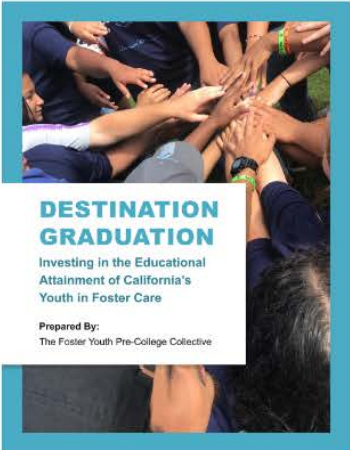


**WE BELIEVE IN
EVERY YOUNG
PERSON'S
PROMISE &
POTENTIAL.**



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MORE!**



**DESTINATION
GRADUATION**

Investing in the Educational
Attainment of California's
Youth in Foster Care

Prepared By:
The Foster Youth Pre-College Collective



tFYPC

THE FOSTER YOUTH
PRE-COLLEGE COLLECTIVE



National Center
for Youth Law



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DESTINATION GRADUATION

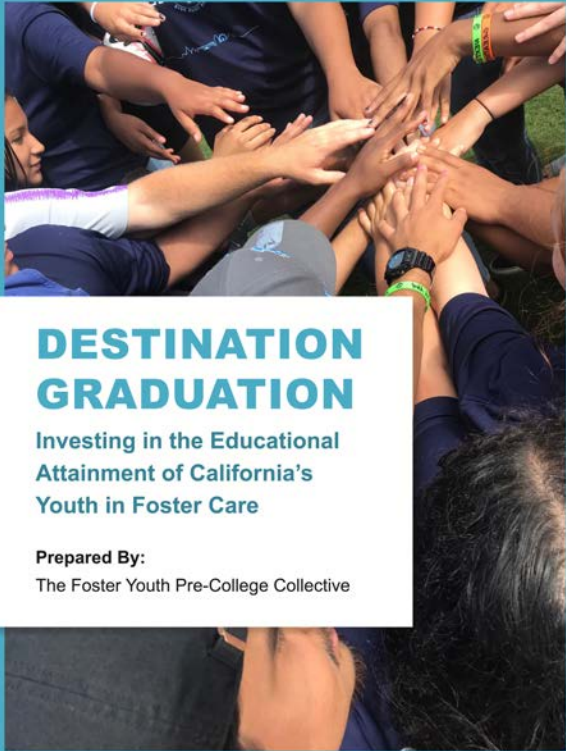
Investing in the Educational Attainment of California's Youth in Foster Care

Special Thanks to the Report Underwriters



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DESTINATION GRADUATION

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Understanding Youth Experiences



There was so much going on that I didn't even care about high school. It wasn't something that was on my mind, and throughout my childhood I was kept home from school as a punishment. I'm still struggling now in college. I do a lot of studying and taking notes and stuff but once I get to the test, I fail, and that's where it matters.

- D. • Age 19 • Riverside County • College Freshman • Currently in Foster Care



Understanding Youth Experiences



When you are out of foster care you have a life to live, but when you are in it, it is like you are in a different world. There's so much control over my life, rules and regulations, and it doesn't really expose foster youth to opportunities as it should.

- M. • San Bernardino County • 11th Grade • Currently in Foster Care

“

I had such different experiences at a younger age, I had to realize I was maturing a little faster. And so I just had a hard time sitting in the school environment. It triggered me a lot. You don't know what people go through at home.

- A. • Age 21 • Stanislaus County • College Student • Previously in Foster Care

”

”

CA Policy Efforts to Address Challenges

- **School stability**
- **System coordination and flexibility**
- **Clarifying responsibility for meeting youth's educational needs**
- **Funding**



K-12 Foster Youth Need Deeper, More Consistent Support



For the most part, the social workers would say, ‘What’s your plan? You don’t have a plan yet? Well, you need to come up with one.’ They would give me ideas of things to do, but they didn’t really help me navigate what was going on at school or with homework. They didn’t help me try to find something that interests me, or help me pick between two careers. They would just tell me to talk to my foster parents about that or my school counselor. They never really did anything themselves.

