



Foster Care and Student Success

**THN TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK
TEXAS CONFERENCE ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS
OCTOBER 8-10, 2019**

Presenter

**Letitia Thomas
Foster Care Education
and
Policy State Coordinator**



Objectives



- **Implement strategies to decrease the adverse impact of foster care on student achievement.**
- **Improve and strengthen cross-system collaboration on behalf of students in foster care to improve educational outcomes.**
- **Develop practices that ensure laws, resources, and supports for students in DFPS Managing Conservatorship are fully understood and implemented.**

Agenda



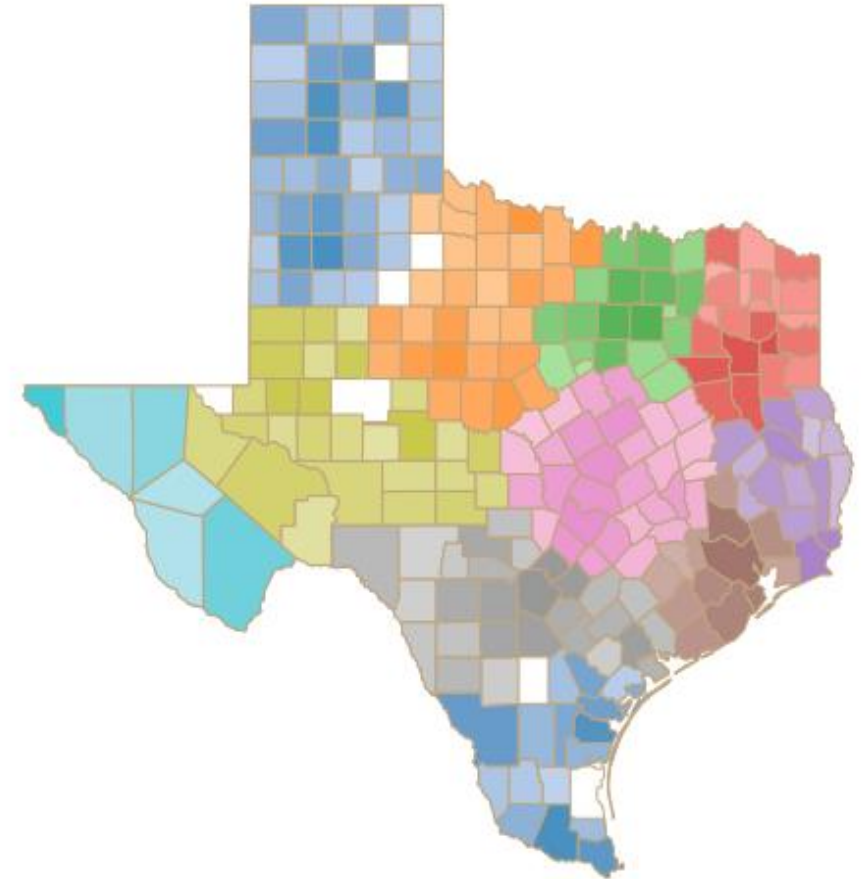
- Introductions
- Child Welfare 101
- The Impact of Foster Care on Education
- New Foster Care Education Data
- Overview of Key Laws and New 86th Legislative Updates
- Strategies to Promote Success
- Commissioner Priority Projects – Foster Care
- Resources Available
- Next Steps and Key Actions

Children in DFPS Conservatorship

2018-19 DFPS Data Book:

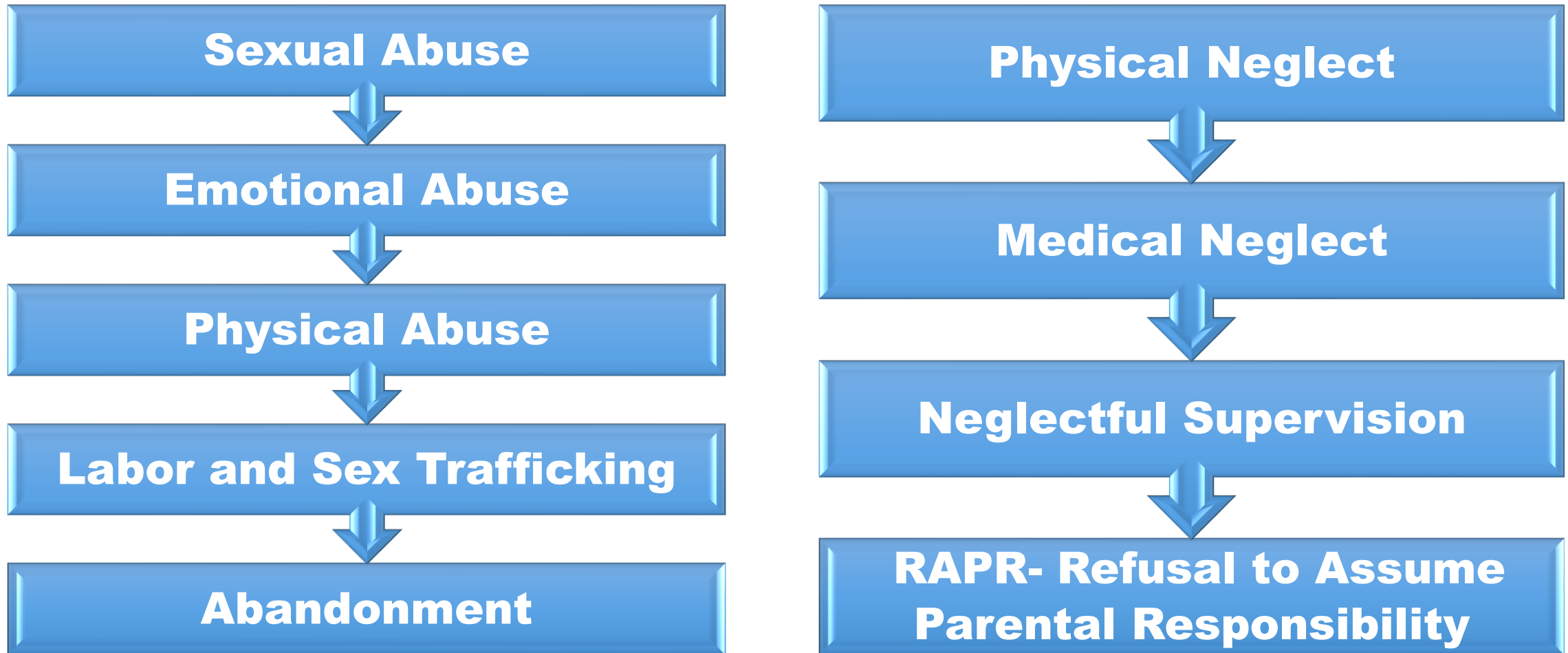
Total number of children
(birth-18 years) in the custody
of the Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services

