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# Educational Stability for Oregon's Foster Care Students

JCIP Advisory Committee

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Presentation by Joni Gilles, Oregon Department of Education

[Joni.gilles@state.or.us](mailto:Joni.gilles@state.or.us)



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# Federal and State Legal Foundations

- Fostering Connections (2008)
- Uninterrupted Scholars Act (2013)
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, 2016)
- Individuals With Disabilities Education Act
- Section 504 Rehabilitation Act
- Oregon Revised Statute 339.133(2017)
- Oregon Revised Statute 339.134(2019)
- Senate Bill 475



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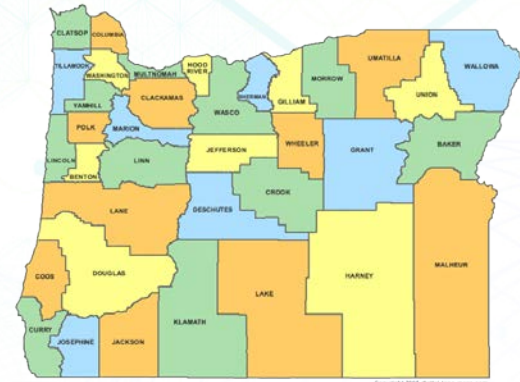
Education

- ✓ On average, students lose 4-6 months of academic progress per school change
- ✓ Studies found that school stability led to increased graduation rates
- ✓ School can be a positive counterweight to abuse, neglect, & separation

# Foster Care by the Numbers

(October 1, 2019 count)

- ✓ Approximately 3200 students in foster care (ages 5-17, does not include residential care)
- ✓ Only 30 out of 197 school districts do not have at least one foster care student
- ✓ Fifteen districts have > 50
- ✓ Districts with most FC students
  - ✓ Beaverton 93
  - ✓ Springfield 94
  - ✓ Eugene 102
  - ✓ Medford 135
  - ✓ Salem-Keizer 173
  - ✓ PPS 188







# Roles and Responsibilities: Points of Contact and Caseworkers

Points of Contact	Caseworker
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ POC in each district required by law</li><li>✓ Coordinates with DHS/Child Welfare on implementation of foster care provision</li><li>✓ Responsible for receiving and disseminating School Notification forms (each district may develop its own process)</li><li>✓ Facilitate transfer of records and immediate enrollment</li><li>✓ Develop and coordinate school/district of origin transportation procedures</li><li>✓ Facilitate data-sharing, consistent with FERPA and other privacy protocols</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Primary contact between children in foster care and school staff</li><li>✓ Establish a process to notify a school when a child has been placed into foster care or there has been a change in foster care placement</li><li>✓ Complete School Notification form and give to POC</li><li>✓ Fill out transportation request (if needed) and give to POC</li><li>✓ Provide records/information</li><li>✓ Work with POC to provide immediate enrollment</li><li>✓ Work with POC to coordinate transportation</li></ul>



# DHS/ODE COLLABORTION

- ✓ Points of Contact for each of 197 school districts
- ✓ School Notification Form
- ✓ Transportation Request Form
- ✓ Transportation Reimbursement Process
- ✓ Technical Assistance Manual
- ✓ Interagency Agreements (Child Nutrition, Data, Transportation)
- ✓ Guidance on ORS 339.134 (SB 905)
- ✓ Presenters: Catherine Stelzer (DHS Education Coordinator) and Joni Gilles (ODE Foster Care POC)
- ✓ Six presentations (October-December) Salem, Eugene, Medford, Roseburg, The Dalles, Hillsboro
- ✓ 150+ attendees (School district POCs, DHS caseworkers, supervisors, certifiers, CASAs)
- ✓ Spring trainings will begin in March (Ontario, Redmond, Tillamook, others TBD)



# ESSA Basic Concepts: Definitions

(importance of common understanding)

1. School of Origin
2. Best Interest Finding
3. Transportation
4. Immediate Enrollment/Student Records



# Considerations

## 1. What is working well?

- ✓ Belief in educational stability
- ✓ Examples of DHS/District/County collaboration
- ✓ Continued data collection to help inform education decisions
- ✓ Continue statewide trainings; expand participant groups

## 2. Where can we strengthen the system?

- ✓ Communication between district POCs and Caseworkers
- ✓ Not a uniform understanding of Best Interest Findings (schools not being informed or being able to give input)

## 3. What are possible next steps?

- ✓ DHS Point of Contact (similar to district POC model)
- ✓ Work group to study BIF using other state models
- ✓ How do we align components of educational stability model?
- ✓ Other

