

ESSA Foster Care Community Presentation



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ESSA FC Provisions



Training Link

[http://bit.ly/FCP
artner](http://bit.ly/FCPartner)



Definitions & Acronyms

Foster Care- 24-hour (a day) substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency (DCS, tribal, or local) has placement and care responsibility.



Definitions & Acronyms

ESSA- Every Student Succeeds Act

POC- Point of Contact

SEA- State Education Agency (ADE)

LEA- Local Educational Agency

IEP- Individualized Education Plan

SIS- Student Information System



Definitions & Acronyms

ADE- Arizona Department of Education

CWA- Child Welfare Agency (in Arizona, DCS or tribal)

DCS- Department of Child Safety

DCSS- Department of Child Safety Specialist

REL- Regional Education Liaison (DCS Staff)

ESSA FC & McKinney-Vento

Children in foster care
are NO LONGER
McKinney-Vento
(Homeless)!!!

ESSA FC & McKinney-Vento

The ESSA also amended section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act), **REMOVING** children ~~“awaiting foster care placement”~~ from the definition of “homeless children and youths” for purposes of the Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) program.*

*Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015



School Stability Rationale



Frequent School Changes

*Taken from 'Roadmap for Foster Care and K-12 Data Linkages Key Focus Areas to Ensure Quality Implementation'
by Data Quality Campaign & Legal Center for Foster Care & Education

School Stability Rationale



Friendships

School Stability Rationale



Class Credits

School Stability Rationale



Education Services

School Stability Rationale



Delayed Enrollment

School Stability Rationale



School Discipline ↑

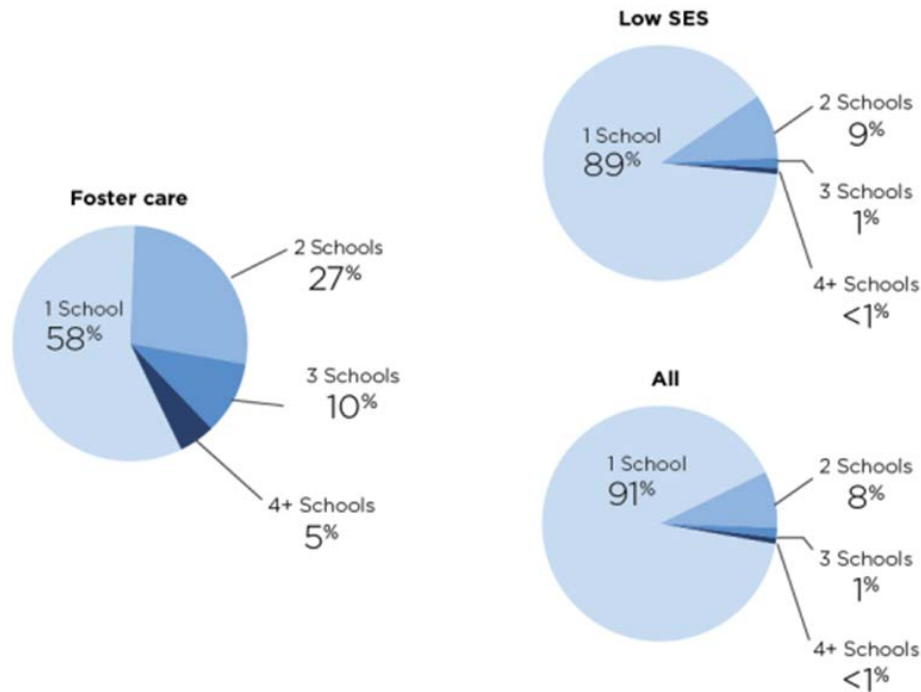
School Stability Rationale



Graduation Rate ↓

School Stability

Figure 5. Number of schools attended during the 2012/13 school year, for students in foster care, low-socioeconomic-status students, and all students in Arizona public schools, 2012/13