= 52,397 children



[DFPS Data Book](#)

Reasons for DFPS Managing Conservatorship Child Abuse and Maltreatment



[Abuse and Neglect Definitions \(CPS\)](#)

Youth in Out of Home Placement



Children in out of home placement for reasons of safety and protection:

- Victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Court ordered removal intervention
- In the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Safety, Permanency and Wellbeing

Texas Students in Foster Care

**Students in Foster Care
identified by Texas public
schools:**

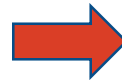
16,867

(2018-19 PEIMS Data)

**Actual students in DFPS
Managing Conservatorship:**

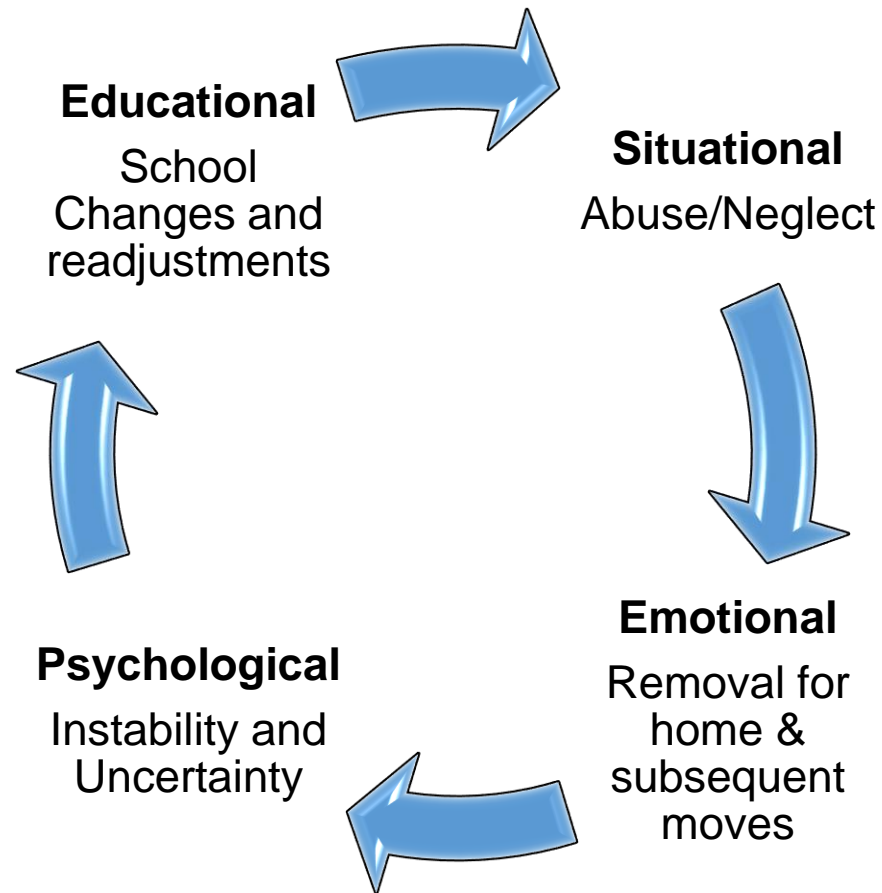
30,340

(5-18 years of age)



More than 13,000 not ever identified

The Impact of Foster Care on Education



Multiple School Changes

- **31%-75% of youth change schools when first entering foster care.**
- **34.2% of 17-18yr old youth in foster care experienced 5 or more school changes.**

National Factsheet on Educational Outcomes of Children in Foster Care | Revised April 2018

Missing School Foster Care Related Absenteeism

- Twice the rate of their peers
- Sibling Visits
- Visits with family
- Court appearances
- Therapeutic and other case related appointments
- Excused absences for case plan related and court-ordered appointments - [TEC § 25.087](#)

Education Instability

- Lower graduation rates and higher dropout rates
- Lower academic achievement rates
- Loss of:
 - Credits
 - Records
 - Supports and Services
 - Educational Continuity
- **At Risk** – Accelerated instruction (at-risk indicators and compensatory education) TEC § 29.081(d)(11)



