



Classroom Supplement for Youth with Foster Care Histories: Emancipation and Well-Being

Discussion Topics and Questions

Persistent, supportive social relationships (i.e., with kin and mentors) are important for emerging adults before, during, and after transitioning out of foster care. In the absence of typical family support networks for foster youth, how can child welfare systems help create and sustain positive and robust networks of support for (and with) youth with foster care backgrounds?

Does your state offer extended services for youth exiting foster care? If so, what are the affordances and limitations of those services? If not, what services are available to help former foster youth transition to independent living? Review the Child Welfare Information Gateway to check for state-by-state status of extended services: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/extensionfc/>

Young adults with foster care histories who desire education beyond high school (or a GED)—this includes post-secondary education at a community college, technical or trade school, or university—often face barriers within the school system itself. What can school systems do to better identify (and meet) the needs of youth with foster care backgrounds?

IRP Resources

IRP webinar: Supporting youth exiting foster care: What works and what is still needed. Melanie Nadon, Hui Huang, Angelique Day, and Sarah Font. May 2023. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/supporting-youth-exiting-foster-care-what-works-and-what-is-still-needed/>

IRP podcast: The impacts of removing children from abusive or neglectful homes. Eric Chyn. August 2020. <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resource/eric-chyn-on-the-impacts-of-removing-children-from-abusive-or-neglectful-homes/>

Other Resources

Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Report #29. (2022, Nov. 1). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/afcars-report-29>

Armstrong-Heimsoth, A. et al. (2021). Former foster system youth: Perspectives on transitional supports and programs. *The Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research*, 48, 287–305. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11414-020-09693-6>

Font, S. A. (2023, March 23). How long do states let children in foster care wait for permanent families? Timely permanency report cards. *American Enterprise Institute*. <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/how-long-do-states-let-children-in-foster-care-wait-for-permanent-families-timely-permanency-report-cards/>

Francis, A. M. et al. (2023, May 12). Examining foster care outcomes for American Indian children in the context of the Indian Child Welfare Act. *Child Maltreatment*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595231175649>

Huang, H., Li, Y., & Campbell, J. M. (2022). Do independent living services protect youth aging out foster care from adverse outcomes? An evaluation using national data. *Child Maltreatment*, 27(3), 444–454. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559521992119>

Lee, J. Y., Kirsch, J., Presley, S., Beal, S. J., Xu, Y., Radney, A., & Denby, R. (2023). Racial and ethnic disparities in the physical health outcomes of children in foster care: A systematic review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380221145911>

Nadon, M. L., Park, S., Feng, H., & Courtney, M. (Forthcoming). Examining prevalence and predictors of economic hardships for transition-age foster youth. *Journal of the Society for Social Work & Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/721667>

Reilly, T. (2022, Nov. 28). A better way to help young adults transition from foster care. *Governing*. <https://www.governing.com/now/a-better-way-to-help-young-adults-transition-from-foster-care>