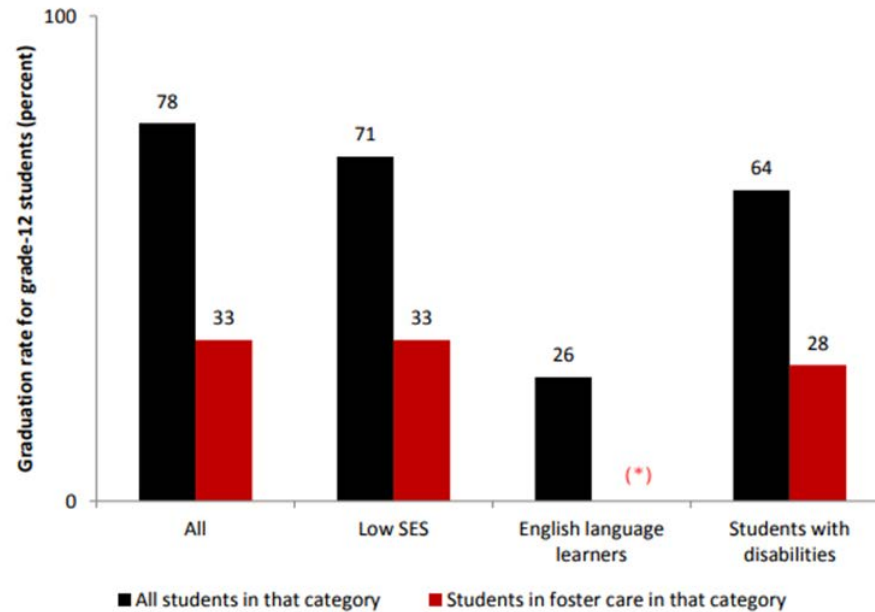
Source. Authors' analysis of linked administrative data from the Arizona Department of Education and Arizona Department of Child Safety, 2012/13.

Note. Percentages are computed for 1,108,795 students ages 5–17, including 10,770 students in foster care and 535,681 low-socioeconomic-status students. Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100. Numbers and percentages are presented in appendix table B2.

SES = socioeconomic status.

School Stability

Figure 12. Percentage of grade-12 students who graduated in 2013, for students in foster care, other at-risk student subgroups, and all students in Arizona public schools, 2012/13



Source. Authors' analysis of linked administrative data from the Arizona Department of Education and Arizona Department of Child Safety, 2012/13.

Note. Percentages are computed for 66,794 students age 17 or younger enrolled in grade 12; 500 students in foster care; 26,243 low-socioeconomic-status students; 470 English language learners; and 5,147 students with disabilities, of which 139 were students in foster care. Numbers and percentages of grade-12 graduates, by student subgroups, are provided in appendix table B7.

(*)The number of students in foster care classified as English language learners in grade 12 was too low for reporting the graduation rate.

SES = socioeconomic status.

The Every Students Succeeds Act: Foster Care Provisions

ESSA Foster Care Legal Text



ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

Two Parts:

- Part 1- SEA Portion
- Part 2- LEA Portion

ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

Part 1- SEA Portion



Basically...



SEA/CWA/LEA
Collaborate



FC children should
remain in their school
of origin

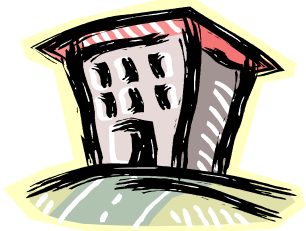
School of Origin

School of Origin- the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. If a child's foster care placement changes, the school of origin would then be considered the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of the placement change.



School of Origin

When a child enters foster care, even though they live here...



FC Placement



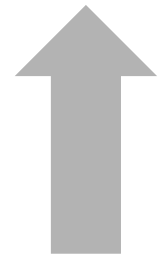
New School



Bio Family



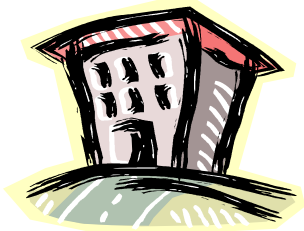
School of Origin



...they have the right to attend school here!

School of Origin

When a child changes placement, even though they live here...



New FC Placement



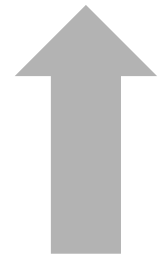
New School



Old FC Placement



School of Origin



...they have the right to attend school here!

Basically...



If not in the best interest of the child to remain, immediately enroll in new school.

Enrolling school shall immediately obtain records from previous school.

School of Origin

A child in foster care will only attend here...

