
Overview of School Stability Data for Students in Foster Care and the Educational Challenges of Mobility

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School Stability and School Mobility

School Stability

In California, the **Stability Rate** is defined as the percentage of students enrolled during the academic year who completed a "full year" (estimated at 245 calendar days) of learning in one school.

Stability rates are now reported by the California Department of Education

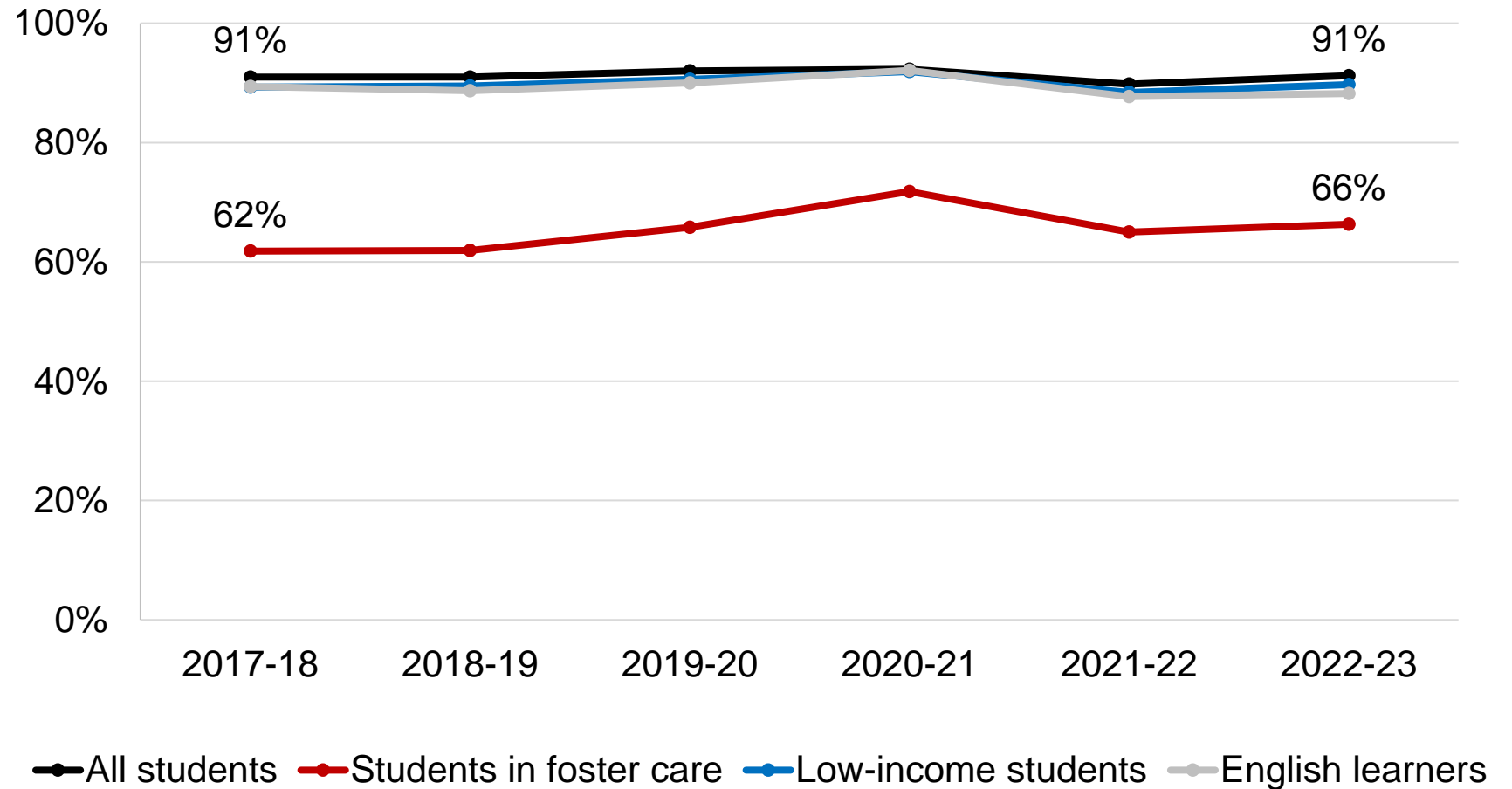
School Mobility

Mobility measures school changes during the school year, or over a range of years for reasons other than grade promotion, and includes the incidence and frequency of school changes.