New TEA Foster Care Data



Data and Accountability

- Students in foster care are now a mandatory sub-group for which LEAs and states must collect and report data

20 USC §6311(h)(1)(C)(ii)

- State report cards must include disaggregated information, including the graduation rates and academic achievement of students in foster care

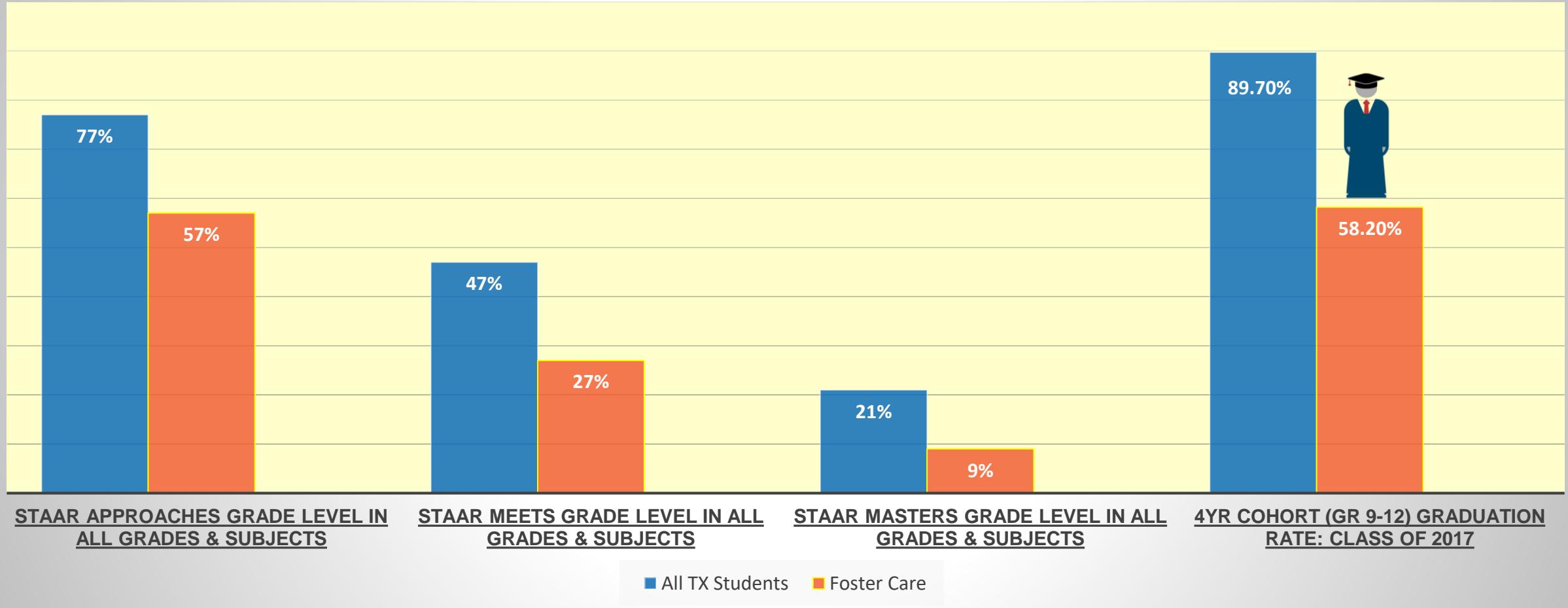
20 USC §6311(h)(1)(C)(iii)

- The existing PEIMS code for students in foster care will help Texas to fulfill the new data collection requirements

TEC §7.029(b-1)

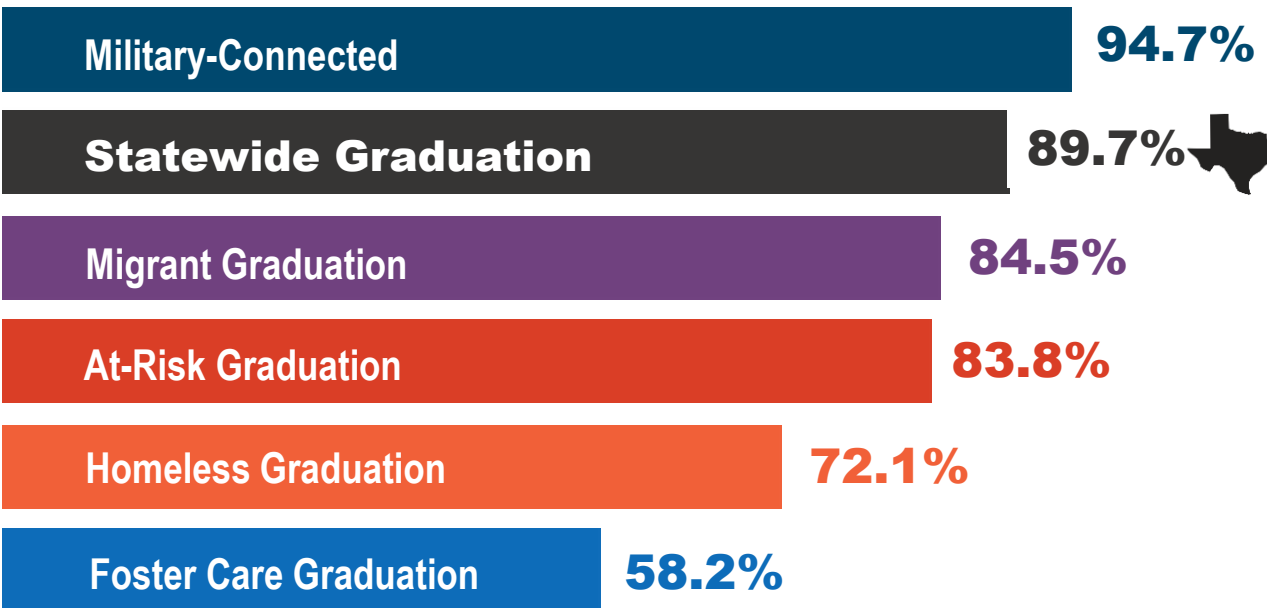
Students in Foster Care -vs- Peers Statewide STAAR Testing and Graduation Rates