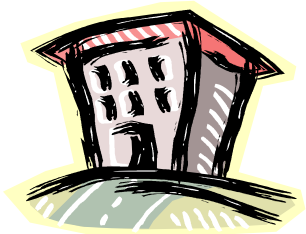


Bio Family



School of Origin

...if it is not in their
best interest to
attend here!



FC Placement



New School

ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

Part 2- LEA Portion



Basically...



SEA/CWA/LEA
Collaborate



CWA & LEA establish
POCs

Basically...



Plans to Transport FC
children to their school
of origin.



Additional costs- I
pay, you pay, or we
pay.

Best Interest Determination

BEST

Best Interest Determination

The LEA & CWA should collaborate in determining the best interest of a child in foster care. The CWA is the final decision maker regarding a foster child's school selection if any conflict cannot be resolved.

The cost of transportation CANNOT be considered when determining the best interest of the child!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Best Interest Determination

Factored into the best interest determination should be:

Best Interest Determination

- The safety of the child
- The wishes of the parent, caregiver, and child



Best Interest Determination

- The toll of the commute, distance, and time for the child to travel to and from the school
- Projected duration of out-of-home placement

Best Interest Determination

- The child's academic, developmental, and socialization needs
- The effect a school change will have on the child's learning and any potential for loss of credits*

– *Taken from the Department of Child Safety Open Discussion on ESSA Foster Care PowerPoint



Questions???



Transportation



Transportation

BOTH the **LEA & CWA** share the responsibility of school stability and transporting these children to their school of origin.



