Policy Focus for August:

K-12 Education and Students in Foster Care

Due to multiple moves and school changes, missed school days, and trauma, youth in foster care face unique challenges to academic achievement. Because of these challenges, youth in foster care are often behind in school compared to their peers and need additional educational supports to help them succeed in school. The August Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will delve into this issue, including an overview of the most recent data on academic engagement and achievement among students in foster care, examples of how the State and local educational agencies are working to improve educational outcomes for youth in foster care, and opportunities to ensure youth in foster care receive the critical services and supports they need to overcome educational barriers.

Overview:

a. What the Data Show: Academic Engagement and Achievement Among Students in Foster Care
   Danielle Wondra, Senior Policy and Outreach Associate, dwondra@childrennow.org
   Children Now, childrennow.org

Panel:

b. Best Practices for Increasing School Engagement and Decreasing Chronic Absence
   Kim Corneille, Foster Youth Services Coordinator/Education Consultant, kcorneille@santacruzcoe.org
   Santa Cruz County Office of Education, santacruzcoe.org

   Dylan Quigley, Staff Attorney, Education Rights Program, dquigley@sdvlp.org
   San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, sdvlp.org

d. School of Origin Transportation for Youth in Foster Care
   Barbara Spyrou Lundqvist, Director, Education Coordinating Council, blundqvist@ocp.lacounty.gov
   Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection, ocp.lacounty.gov

e. AB130 in Action: Supporting Foster Youth Academic Success in Kern County
   Kim Silva, Research Associate, Foster Youth and Homeless Education, kisilva@kern.org
   Kern County Superintendent of Schools, kern.org

f. Leveraging State Accountability to Support Foster Youth
   Sara Pietrowski, Policy Director, spietrowski@sbe.ca.gov
   California State Board of Education, cde.ca.gov/be

Open Discussion

Next Roundtable Meeting: September 1, 2023
Topic: TBA

*The Child Welfare Policy Roundtable is held on the first Friday of every month unless it is moved to accommodate the legislative calendar or holidays.

**Meeting information and materials from past meetings can be found at: childrennow.org/cwroundtable

***Please contact Susanna Kniffen at skniffen@childrennow.org if you have suggestions for format or topics or would like additional information or to be added to the invite list for future meetings.