2017-18 Federal Report Card for Texas Public Schools

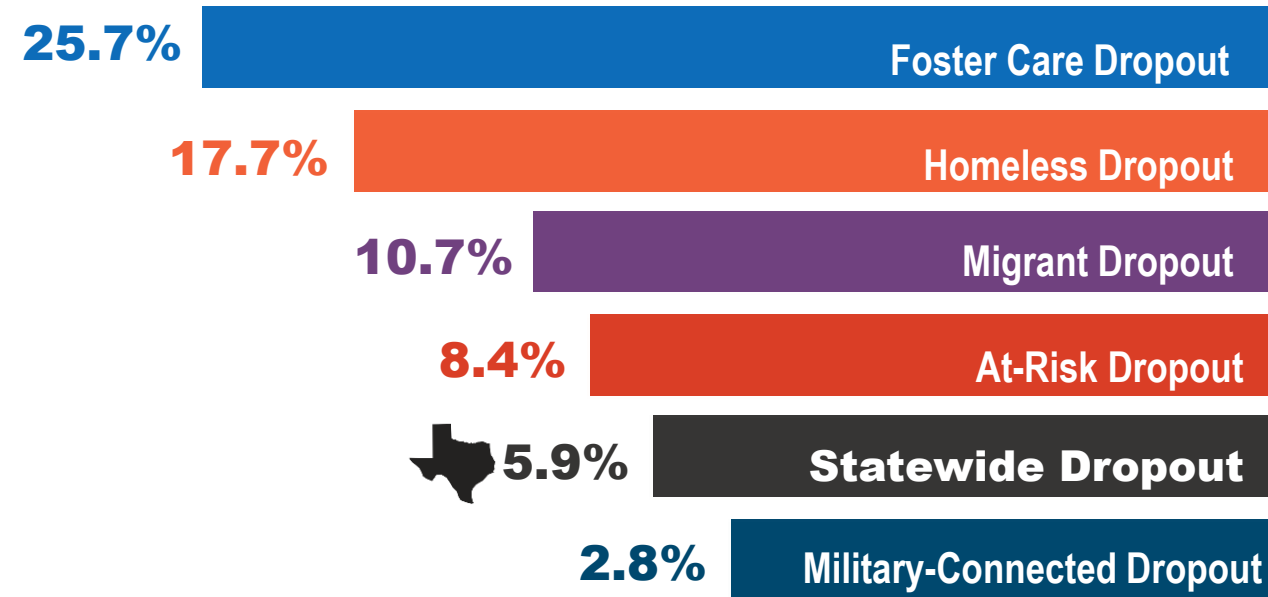


Special Populations 2017 Graduation and Dropout Rates

Graduation Rates



Dropout Rates



A collage of classroom scenes. In the foreground, several children's hands are raised in the air. In the background, a teacher is also raising their hand. The classroom is decorated with colorful monster cutouts on the wall, a 'Miami' pennant, and shelves filled with books and supplies. A sign on the wall says 'ras cuencia!'. A box labeled 'BIG DAY' is visible on the right.

What does foster care education data reveal?

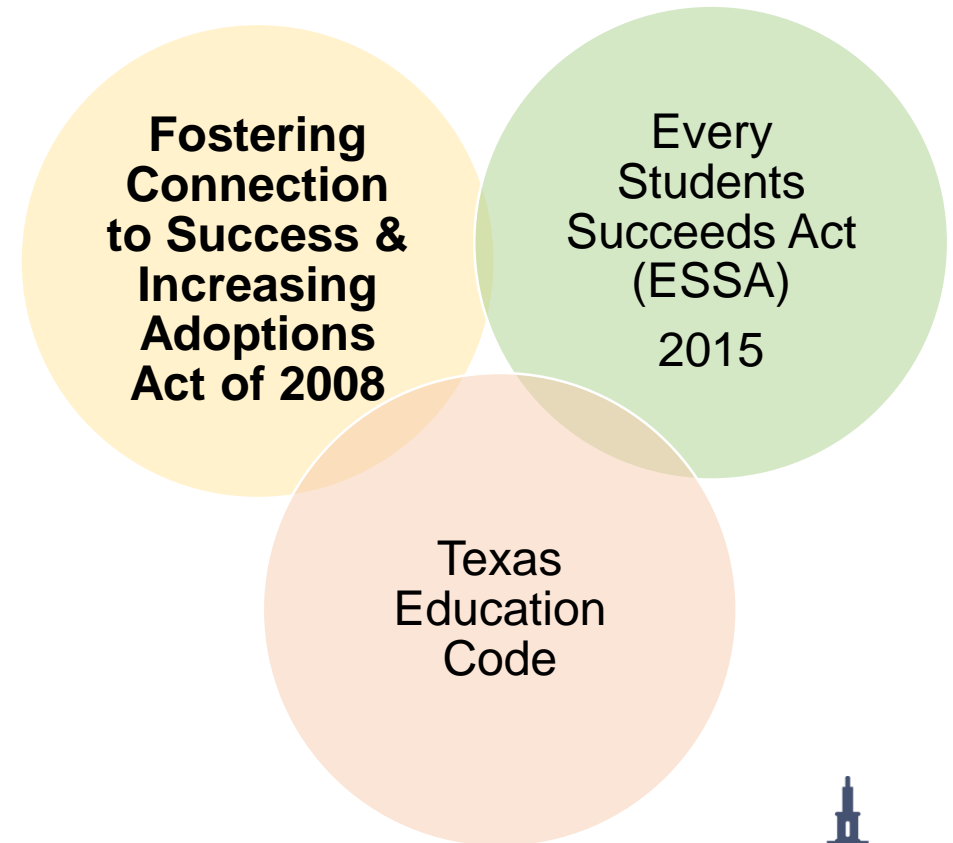
State and Federal Law Promotes School Stability

