Emergent Bilingual Students with Multi-Needs

This resource is designed to help teachers instructing emergent bilingual students who are in the foster care system.

Cross-Reference Checklist

Emergent Bilingual | Foster Care

Foster Care & Student Success

Dual identification of emergent bilingual students involves more than instructional considerations. An emergent bilingual student who is highly mobile may experience frequent interruptions to their education and services which can have a particularly negative impact on linguistic and academic development. This document provides guidance and resources for educators working directly with students in foster care.

Foster care refers to children & youth who are in custody of the State of Texas due to abuse or neglect, regardless of their living arrangements. A court grants legal custody of the student to DFPS (Department of Family and Protective Services) if it is determined the student cannot safely remain with a parent or legal guardian. DFPS secures a relative, foster home, or other setting to ensure the student's safety and well-being.

Data reveals a significant achievement gap between students in foster care and their peers -- they have the lowest graduation rates and the highest dropout rate of all highly mobile student groups. Because Texas students in foster care compose a small percentage of the total student population, educators may have limited experience serving these students.

Considerations

Students in foster care face numerous barriers that impact their school experience and educational outcomes.

- Students in foster care may lose four to six months of academic growth and educational progress with each school move.

- When students in foster care change schools, despite the protections in place, they may lose course credits, repeat courses they have already taken, be placed in inappropriate classes or grade levels, or may be excluded from extracurricular activities.

Recommendations

Below are some recommendations to support students in foster care:

- Collaborate with counselors or other key campus staff to establish an environment in which the student feels safe & connected.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding student identification as a student in foster care.
- Provide opportunities for students to make up missed work due to court-related absences.
- Recognize that caregivers may need support to understand the student's language proficiency level and program placement.

Resources

Below are some resources to support students in foster care:

Foster Care Information and Resources

Texas Foster Care Guide

TEA Grief Informed and Trauma-Informed Practices

Project Restore

TEA
Texas Education Agency