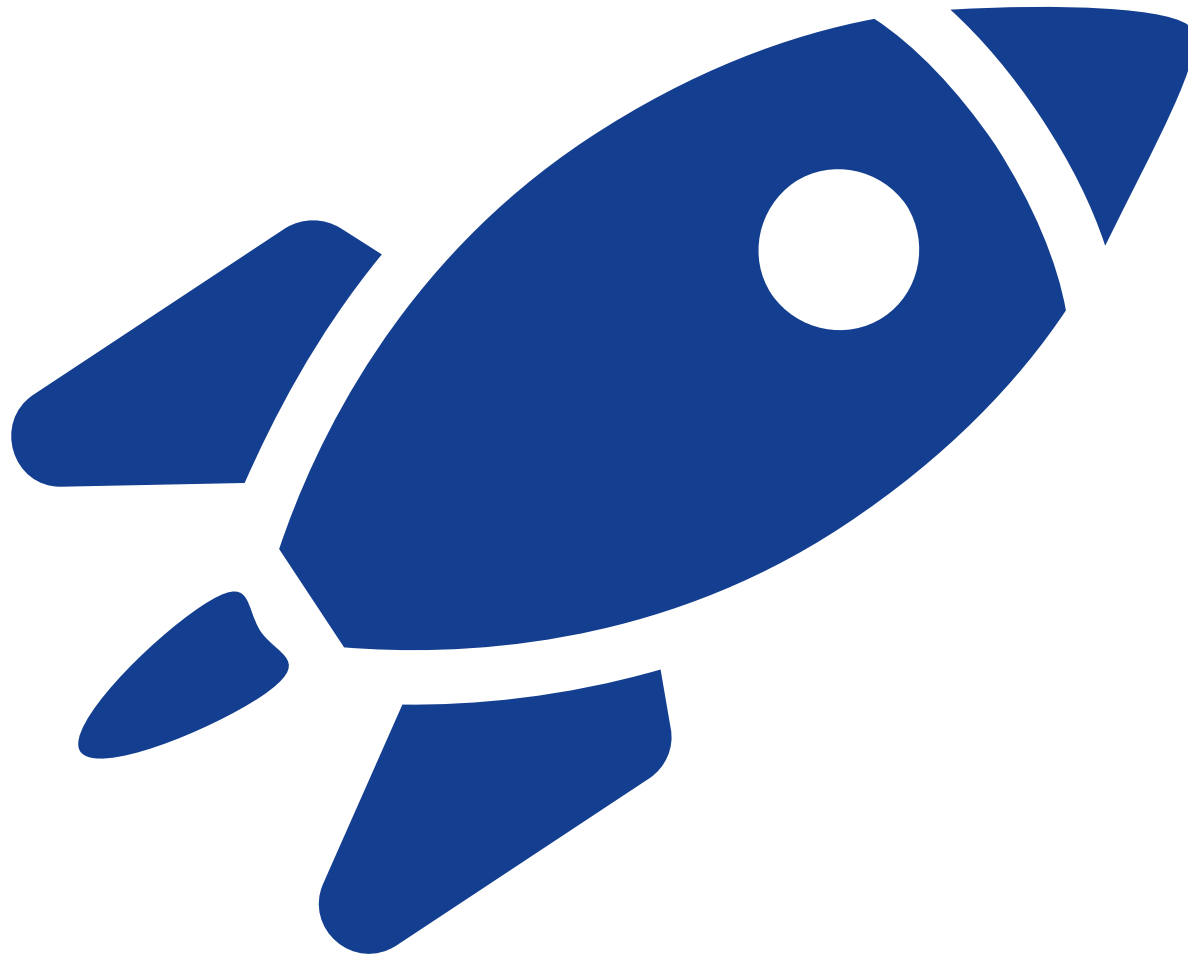
Transportation

- If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the LEA will provide such transportation if
 - (1) the local CWA agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation;
 - (2) the LEA agrees to pay for the cost; or
 - (3) the LEA and local CWA agree to share the cost.*

- *Taken from the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care from U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance on the Foster Care Provisions in Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015



Individual Procedure



Transportation

The LEA should first pursue **existing & low or no-cost** options for transportation.

Transportation

Existing options could include:

- Transportation already provided by other programs (i.e. if a child in foster care has an IEP that requires they be transported; that transportation would already be covered by IDEA or if the child qualifies for Title IV-E funds)
- If a child is placed in a foster group home, the group home is **contractually obligated to transport up 50 miles one way**

Transportation

Low or no cost options could include:

- Caregiver provides transportation to school or existing bus routes; CWA may be able to provide mile reimbursement to the caregiver
- Amending current bus routes
- Public transportation, if appropriate



DCS Regional Contacts

State level POC: Barbara Guillen, Barbara.Guillen@azdcs.gov

The 5 [CWA Regional POCs](#) are:

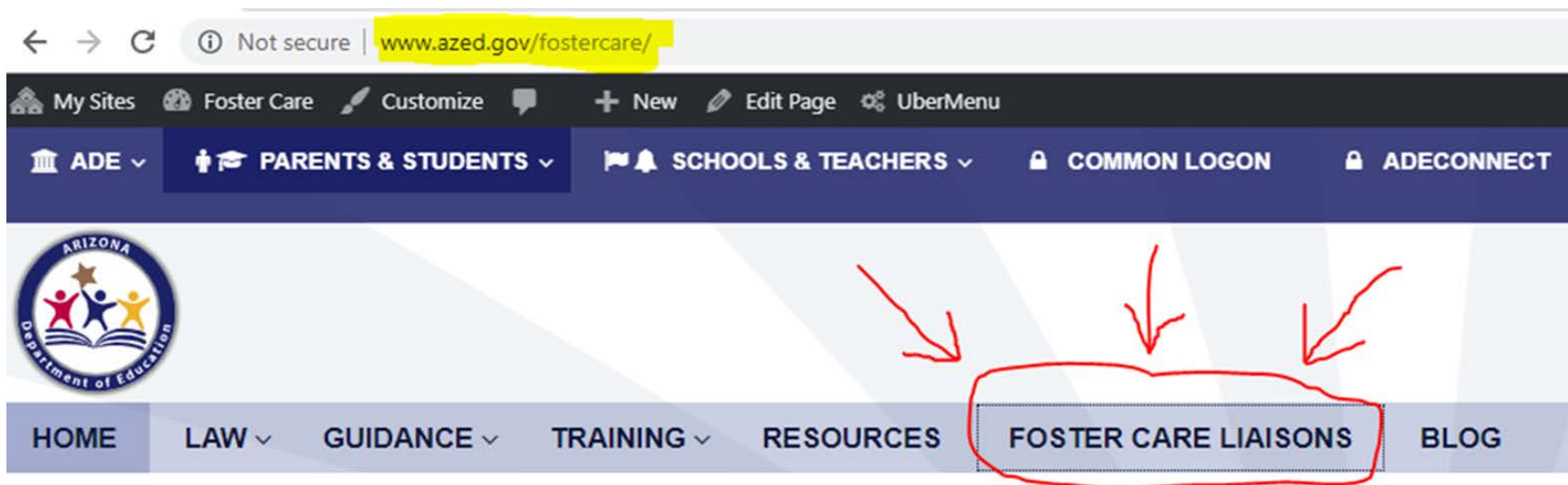
- **Northwest Region** (Mohave, Coconino, Yavapai, & La Paz Counties): Mary Prince, Mary.Prince@azdcs.gov
- **Maricopa West Region** (Western Maricopa County): George Johnson, George.Johnson@azdcs.gov
- **Maricopa East Region** (Eastern Maricopa County): Jennifer Farrish, Jennifer.Farrish@azdcs.gov
- **South Region** (Pima, Yuma, Santa Cruz, & Cochise Counties): Czarina Valadez, Czarina.Valadez@azdcs.gov
- **Northeast Region** (Pinal, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, & Apache Counties): Victoria Mills, Victoria.Mills@azdcs.gov



