions, acronyms, processes & responsibilities
- Topics
- Bringing people together
- Organizations



- Education Specialists from DFPS partner with Foster Care Liaisons from LEAs and Foster Care Champions at regional education service centers (ESCs) to coordinate and facilitate foster care consortia to identify and eliminate barriers, provide cross-systems training, and share meaningful resources to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care.

- Topics for Consortia: Foster care, ESSA, transportation, graduation, student identification, tuition and fee waivers, and roles and responsibilities of school and DFPS personnel.





Building Partnerships & Collaborations

Regional DFPS Education Consortia

When Working together Works

Improving Education Continuity and School Stability for Children
in Out-of Home Care



Pause for Understanding



What would you like to see in future foster care guide chapter training?



Upcoming Trainings



Foster Care & Student Success Guide: Chapters 4-5

April 22, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – [Register](#)



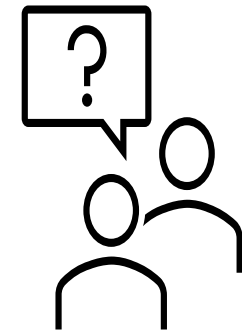
Foster Care & Student Success Guide: Chapter 6

May 19, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - [Register](#)

<https://tea.texas.gov/fostercare>

Questions?

If you have further questions please email:
fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov



Survey



https://tea.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6sNFrRUFWH3kwXs