

Every Child Seen : How Schools Support Ohio's Foster Youth

Department of Education and Workforce
and Department of Children and Youth
Collaboration



Agenda

- Introduction & Directors' Welcome
- Every Student Succeeds Act and Educational Stability
- Partnerships and Responsibilities
- Resources



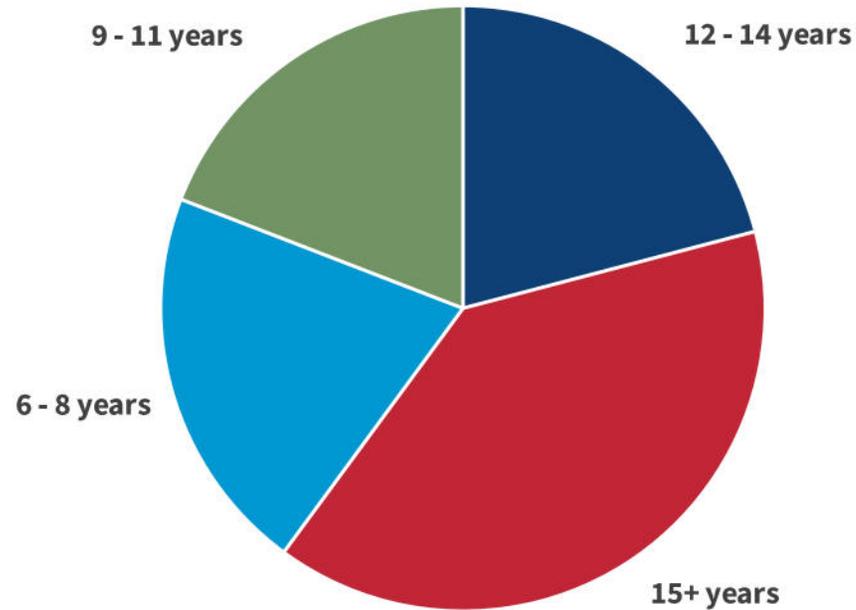
**Do What's
Right For Kids**



Director Dackin and Director Wente

Foster Care Data

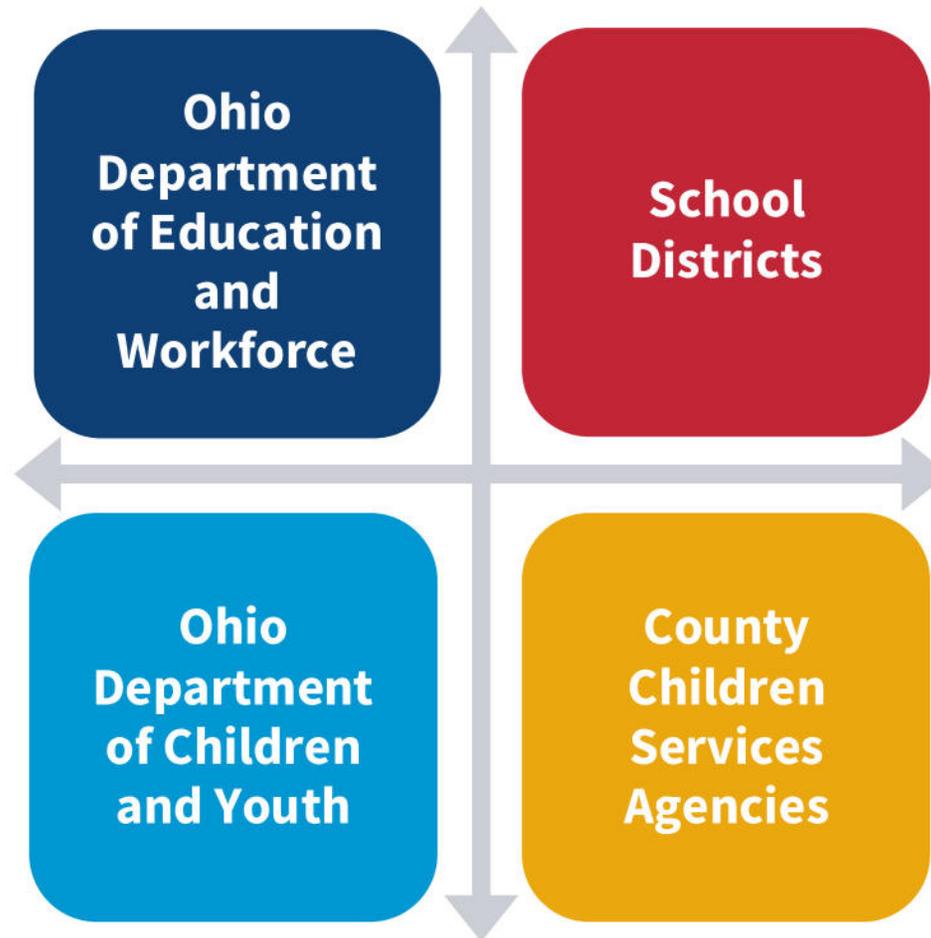
Total Youth in Foster Care School Year 24-25 by age group