DCS Policy



LEA Foster Care Liaisons




LEA Foster Care Liaisons

← → ↻ ⓘ Not secure www.azed.gov/fostercare/lea-poc-list/

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ADE PARENTS & STUDENTS SCHOOLS & TEACHERS ADE CALENDAR COMMON LOGON



HOME LAW GUIDANCE TRAINING RESOURCES **FOSTER CARE LIAISONS** BLOG

Foster Care

LEA POC List

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Search Entries:

Search

[Academy Del Sol, Inc.](#)

[Academy of Building Industries, Inc](#)

[Academy Of Excellence, Inc.](#)



LEA POC

The LEA designates their POC. At the LEA level, this person **can** also serve as the LEA's McKinney-Vento Liaison/Specialist.

To update your LEA's POC:

Send an email containing the POC's contact info to-

- EducationPOC@AzDCS.gov &
- FosterCare@azed.gov



Identification & Data

Data Element	Race & ethnicity	Students w/ Disabilities	English Learner	Income	Migrant	Gender	Homeless	Foster Care	Military Connected
Test Scores	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
% tested by subject	X	X	X	X	X	X			
HS Grad Rate	X	X	X	X			X	X	
K-8 Indicator of Student Growth	X	X	X	X					
School Climate, Quality, and Safety	X	X	X						
Postsecondary Enrollment	X	X	X	X					

**Taken from 'Data Provisions in the ESSA'*

School Fees

What AFFCF Can Consider Funding

Auxiliary Payments and Special Allowances/Supplemental Financial Supports

Service Group: Allowances

Service Type Category	Service Type Description	Uses, Maximum Amounts and Qualifiers. Approval levels are designated in CHILDS.
EMRG CLTH ALLOW	Emergency Clothing	\$150 maximum per state fiscal year. Independent Living Subsidy program youth are <i>not</i> eligible for this allowance.
EMRG CLTH EXTRA	Emergency Clothing – Extra	\$100 maximum per state fiscal year. (examples: Fire, Flood, Theft). Independent Living Subsidy program youth are <i>not</i> eligible for this allowance.
BOOKS/EDUCATION	Books Education Expenses	\$82.50 maximum per school year for all dependent children. For books, supplies, course fees, student services and physical education fees/equipment. May be approved for special pre-school and college level, technical and vocational classes.
SUPP SCH TUIT	Supplemental Extra School Tuition and Fees	\$165 maximum per session. For use during summer sessions or interim sessions at year round schools.
GRADUATION	Graduation Expenses	\$220 maximum. Available for High School only for cap, gown, ring, yearbook, and other graduation related fees.
SPECIAL NEEDS	Special Needs Allowance	\$22.50 maximum per state fiscal year. Available to assist foster parents with expenses such as holidays, birthdays, and special occasions. Independent Living Subsidy program youth are <i>not</i> eligible for this allowance.
CAMP AND VACATION	Camp and Vacation Allowance	Suspended.
PASSPORT	Passport Allowance	Reimbursement for the actual cost of obtaining a passport book or card. Receipts are required. Effective 1/1/09 and is a one-time reimbursement per child.
DIAPERS-SPECIAL	Diaper – Special	\$62.50 maximum per month. This allowance must be authorized monthly. Available with medical documentation for children who require additional funds for diapers.

