

One-on-One Foster Care Interventions

Greeley Evans District 6

Greeley, CO



The District 6 Family Center supports students in foster care by conducting school visits to meet with students one on one in their schools. The primary goal of these interventions is to ensure stability of students in foster care. Less than 3% of young people raised in foster care graduate from a 4-year college, and only about half of youth in foster care finish high school (<https://www.nfyi.org/issues/education/>). This is not the District 6 wants to see for these students, which motivates the services for this group and the individualized approach to interventions.

District 6's Students in Transition Liaison works with a number of foster students at the school level to build relationships by meeting with students regularly. During the one-on-one meetings, the goal of stability in education is achieved by diverse approaches tailored to each student's situation. A variety of topics are addressed with each student based on their needs, including receiving credits earned at previous schools, general academic achievement, extracurricular participation, attendance, and placement dynamics.

The liaison works as an advocate for foster students (especially at the high school level where credits are crucial) by reaching out on behalf of students to the administration, counselors, academic achievement staff and teachers if the student is experiencing issues with grades or social adjustment. Through these connections, students' individual narratives are addressed to raise awareness of each youth's unique circumstances and how this might be affecting academic performance.

Foster parents are also involved in the conversation. Parents are included as full educational decision makers of the youth. Decisions where a biological parent would weigh in are brought to the attention of the foster parents, such as permission to join a sports team or club, transportation logistics, and other similar concerns. This approach builds trust between parties and encourages stability by acknowledging the family dynamic the foster family is working toward in their homes.

An emphasis is placed on having each child engage meaningfully with their school outside of academics and the Liaison encourages students to participate in such opportunities. These usually take the form of extracurriculars such as clubs or sports, but could also include volunteer work or other projects. This partnership encourages positive and healthy student-faculty relationships, encourages responsibility, and ties them to a safe, supportive social network.

Foster student interventions will continue as long as possible and are currently supported under the Education Stability Grant which was awarded to District 6 in 2019. The foster program works in close contact with other District 6 programs that support students in transition such as students experiencing homelessness, migrant support staff, and newcomer refugee supports so each team is aware of services potentially available to students that double qualify, or for general services that might support foster students. These teams are all working toward the District's Innovation2020 goals: 'Engage, Empower, Inspire.'