Betsy Hauck and Jennifer Miller

Partnerships Increase Educational Stability



Role of the Foster Care Point of Contact

Coordinate

with the child protection agency point of contact

Lead

the development of a process for making the best interest determination

Document

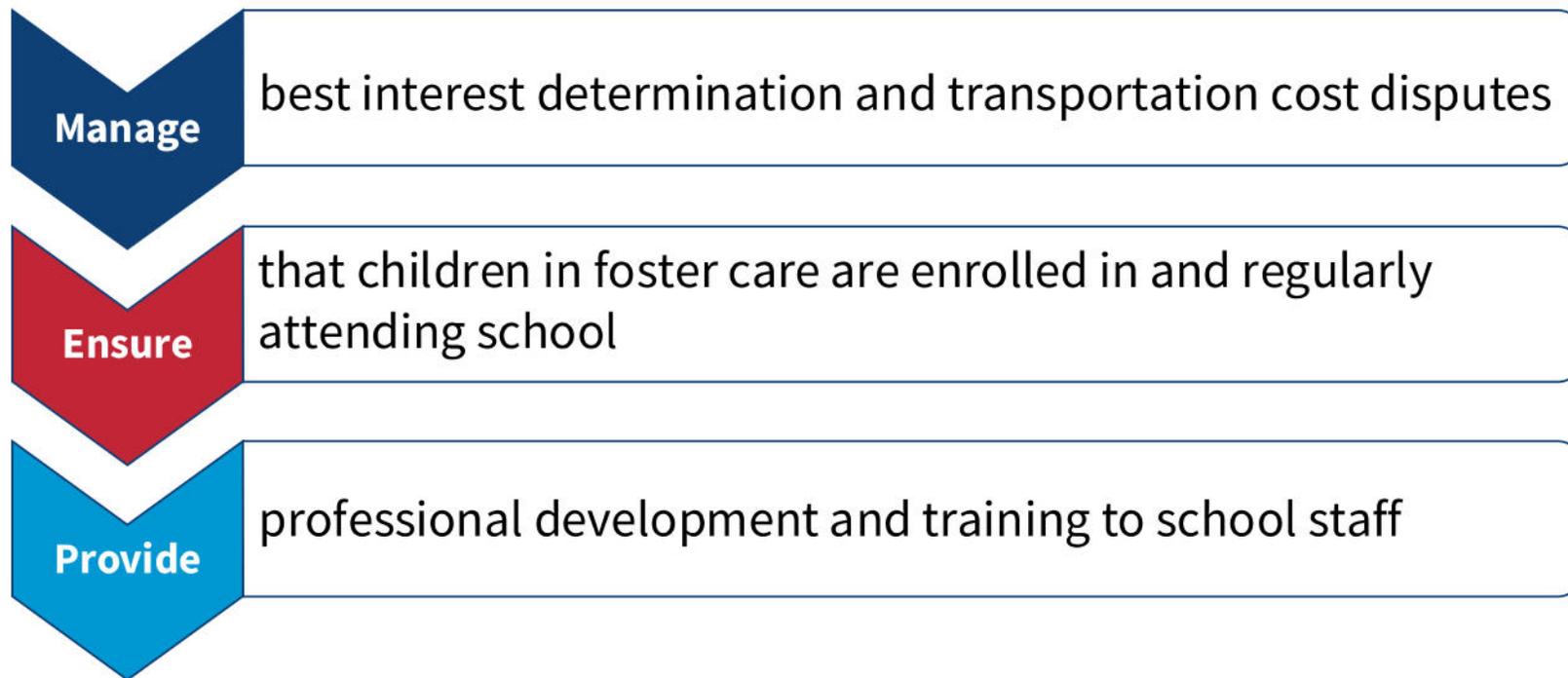
the best interest determination for each student in foster care