Auxiliary Payments and Special Allowances/Supplemental Financial Supports are available to licensed family foster care providers and unlicensed kinship and non-relative providers.



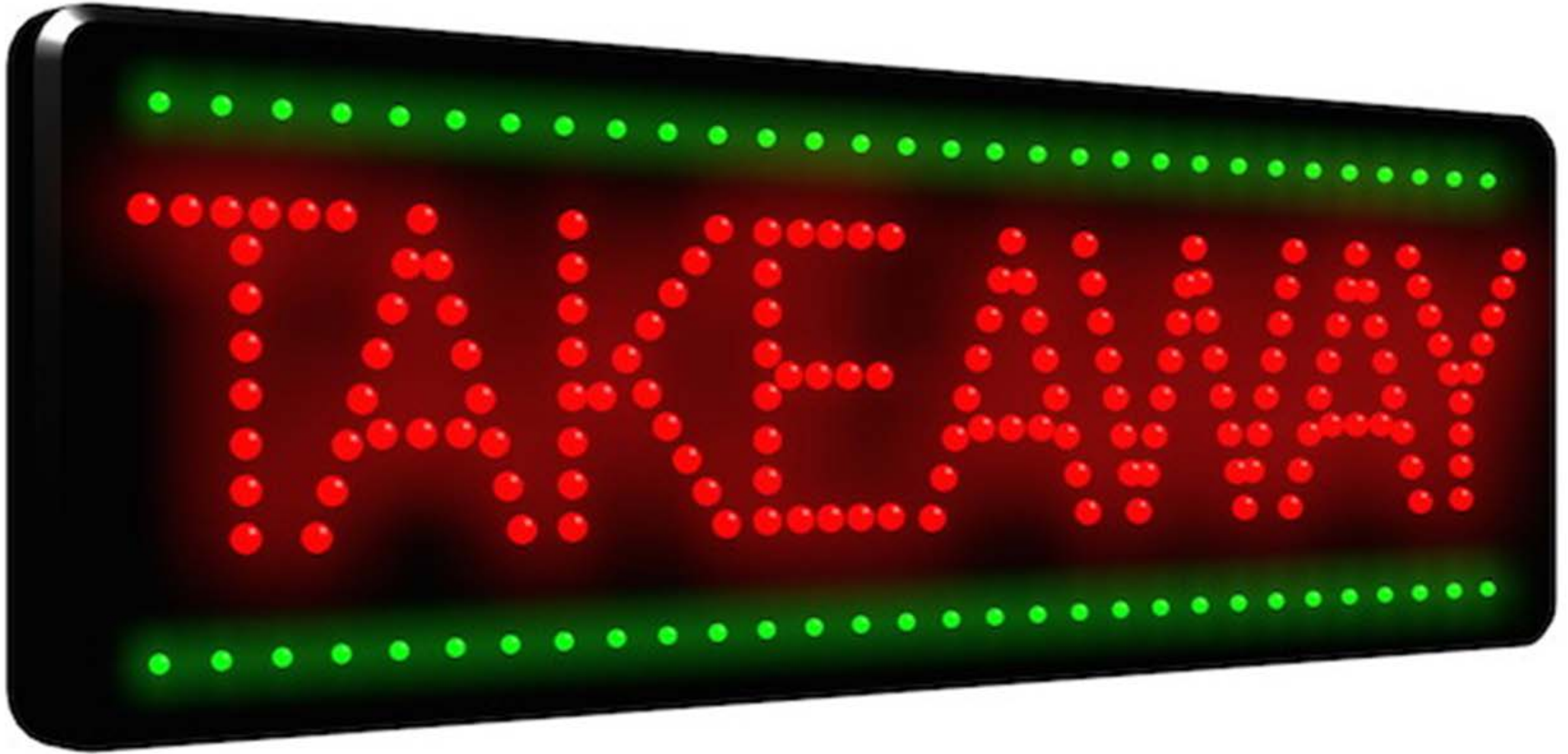
Whew!



Questions???



Big Takeaways



Big Takeaways

School of origin

CWA & LEA collaboration for best interest

determination & transportation to school of origin

Immediate Enrollment

Accurate identification



Contact Information

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Foster Care Education Coordinator

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<http://www.azed.gov/FosterCare/>