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 promotes school stability by:

- Promotes maintaining child in the school enrolled at the time of placement.
- Encourages coordination between education and child welfare.
- Considers appropriateness and proximity to child's school of origin.
- Requires immediate and appropriate enrollment.



Public Law 110-351

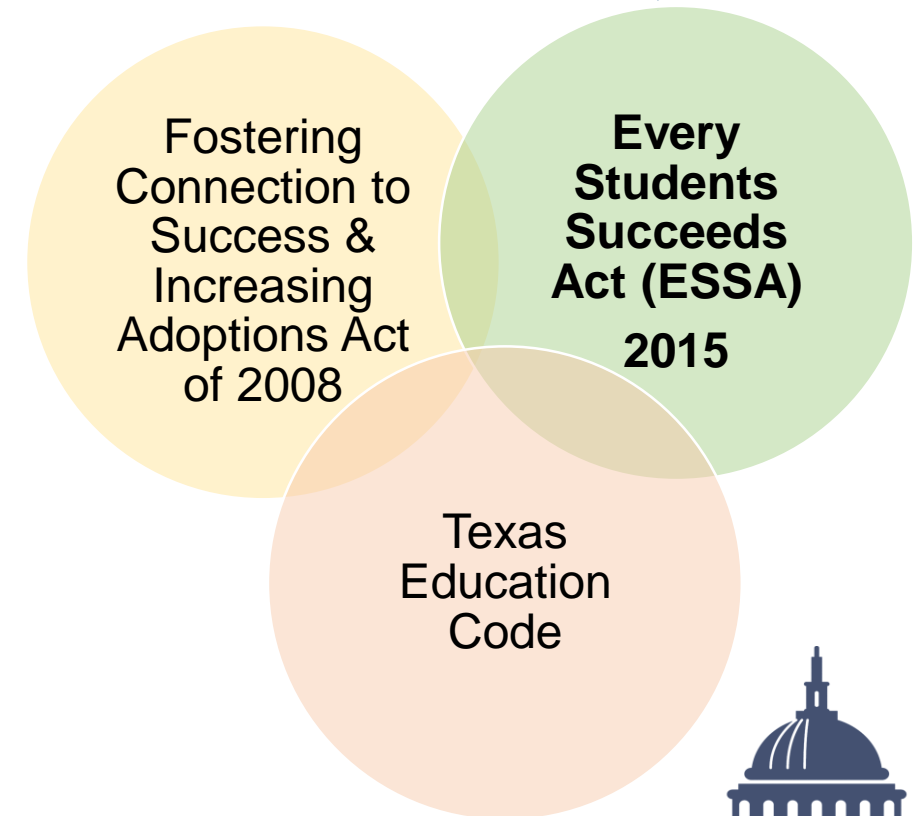


School Stability | ESSA

ESSA aligns federal education law with child welfare law

Every Student Succeeds Act (2015):

- Clear, written transportation plans
- State level foster care liaison, local points of contact
- Student achievement data = school report cards



Public Law 114-95



ESSA | Best Interest



Encourages educators and child welfare to work together to determine what school is in the child's best interest.



There are many factors that relate to determining "Best Interest" for students in foster care.



Educators can provide information to DFPS that supports their decision-making and planning processes.



DFPS makes the final decision regarding "Best Interest".





- **School Stability**

- Right to remain in school where student is enrolled at the time of placement or subsequent placements
- Until completion of the highest grade offered at that campus
- Regardless of whether student in foster care for duration of enrollment

- TEC § 25.001(g)–(g-1)

- Enrollment within three days

- TFC § 264.115(a)

- Records transferred within 10 working days

- TEC § 25.007(b)(1)



- If remaining in the same school, is not in the child's best interest; both federal and state law require prompt enrollment at the new school

20 U.S.C. §6311(g)(1)(E)(ii), Tex. Educ. Code §25.002(g)

- Truancy: LEA shall provide additional counseling and may not refer to truancy court if truancy is a result of ...pregnancy, foster care, homeless, principal income earner for family.....