Facilitate

the transfer of records and immediate enrollment



Role of the Foster Care Point of Contact



Definition: Youth in Foster Care

24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child protection agency has placement and care responsibility



Types of Custody

Youth in Foster Care

- **Emergency Custody**
- **Temporary Custody**
- **Planned Permanent Living Arrangement**
- **Permanent Custody**

ESSA Provisions Apply

Does not meet the definition of youth in foster care

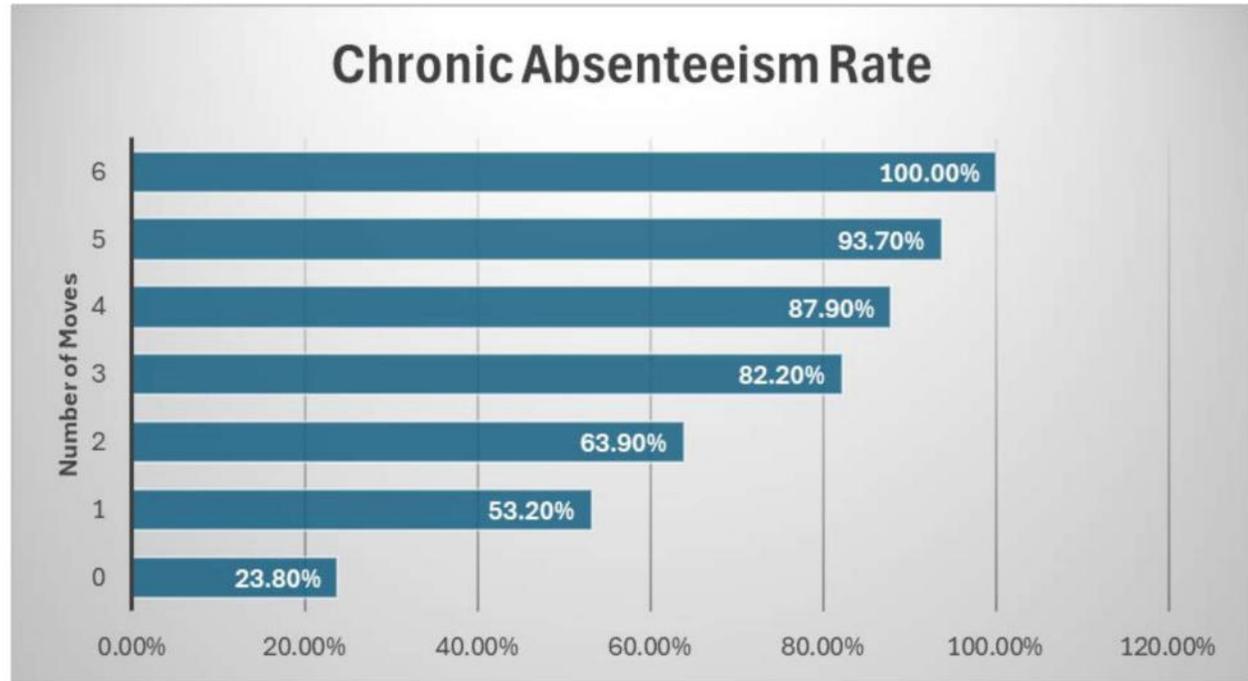
- **Temporary Custody to a relative/kin**
- **Legal Custody to a relative/kin**
- **Guardianship to a relative/kin**
- **Finalized Adoption**

Not Covered by ESSA



Highly Mobile Students 2024

- Students who move districts once in a year have a 2.24x higher chronic absence rate when compared to those that did not move districts.
- After the first move, it is the third move that has the highest increase in chronic absence rates. 1.29x higher than those that only moved 2 times.



Normalcy

Normalcy is being able to experience everything that you would've experienced if you were not in foster care.

