



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

February 22, 2024

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS,  
MANAGERS, CASE WORKERS**

**SUBJECT: EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) AND EDUCATIONAL STABILITY WEBINAR**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**  Immediate  Time Sensitive  Information Only

**PURPOSE: TO NOTIFY COUNTY DSS OF UPCOMING WEBINAR**

In 2015, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law. A component of ESSA is to uphold critical connections for America's disadvantaged and high-need students. Children and youth experiencing foster care are eligible for additional supports as a result of ESSA. These provisions (ESSA Foster Care) complement the requirements of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act). Together these laws strengthen opportunities for educational agencies and child welfare agencies to jointly determine the most effective practices and promote school stability and success for students.

For the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), ESSA required greater protections for all disadvantaged and high-need students, including students in foster care, and requirements that the academic performance for these students be tracked. To facilitate implementation of ESSA as it applied to students in the custody of a county child welfare agency, DPI partnered with the SERVE Center at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. SERVE provides technical guidance and support to all local education agencies and works to ensure DPI complies with ESSA requirements.

NCDSS and NC DPI will be hosting a joint webinar titled "Educational Stability of Students in Foster Care" on 3/19/24. This webinar is open to child welfare agencies and local education agencies to explore the following:

- Every Student Succeeds Act
- Responsibilities of Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
- Responsibilities of Local Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Examples of collaboration at the local level

Registration details:

Please register for Collaborating for the Educational Stability of Students in Foster Care on March 19, 2024, 9:00 AM EDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4382376708352110936>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 910-610-9018 • FAX: 919-457-1493

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Thank you for your interest in supporting the educational needs of children and youth in North Carolina's foster care system. Should you have questions, please contact Jessica Frisina at [Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

*Carla McNeill*

Carla McNeill, MSW  
Section Chief for Permanency Planning  
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare  
North Carolina Department of Health and  
Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Human Services  
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice  
Katie Swanson, Deputy Director for County Operations  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services  
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing  
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

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