TEC § 25.0915



- **Transition Assistance** - TEC § 25.007
 - Establish procedures to lessen adverse impact of movement
 - Encourage school districts and open enrollment charter schools to provide services for a student when applying for admission to postsecondary and seeking financial assistance.
 - Allow a student who is in a course required for graduation to complete course at no cost, before the beginning of the next school year.
 - Review course credit accrual and personal graduation plan



- **Transition Assistance** - TEC § 25.007
 - Develop systems to ease transition in first 2 weeks of school.
 - Must accept special education referral from previous school
 - Use previous IEP until new one developed
 - 20 U.S.C. § 1414(d)(2)(C)(i)(I),
 - Promote practices that facilitate access by a student to extra-curricular activities, summer programs, after-school tutoring programs, electronic courses, etc. at nominal or low-cost



- Transition Assistance - TEC § 25.007
- Procedures for awarding credit, including partial credit
- SBOE Rules:
 - Credit by exam at any point in the school year
 - 19 TAC § 74.24
- Proportional credit for one completed semester of a two-semester course
 - 19 TAC § 74.26

86th Legislative Session Updates



H.B. 1709 - (TEC § 25.007, § 29.0151)

School districts must notify DFPS if the school district appoints a surrogate parent to make special education decisions on behalf of the child.

If the court appoints a surrogate parent and the school district determines the surrogate is not performing his or her duties, the school district must notify DFPS.

If DFPS agrees the surrogate is not performing his or her duties, DFPS must notify the court, who must review the appointment and make appropriate orders.



H.B. 811 - (TEC § 35.001)

A student's status in *DFPS conservatorship* or *homelessness* must be considered as a factor in the decision for suspension, removal, expulsion, or placement of a student in an alternative education program.

86th Legislative Session Updates



H.B. 2184 - (TEC § 37.023)

There must be notice to the parent or caregiver and the receiving school, as soon as practicable, after determining release from alternative education program.

Coordinated transition to the receiving school includes consultation with counselors, behavior coordinators, school social workers, and others.

A personalized transition plan is required



H.B. 1702 - (TEC § 51.936) (higher education collaboration opportunity)

Requires a public institution of higher education to obtain the names of current and incoming students currently or formerly in DFPS conservatorship and provide that information to the institution's liaison officer responsible for assisting students currently or formerly in foster care.

Allows the liaison to attend trainings at the institution for higher education and requires the institution to publicize the liaison's name and contact information and the available support services.

Foster Care Consortiums:

Education and Child Welfare working together

**** Robust discussion on cross-system practices, responsibilities, and collaboration to promote student success. ****



September 17, 2019

**DFPS
Region 3 East
Education Specialist Beverly
Rowden**

**ESC 10
Foster Care Champion
Deon Quinn**

Klein ISD Foster Care Liaison/Coordinator, Rekina Romes presented at the Foster Care Consortium for Harris County in collaboration with the Dept. of Family & Protective Services (March 2019)



Pictured from left to right: Cari Schroeder (Ed. Specialist 6 B), Lorena Knight (TX Workforce Commission Education Specialist), Felicia Bennett-Chambers (Ed. Specialist 6 A), Brandi Purswell (ETV Specialist/BCFS HHS) and Rekina Romes (Klein ISD Foster Care Liaison/Coordinator).

2nd Annual National Summit for SEA and CW Foster Care Points of Contact | Indianapolis, IN (August 2019)



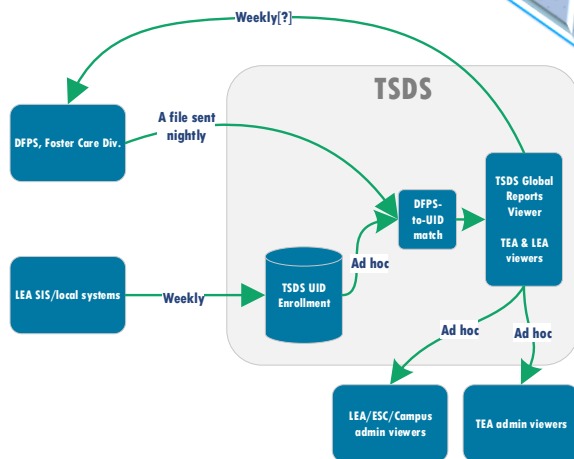
Commissioner Priority Projects

- **TEA/DFPS TSDS Student Identification Build and Roll Out**
- **Updated Foster Care and Student Success Resource Guide and Resource Suite**

TSDS Foster Care Student Identification Tool



In collaboration with DFPS, TEA is building an automated data sharing process and secure portal through TSDS, so that LEAs will be able to accurately identify students in foster care, in nearly real-time.



The screenshot shows the TSDS Global Reports Viewer interface. It includes a header with user information (Xavier Hoppewhite) and navigation links (Support, Help, Exit). The main content area displays a table of reports available for viewing.