Mobility estimates are not yet available

Stability rate for students in foster care slightly increased over the last 7 years but remained lower than for other students

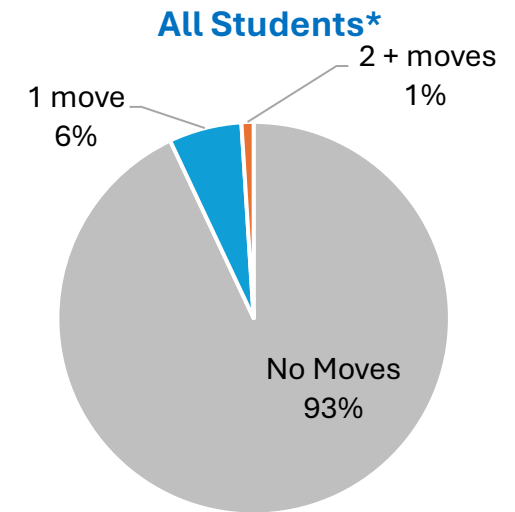
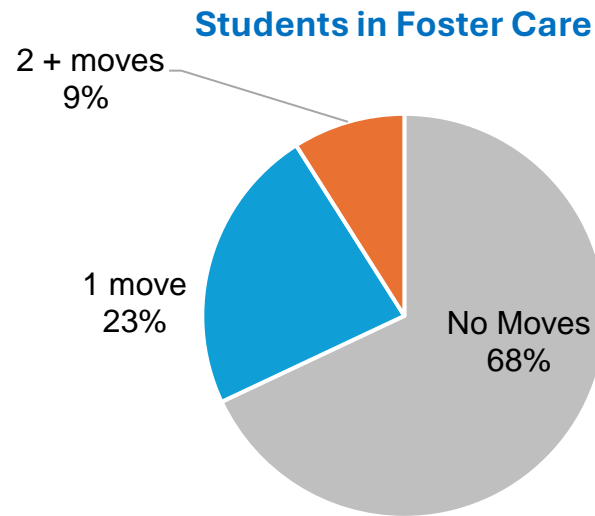
While most students attended only one school each year, only **about 2/3 of students** in foster care experienced **school stability**.



Students in foster care remain much more likely to experience high mobility

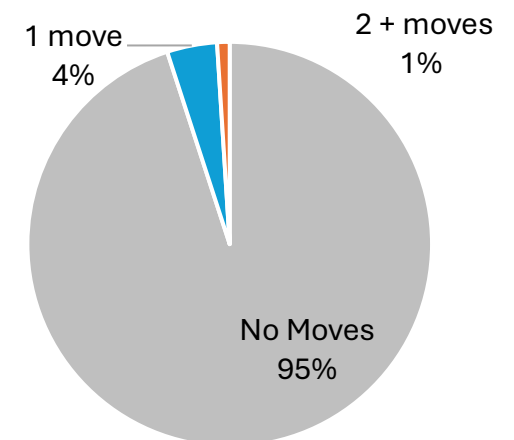
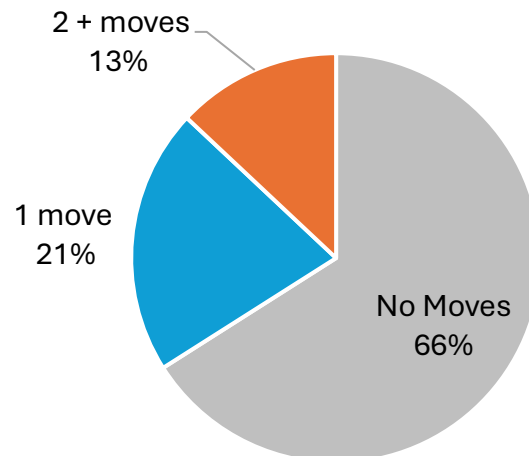
Invisible Achievement Gap: Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care in California's Public Schools 2009/10 school year

Barrat, V. X., & Berliner, B. (2013). *The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part 1: Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care in California's Public Schools*. San Francisco: WestEd.



California's Students in Foster Care: Challenges and Promising Practices 2018/19 school year

Burns, D., Espinoza, D., Adams, J., & Ondrasek, N. (2022). *California students in foster care: Challenges and promising practices*. Learning Policy Institute.



Take-Aways

- Federal and California Law provide youth in foster care with the right to remain in their school of origin (if it is in the youth's best interest)
- Over the last few years, school stability has slightly improved for students in foster care
- However, high mobility rates have not improved for students in foster care and it remains a significant challenge

Thank You...

“I bounced around a lot of schools and never got comfortable being there. Since I knew that I’d be at a school for just a little bit, I felt like I didn’t need to care about my studies.”

— Student in foster care

For more information or to collaborate, please reach out:

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