- M. • Age 14 • 9th Grade • Currently in Foster Care



PROGRAM PILLARS

Complementary Services to Promote Educational Success for Youth in Foster Care



Grades 6-12 Educational Support

- Academic Remediation
- Counseling
- Credit Recovery
- Homework Assistance and Tutoring
- Study/Test Taking Skills
- Educational Rights Access/Awareness
- Caregiver Engagement
- Service Referrals



Post-Secondary Educational Support

- Test Prep (SAT/ACT)
- Application Assistance (*Financial Aid, College, Career Training Education*)
- Campus Tours
- College Readiness/Immersion Programs
- Linkages to Campus Resources



Career Exploration

- Assessments
- Mentoring
- Internships/Job Shadowing
- Job Application Assistance
- Professional Networking and Exposure Opportunities



Social/Emotional Learning Development

- Assessments
- Interventions that build competencies, such as self-efficacy, self-awareness, decision making, social awareness, and relationship skills
- Counseling and Therapeutic Supports



Financial Assistance

- Academic Scholarships
- Emergency Assistance
- Enrichment Funds
- Youth Stipends/Incentives



Community-Building

- Alumni Initiatives
- Cultural/Social Events
- Strengthening Peer Connections
- Service Learning Programs
- Youth Leadership Groups



PROMISING PRACTICES: The Drivers of Success

Foundational Supports

1:1 Intensive Customized Interventions

Ensure Youth Graduates
High School and Pursues
College or Career Goals

- Led by highly trained practitioners
- Trauma-informed
- MODALITIES:
Individualized Coaching OR
Peer Mentoring OR
Specialized Educational
Case Management (+Service Referrals)

FOCUS:

Encourage youth's social/emotional development, positive growth, motivation, and plan for academic success

Frequent Interactions

Keep Youth on Track to
Achieve Success

- Weekly/Biweekly Contact
- Individual Sessions
- In-Person and Virtual Check-ins
- Supplemented by Group Sharing/Peer-to-Peer Learning Opportunities

FOCUS:

Provide consistent, nurturing support to promote youth's well-being, monitor educational progress, and address urgent concerns

Continuous Program Delivery Beyond System Involvement

Support Stable
Transitions

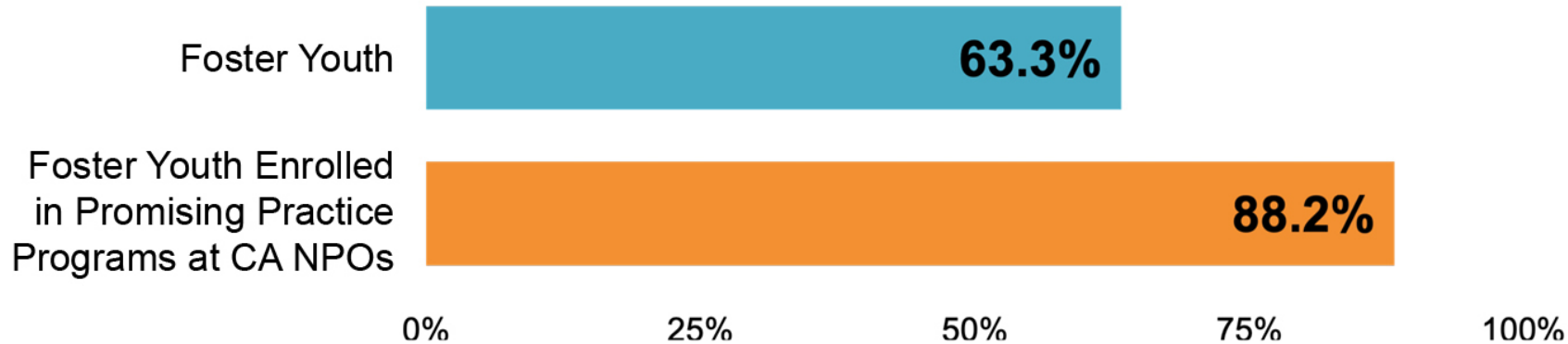
- Maintain connections with youth experiencing major life transitions (i.e., post-high school graduation, exiting foster care, change in living arrangement)
- Extend the duration of services to include recent high school graduates pursuing post-secondary education to advance college and career success

FOCUS:

Build community, strengthen relationships, and offer practical skills and stabilizing supports that give current and former foster youth every opportunity to reach their full potential as independent, young adults

Closing the Educational Opportunity Gap for Youth in Care

High School Completion Rates California Foster Youth



They are really cool. They been with me since I entered eighth grade, so we've literally grown up together. They always tell me that they see how much I've grown. They always have support for me, like all these college classes and workshops on women empowerment and financial aid.

*- J. • Age 16 • Los Angeles County
• 11th Grade • Currently in Foster Care*

They literally make me feel at home when I go to a meeting. I sometimes feel like I don't even have to talk. I love that for me. Because I do work a lot. And I do hard work. So when I can step into a space and can step back and just listen, I appreciate that.

*- R. • Age 18 • Recent High School Graduate
• Previously in Kinship Care*

Talking helps a lot. It helped me manage my emotions and grow as a person. I liked being a part of a learning community when I started community college, because it helped me build rapport with the professors and my peers who have lived foster care experience. This gave me a community and helped me understand how to navigate college.

*- I. • Age 19 • San Bernardino County • Recent High School Graduate
• Extended Foster Care*