

TEXAS CENTER
—★—
FOR THE JUDICIARY

2018 Foster Care & Education Summit

Foster Care and Education: 2008-2018

Kathleen McNaught and Tiffany Roper

July 9, 2018

“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.” — Soren Kierkegaard



Why Am I Here?



ABA Center on Children and the Law

- **Mission** - To promote access to justice for children and families.
- **Structure** - Nonprofit grant-funded entity in the American Bar Association with team of attorneys and core staff who work on projects across the country unified by two goals:
 - *to improve legal representation, and*
 - *to improve the legal systems that impact children and families' lives.*
- **Approach** - Collaboration and coalition building at local, state and national levels to build the capacity of legal practices and systems that serve children well and to help change those that do not.



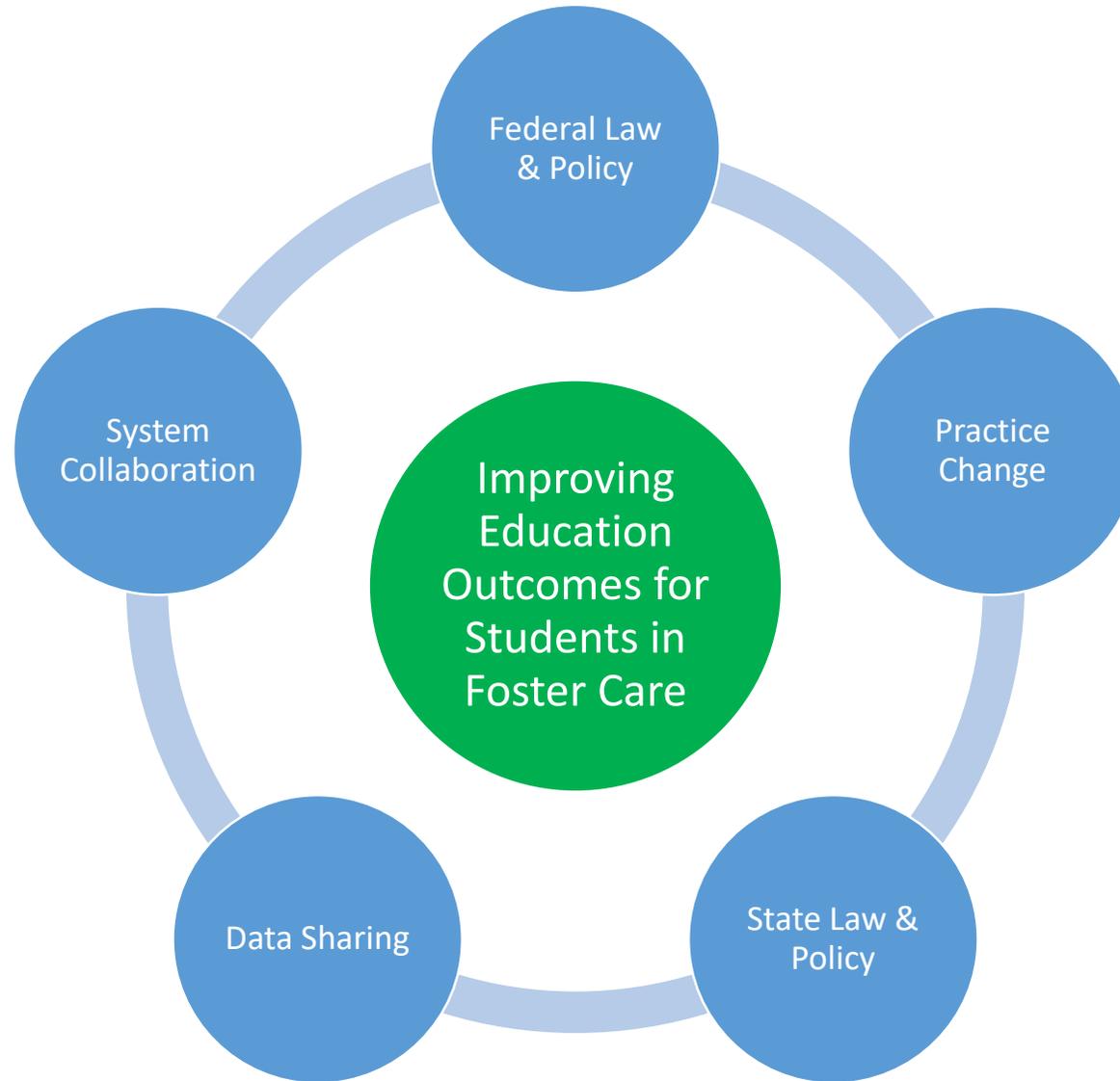
americanbar.org/child



WWW.FOSTERCAREANDEDUCATION.ORG

- Listserv, Training Materials, Webinars, Factsheets and Issue Briefs
- Searchable Database (includes state laws & policies)
- Facilitate Networks: National Working Group/Education Advisory Group
- Provide state and local technical assistance and support