Report #	Report Name	XLS	PDF	CSV
FCCD-100-001	Student Roster	Status	Run	Run
FCCD-100-002	Student by Grade, Ethnicity, and Sex	Status	Run	Run

Display a roster of presently enrolled students in foster care

Populate a list of schools and currently enrolled foster care students attended (within the same school year within or outside of enrolled district)

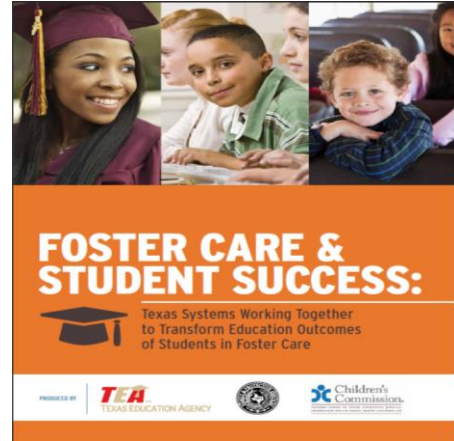
Remove student identification barriers

Accelerate the enrollment process

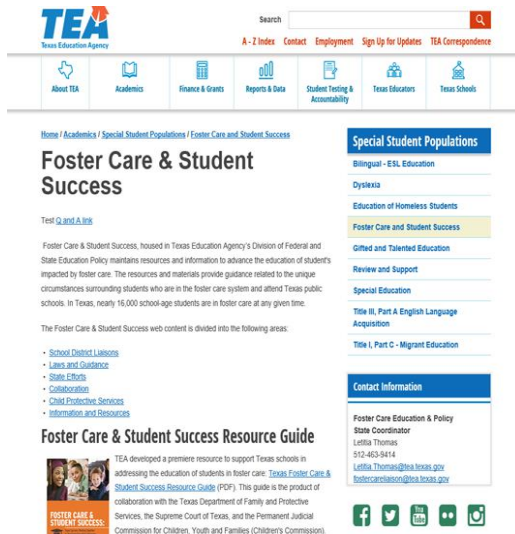
Improve the accuracy of PEIMS coding for students in foster care

Expedite services to students in foster care in accordance with state and federal statutes

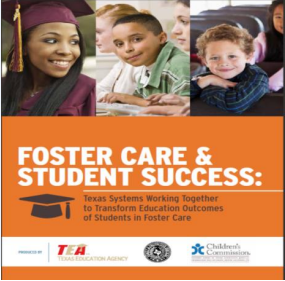
Texas Foster Care & Student Success Resource Updates



- **Revise Foster Care and Student Success Guide to include updated laws and practice guidance.**
 - TEA is working in collaboration with DFPS, the Children's Commission, LEAs, ESC's and other Stakeholders.
 - Will serve as the foundation for additional tools and training resources that are developed.
- **Website edits will include:**
 - Updated laws, guidance, resources, and tools



Opportunities to Support the Guide Update Version 2.0



Assemble
Photos

Collect Student
Quotes

Write
Vignettes/
Scenarios

Gather Brief
Success Stories

Update
Laws

Best
Practice
Examples

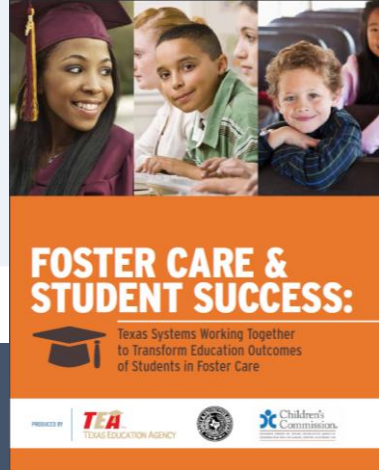
Other



Foster Care and Student Success Resource Guide Revision Timeframe

July 2019 - March 2020
Foster Care Resource Guide
Revisions and Approvals

March 2020 - May 2020
Publish and Distribute Updated Foster Care
Resource Guide



Action Item Within the Next 30 Days



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

To move the needle
from where I am
to where I want to go,
within the next 30 days
I will ...

- **TEA Foster Care and Student Success Information and Resources:**
https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Special_Student_Populations/Foster_Care_and_Student_Success/Foster_Care_Student_Success_-_Information_and_Resources
- **Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission – Education Resources:**
 - <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/reports-and-resources/>
- **ESC Region 10 Foster Care Resources:**
 - <https://www.region10.org/search-results/?Keywords=foster+care&display=search&newSearch=true&noCache=1>

Resources

- **The Legal Center for Foster Care and Education:**
<http://fostercareandeducation.org/NewsUpdates.aspx>
- **NAEHCY, Foster Care:**
<http://www.naehcy.org/essa-and-children-foster-care>
- **U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Child Welfare Information Gateway:**
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/service-array/education-services/meeting-needs/educational-stability/>

Popular Applications: [AskTED](#) [ECOS For Educators](#) [Grant Opportunities](#) [Secure Applications](#) [TEAL Login](#) [TEASE Login](#) [TSDS](#) [Help Desk](#)

TEA
Texas Education Agency

Search

[A - Z Index](#) [Contact](#) [Employment](#) [Sign Up for Updates](#) [Online Correspondence](#)

[About TEA](#) [Academics](#) [Finance & Grants](#) [Reports & Data](#) [Student Testing & Accountability](#) [Texas Educators](#) [Texas Schools](#)

2018 Annual Report

Learn more about the successes and challenges of schools working to prepare every child in Texas for college, a career or the military.

[VIEW REPORT](#)

[Annual Report](#) [A-F Resources](#) [SBOE](#)

The Latest TEA News

The latest news from the Texas Education Agency is available through [news releases](#), [online correspondence](#), [mailing lists](#), and other posted information.

Texas Educators	Student Testing & Accountability	Texas Schools
<h3>Grow Your Own Grants Awarded</h3>	<h3>2018-19 District Accreditations Announced</h3>	<h3>New Cohort of Math Innovation Zones</h3>

Sign-Up for Updates!

We only use cookies that are necessary for this site to function, and to provide you with the best experience. Learn more in our [Cookie Statement](#). By continuing to use this site, you consent to the use of cookies.



