

PRESENTED BY:
BRITTANY BOSTON,
ILLINOIS CENTER FOR
SPECIALIZED
PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT FOSTER CARE INVOLVED STUDENTS

ILLINOIS CENTER FOR SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

- creates, supports, and delivers professional development for career and technical education professionals across Illinois
- provides technical assistance, develops publications, and facilitates program improvement strategies for our partners
- focuses on transition, recruitment, retention, and completion—encouraging achievement of special populations learners
- founded in 1977 at Illinois State University



Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support,
Illinois State University, College of Education

AGENDA

Define

Challenges

Informing and Recruiting

Supports and Services

Discussion and Questions

Additional Resources

WHO ARE 'FOSTER CARE INVOLVED' STUDENTS?

- Children and youth receiving temporary services provided by a state agency for children who cannot live with their families.
- Children and youth in foster care may live with relatives or with unrelated foster parents.
- Foster care can also refer to placement settings such as group homes, residential care facilities, emergency shelters, and supervised independent living.
- In Illinois, youth “age out” of foster care at the age of 21.

POSSIBLE CHALLENGES



- Lack of familial support
- School transience
- Difficulty forming relationships
- Behavioral and emotional challenges
- Academic setbacks
- Attachment issues

INFORMING & RECRUITING



- Develop positive working relationships with senior supervisory child welfare agency staff
- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration with local area high schools and community colleges
 - Collaborate on “CTE Exploration Days”
- Encourage academic and guidance counselors to promote the benefits of CTE programs
- Inform students of support services available on campus prior to enrollment

INFORMING & RECRUITING

- Post marketing materials across campus and throughout the community. Include agencies that foster care involved youth may utilize, such as:
 - community action agencies
 - food banks
 - transitional living programs
 - government benefit offices
 - housing departments
 - public health departments
 - faith-based organizations
- Market support services available to students in common areas across campus and the community. Include information pertaining to:
 - financial aid
 - childcare
 - support groups
 - transportation
 - meal plan offerings

SUPPORTS & SERVICES

Implement intensive and organized programs to deter potential dropout

- peer mentoring
- student support groups
- career mentoring

Offer academic advising services several times per semester

- track student performance
- assist in goal planning
- provide academic intervention

SUPPORTS & SERVICES

Connect

Connect with community organizations to provide students access to additional assistance

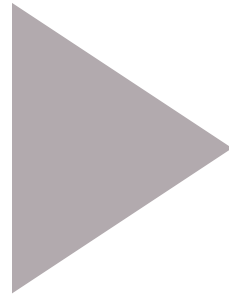
Teach

Teach students to advocate for themselves
Allow them to participate in school meetings, special education placement discussions, and transition planning

SUPPORTS & SERVICES

- Invite foster care involved youth to workshops that will give them the skills they need to be successful. Provide incentives to boost attendance. Examples include courses on:
 - volunteering
 - job shadowing
 - school-based enterprises
 - youth apprenticeships
 - paid work experiences
- Issue invitations to seminars on issues that are important to foster care involved youth and provide incentives for attendance. Examples include courses on:
 - budgeting
 - time management
 - essential employability skills and interview skills
- Reduce program completion time by continually verifying coursework is relevant to the career pathway
 - Allow for flexibility in course scheduling as students may be balancing classes, employment, and parenting responsibilities
 - Create program maps that anticipate the needs of part-time students, as well

How is your institution currently supporting foster care involved students?



Are you seeing gaps in services?

LET'S DISCUSS...



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QUESTIONS

SPECIAL POPULATION WEBINAR SERIES

Economically Disadvantaged

- Tuesday, December 15th at 2:30 PM
- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3924680777642926862>

English Learners

- Wednesday, January 13th at 2:30 PM
- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6754736846119804430>

Students with Disabilities

- Wednesday, January 27th at 2:30 PM
- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3425646534655968526>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Special Populations Super Strategies:

<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/special-populations/76-super-strategies>



Recruitment, Engagement, and Retention Webinar Series:

<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/adult-education>



Universal Design For Learning Webinar Series:

<https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/cte/universal-design-learning/2-home/68-universal-design-learning-series>

CONTACT INFORMATION



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