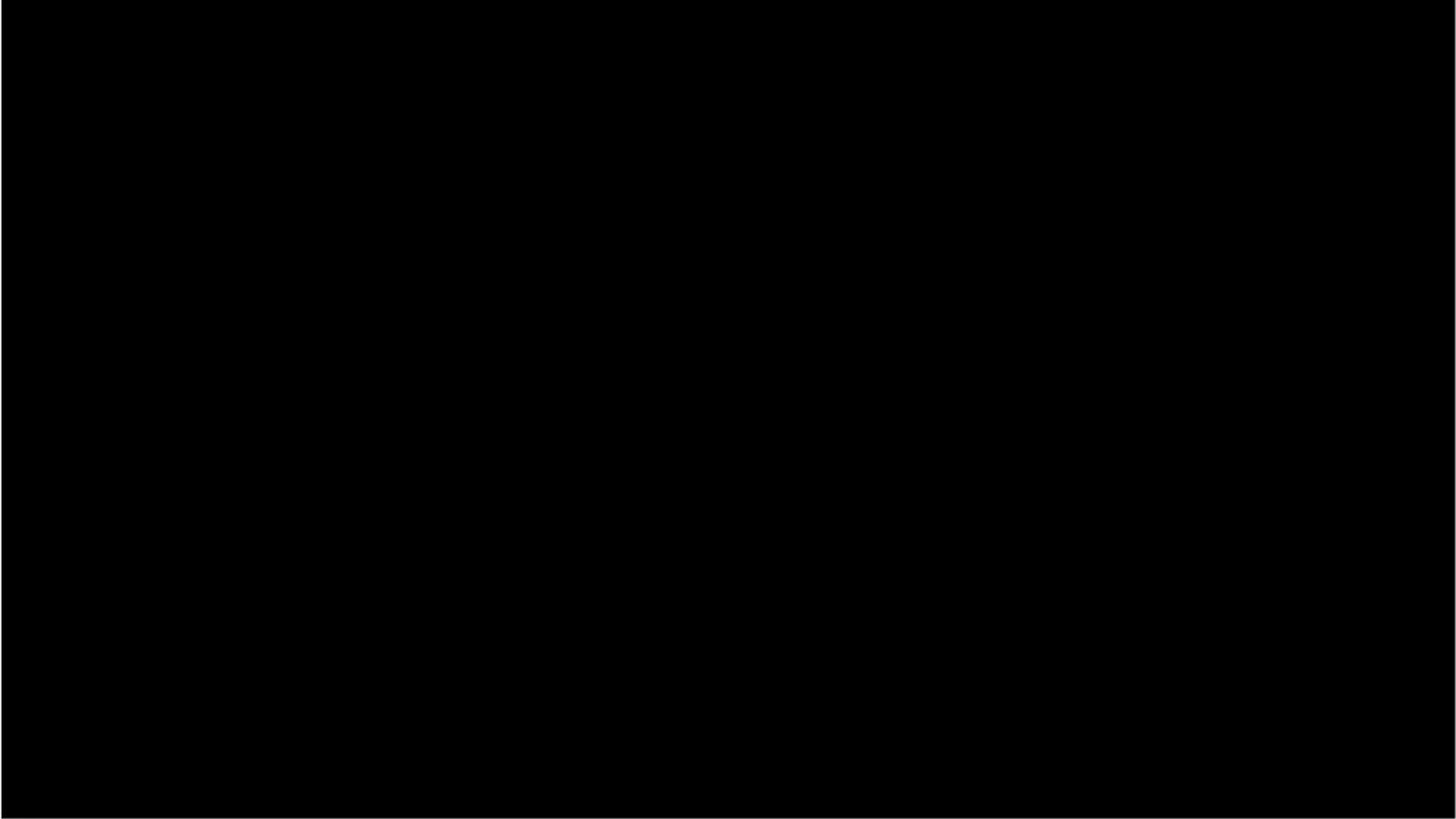


Voices From the Front Line

“Normalcy for teens in foster care is about opening doors to experiences they might otherwise miss. When communities, agencies and caregivers come together for our young people in foster care, we help create opportunities that allow them to explore, connect and create positive memories all while having a sense of belonging.

It might take a lot of work but it’s all worth it!”

Meet Kevin





The student should attend his/her school of origin until a best-interest determination is made.

If it is not in the student's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child should be immediately enrolled in the new school



Do not wait for student records. Enrolling school should immediately contact the school of origin to obtain relevant academic records.



Foster Care Educational Stability Provisions

Local Point of Contact

**Best Interest
Determination**

**Immediate Enrollment
and Records Transfer**

**Transportation to and
from the school of
origin**

Health And Wellness Supports For Students In Foster Care

The National School Lunch Program

State funding is available for family engagement, mental health and wellness supports

Student Success and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact

Foster Youth Bill of Rights

- Ohio Administrative Code 5180:2-5-35
- DCY form 08064
- DCY form 08069



Ohio Youth Advisory Board

What People Need to Know:

Build a good relationship with the youth you are working with.

