

**Child Welfare Policy Roundtable Agenda  
October 4, 2024 10am-11:30am**

**Zoom Webinar ([Registration Required](#))**

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**Policy Focus for October:**

**K-12 Education and Students in Foster Care**

Due to multiple moves and school changes, missed school days, and trauma, youth in foster care face unique challenges to academic achievement. Because of these challenges, youth in foster care are often behind in school compared to their peers and need additional educational supports to help them succeed in school. The October Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will delve into this issue, including an overview of the most recent data on academic engagement and achievement among students in foster care, examples of how the State, local educational agencies, and youth-serving organizations are working to improve educational outcomes for youth in foster care, and opportunities to ensure youth in foster care receive the critical services and supports they need to overcome educational barriers.

**Overview:**

- a. What the Data Show: Academic Engagement and Achievement Among Students in Foster Care  
Danielle Wondra, Senior Child Welfare Policy and Outreach Associate, [dwondra@childrennow.org](mailto:dwondra@childrennow.org)  
Children Now, [childrennow.org](http://childrennow.org)

**Panel:**

- b. A Transportation Solution for Vulnerable Students in California  
Makayla Huynh, Community Engagement Manager, [mhuynh@hopskipdrive.com](mailto:mhuynh@hopskipdrive.com)  
Jordan Sosa, Community Engagement Manager, [jsosa@hopskipdrive.com](mailto:jsosa@hopskipdrive.com)  
HopSkipDrive, [hopskipdrive.com](http://hopskipdrive.com)
- c. Overview of School Stability Data for Students in Foster Care and the Educational Challenges of Mobility  
Vanessa Ximenes Barrat, Senior Research Associate, [vbarrat@wested.org](mailto:vbarrat@wested.org)  
WestEd, [wested.org](http://wested.org)
- d. Suspensions and the Impact of SB 274 on Foster Youth  
Mayra Lira, Senior Supervising Attorney, [mlira@publiccounsel.org](mailto:mlira@publiccounsel.org)  
Public Counsel, [publiccounsel.org](http://publiccounsel.org)
- e. Destination Graduation  
Matt Strieker, CEO, [matt@unitedfriends.org](mailto:matt@unitedfriends.org)  
United Friends of the Children, [unitedfriends.org](http://unitedfriends.org)
- f. Youth Perspective on K-12 Education  
Sophia Jaffe, Youth Engagement Project Lead Youth Ambassador, Southern Region, [sophia@cfpic.org](mailto:sophia@cfpic.org)  
Child and Family Policy Institute of California, [cfpic.org](http://cfpic.org)

**Open Discussion**

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**Next Roundtable Meeting: November 1, 2024  
Topic: TBA**

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\*The Child Welfare Policy Roundtable is held on the first Friday of every month unless it is moved to accommodate the legislative calendar or holidays.

\*\*Meeting information and materials from past meetings can be found at: [childrennow.org/cwroundtable](http://childrennow.org/cwroundtable)

\*\*\*Please contact Susanna Kniffen at [skniffen@childrennow.org](mailto:skniffen@childrennow.org) if you have suggestions for format or topics or would like additional information or to be added to the invite list for future meetings.