

Closing the Educational Stability Policy Gap



5 YEARS OF COLORADO DATA

**STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE CHANGE SCHOOLS
EVEN MORE OFTEN THAN PLACEMENTS**



2 PLACEMENTS = **3** SCHOOL CHANGES



3 PLACEMENTS = **5** SCHOOL CHANGES



5 PLACEMENTS = **8** SCHOOL CHANGES

QUESTION

**CAN EDUCATIONAL STABILITY IMPROVE
WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE**

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS ACT

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

FCA & ESSA

ANSWER

YES! BUT...

**FCA & ESSA PROTECTIONS
ARE CRITICAL BUT THEY ARE
ONLY PARTIAL SOLUTIONS**

 **2** OUT OF **3**

**SCHOOL
CHANGES**

ARE PROTECTED BY

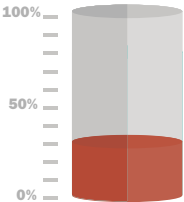


FCA OR ESSA

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL STABILITY PROTECTIONS DON'T GO FAR ENOUGH

RECOMMENDATION #1

ENSURE EDUCATIONAL STABILITY THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR AND BEYOND



35%
OF STUDENTS

WHO ARE REUNIFIED WITH THEIR FAMILIES **CHANGE SCHOOLS** IN THE MIDDLE OF A SCHOOL YEAR

POLICY GAP

FCA AND ESSA PROTECTIONS ONLY APPLY TO THE TIME STUDENTS ARE IN FOSTER CARE

RECOMMENDATION #2

← EXPAND THE ESSA DEFINITION →

POLICY GAP

DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL OF ORIGIN needs to include recently attended schools in the same or adjacent school districts

HALF
OF STUDENTS



TRANSITIONING FROM CONGREGATE CARE TO FAMILY-LIKE PLACEMENTS **CHANGE SCHOOLS** IN THE MIDDLE OF A SCHOOL YEAR



WHEN STUDENTS TRANSITION FROM CONGREGATE CARE OR OTHER RESTRICTIVE SETTINGS, THEY MAY NOT HAVE A COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF ORIGIN UNDER THE **ESSA DEFINITION**



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Data Source: Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Human Services
Full Report: <http://www.unco.edu/cebs/foster-care-research/reports.aspx>

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