Ask about me like I'm a human instead of worrying about your checklist.

Let kids have contact with siblings and people they have for support.

Foster youth need to be able to spend time with friends.



“Young people, especially in foster care, need to know that people are there for them. The world has changed. The streets are different. Having friends and relationships help us heal and grow.”

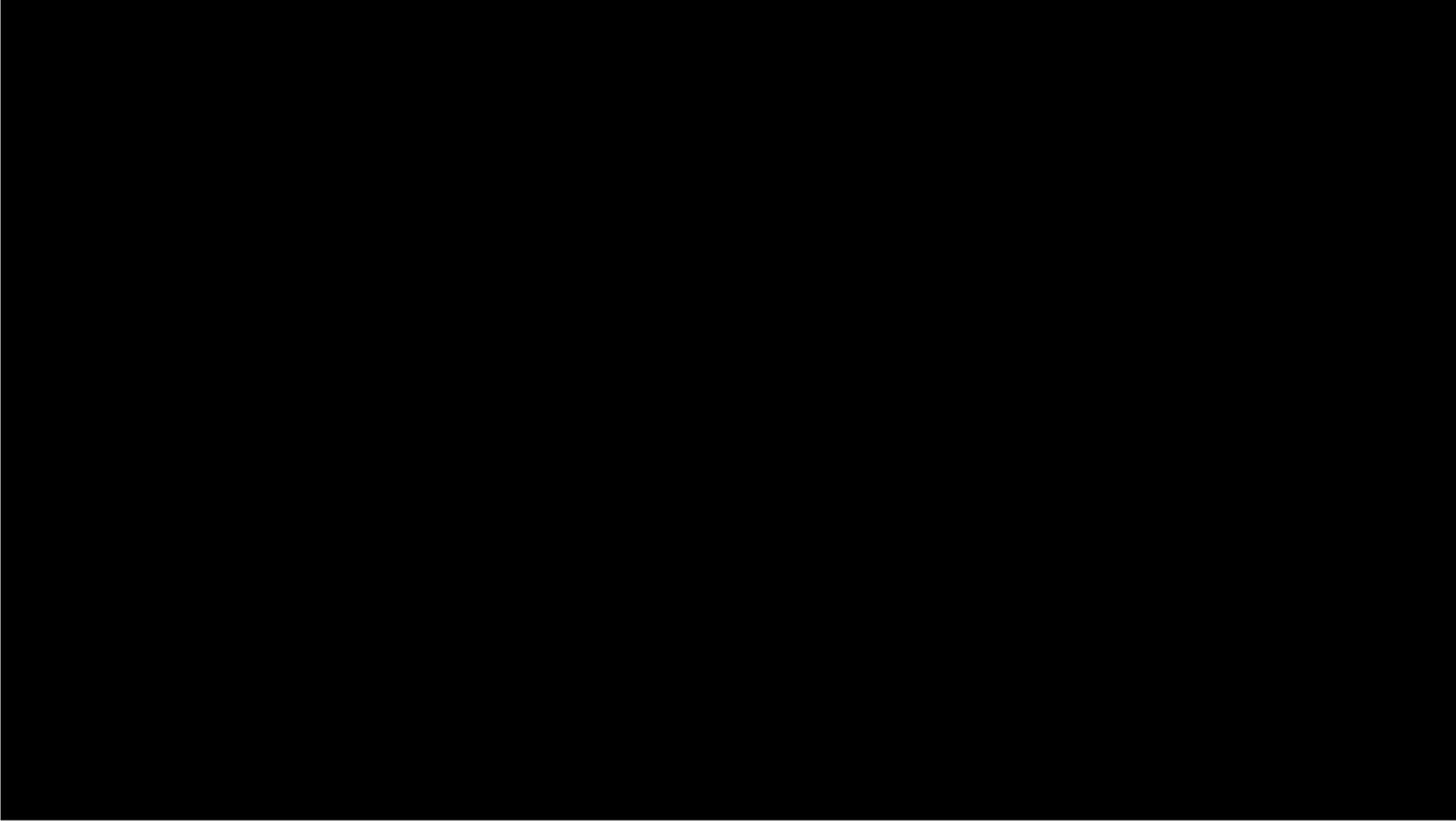
Importance of Youth Voice



- Every child and teen deserves a voice in their safety.
- Every child and teen deserves to be physically and emotionally safe.
- Every child and teen has rights, and it matters if those rights are violated.
- Above all, we must be reminded that youth and teens need to be asked and heard when adults are making decisions about their lives.



