



Children's Commission.

For Judges Handling Child Protective Services Cases

June 23, 2017

Texas Higher Education Information and Resource Guide for Foster Care Liaisons

Research shows that although over 80% of youth in foster care want to go to college, only 2-9% of youth formerly in foster care attain a bachelor's degree.

A new resource – the Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons Information & Reference Guide – can support foster care higher education liaisons and foster care alumni in accessing resources to assist in the pursuit of higher education.

Over the past two years, the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission Postsecondary Workgroup, which includes representatives from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and Education Reach for Texans, gathered subject matter experts to focus on promoting improved postsecondary outcomes for children and youth who experience foster care. This group developed the guide from the multiple perspectives involved in assisting and providing support in higher education.

The guide includes information on the following topics: maintaining privacy, identifying foster care alumni, asking what the student needs, available benefits, helping students find a support system, encouraging self-advocacy, securing housing, food, and healthcare, and trauma informed practice. Although the guide is designed with the higher education foster care liaison in mind, it is also available as a resource for the legal community to encourage improved postsecondary outcomes for foster care alumni.

Released in June 2017, the Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons Information & Reference Guide is available online. A limited number of printed copies are available upon request to children@txcourts.gov.

To access the guide online:

<http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/foster-care-education/education-resources.aspx>

To view the video developed by the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsaticzySrtY&feature=youtu.be>



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