Texas Education Agency Update



Email Updates

To sign up for TEA updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below. About 60 different topic-specific subscriptions are available.

Subscription Type

Email



Email Address

*

SUBMIT


CANCEL

Your contact information is used to deliver requested updates or to access your subscriber preferences.


[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)


Sign-Up for Updates!

☐ Special Student Populations


☐ Foster Care and Student Success 

☐ Bilingual/ESL Education 

☐ Early Childhood Education 

☐ Special Education Updates 


☐ Gifted/Talented Education 

☐ Pregnancy Programs 

☐ Languages Other Than English 

☐ McKinney-Vento Homeless Education

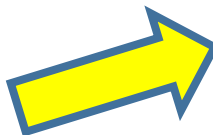
☐ Spanish Curriculum Standards

☐ At-Risk and Highly Mobile Student Program Division 

☐ Migrant Education Program

☐ Military Connected Students

☐ Mental and Behavioral Health



Upcoming Events



Statewide Parental Involvement Conference
San Marcos Embassy Suites and Conference Center
December 12-14, 2019



TETN for LEA's (***Contact your ESC TETN site manager to sign-up*)
Thursday, October 10, 2019, 1pm-3pm



TETN for LEA's (***Contact your ESC TETN site manager to sign-up*)
Thursday, February 13, 2020, 1pm-3pm



How To Find ESC TETN Managers in TEA's AskTED

Popular Applications

AskTED

ECOS for Educators

Grant Opportunities

Secure Applications

TEAL Login

TSDS

Help Desk



Search



A - Z Index

Contact

Employment

Sign Up for Updates

TEA Correspondence



About TEA



Academics



Finance & Grants



Reports & Data



Student Testing &
Accountability



Texas Educators



Texas Schools

House Bill 3 (HB 3)


Learn more about HB 3 and what it means for you.

LEARN MORE



How To Find ESC TETN Managers in TEA's AskTED

Search Criteria

 [TEA Home](#) | [TEA District Locator](#) | [TEA Index A-Z](#) | [TEA Divisions](#)

AskTED

[Home](#) | [Search by](#) | [Quick District Lookup](#) | [Reports and Directories](#) | [Search RESCs](#) | [Administrative Logon](#) | [Help](#)

Search Regional Education Service Centers

Search Criteria

Regional Education Service Centers:

All Regional Education Service Centers

REG 1 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

REG 2 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

REG 3 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

REG 4 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

Information Type:

☐ Organization ☒ Personnel

Select Roles:

TEACHER OF THE YEAR COORD

TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

TED ADMINISTRATOR

TEKS

TEST COORDINATOR

TETN

TREX COORDINATOR

TURNAROUND TEAM CONTACT

Search

Note: To make multiple selections, hold down the 'Ctrl' or 'Shift' key while clicking.

How To Find ESC TETN Managers in TEA's AskTED

Search Results

AskTED

[Home](#)
[Search by](#)
[Quick District Lookup](#)
[Reports and Directories](#)
[Search RESCs](#)
[Administrative Logon](#)
[Help](#)

Search Regional Education Service Centers - Personnel

Search Results

[Revise Search](#)
[View Details](#)
[Mailing Labels](#)
[Email Addresses](#)

26 records found - Select one or more Personnel to Display

[Clear Selections](#)
[Select All](#)
[Clear Sort](#)

Sorted by Ascending Role, Ascending RESC Name

Check to Include	Role▲	Last Name	First Name	Number	RESCName▲	City	Zip
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESC Person	TETN	KOLAHDOUZ	ALI	108950	REG 1 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER	EDINBURG	78541
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESC Person	TETN	SWARTZ	APRIL	178950	REG 2 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER	CORPUS CHRISTI	78401
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESC Person	TETN	ROSE	MARTHA	178950	REG 2 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER	CORPUS CHRISTI	78401
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESC Person	TETN	VILLERE	KYLE	178950	REG 2 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER	CORPUS CHRISTI	78401
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESC Person	TETN	CAMACHO	ALEX	235950	REG 3 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER	VICTORIA	77901
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESC Person	TETN	CLARK	MARCUS	235950	REG 3 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER	VICTORIA	77901
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESC Person	TETN	LEE	JOE	101950	REG 4 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER	HOUSTON	77092

How To Find ESC TETN Managers in TEA's AskTED

[View Details](#)

AskTED

Home	Search by	Quick District Lookup	Reports and Directories	Search RESCs	Administrative Logon	Help
----------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------	---	------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------

Search Regional Education Service Centers - Personnel - View Details

View Detail Results

Download File	View Details	Mailing Labels	Email Addresses
New Search			

Regional Education Service Center REG 1 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER (108-950)

TETN

ALI KOLAHDOUZ

Mailing Address

1900 W SCHUNIOR
EDINBURG, TX 78541-2234

Phone

(956) 984-6063

Fax

(946) 984-7650

Email

akolahdouz@esc1.net

Regional Education Service Center REG 2 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER (178-950)

TETN

APRIL SWARTZ

Mailing Address

209 N WATER ST
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78401-2599

Phone

Fax

Email

Foster Care & Student Success Program Contact

Letitia Thomas

Foster Care Education and Policy State Coordinator

Letitia.Thomas@tea.texas.gov

TEA Foster Care and Student Success:

<https://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/>

Phone: 512-463-9414

Email: fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov



THANK YOU!

Remember: *“Every wall is a door”* Ralph Waldo Emerson