Meet La’Naya

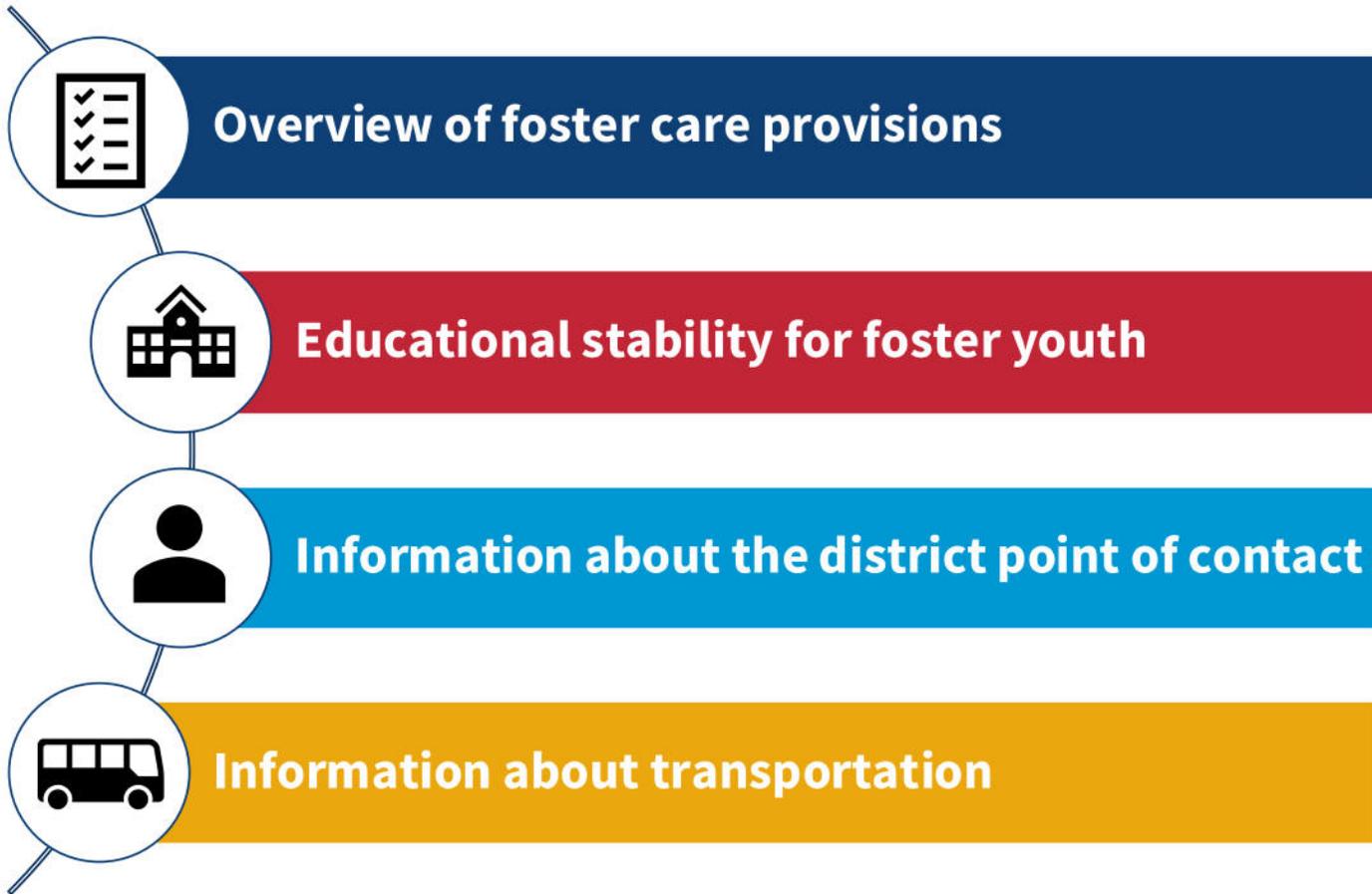




January 15, 2026
Update the Ohio
Education Directory
System with local point
of contact.



More Information About Educational Stability For Students In Foster Care Is Available at:
[Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) | Ohio Department Of Education And Workforce](#) or
[Every Student Succeeds Act - ESSA | Job And Family Services \(Ohio.Gov\)](#)



Questions?

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