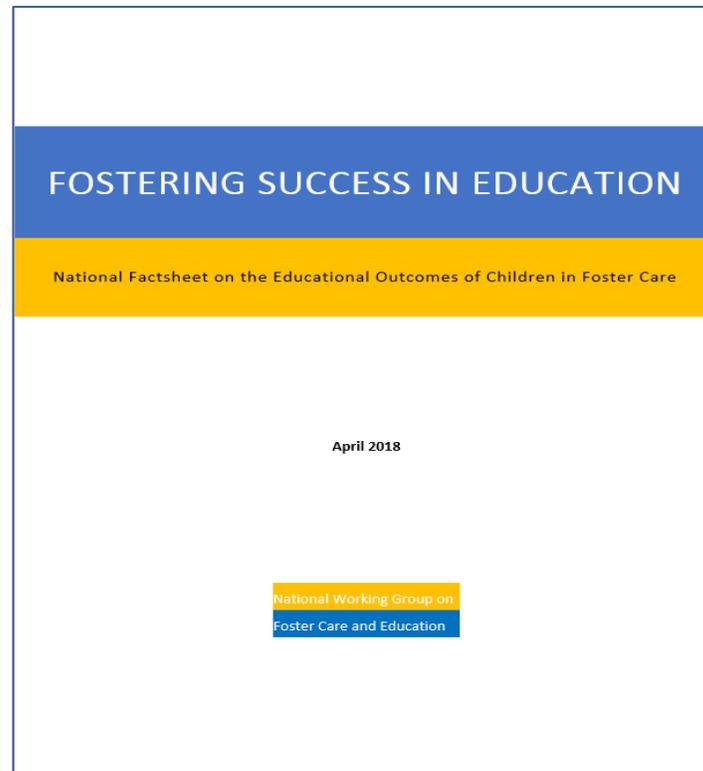




Latest Research Findings

Fostering Success in Education: National Factsheet on the Educational Outcomes of Children in Foster Care

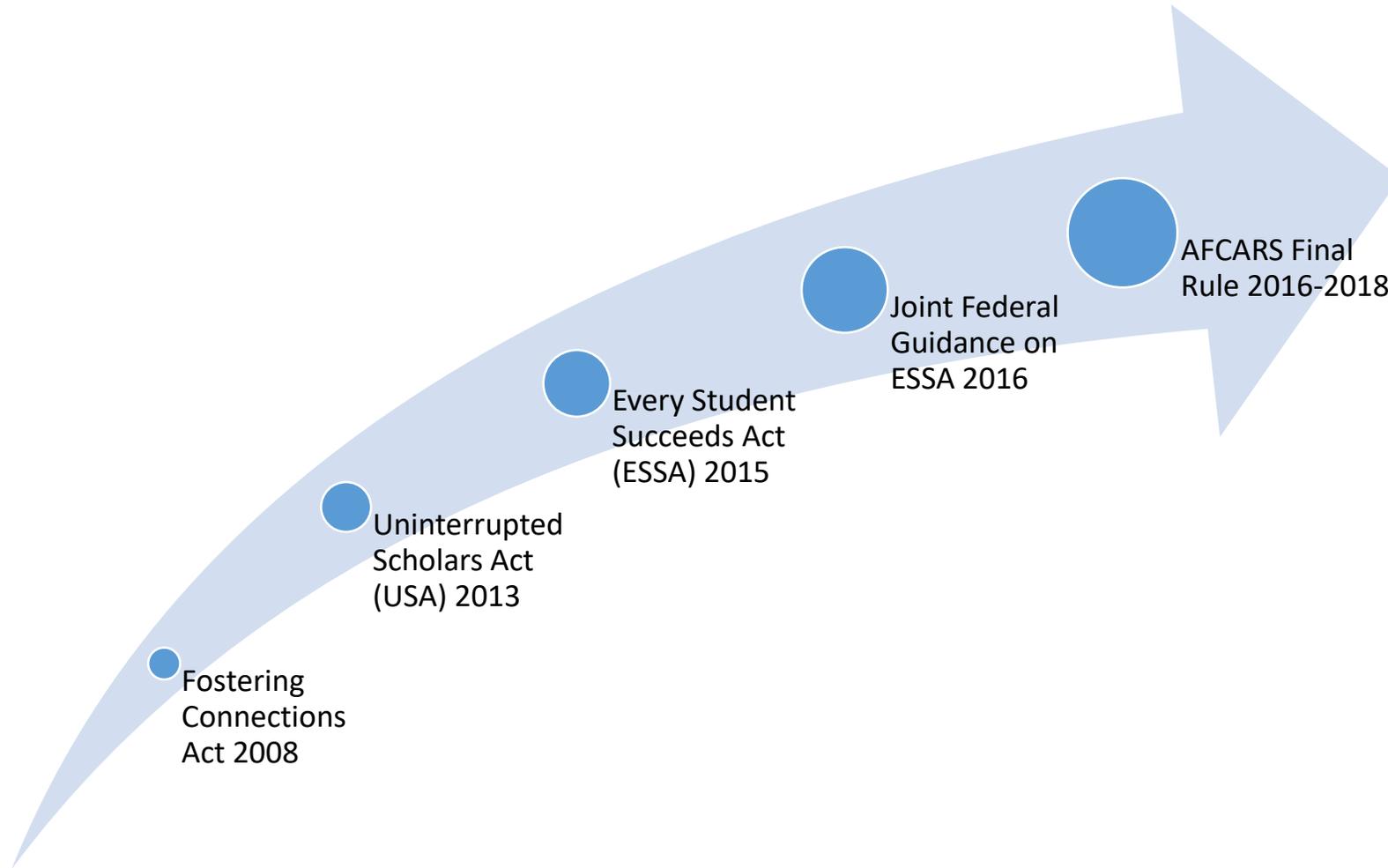
National Working Group on Foster Care and Education (April 2018)

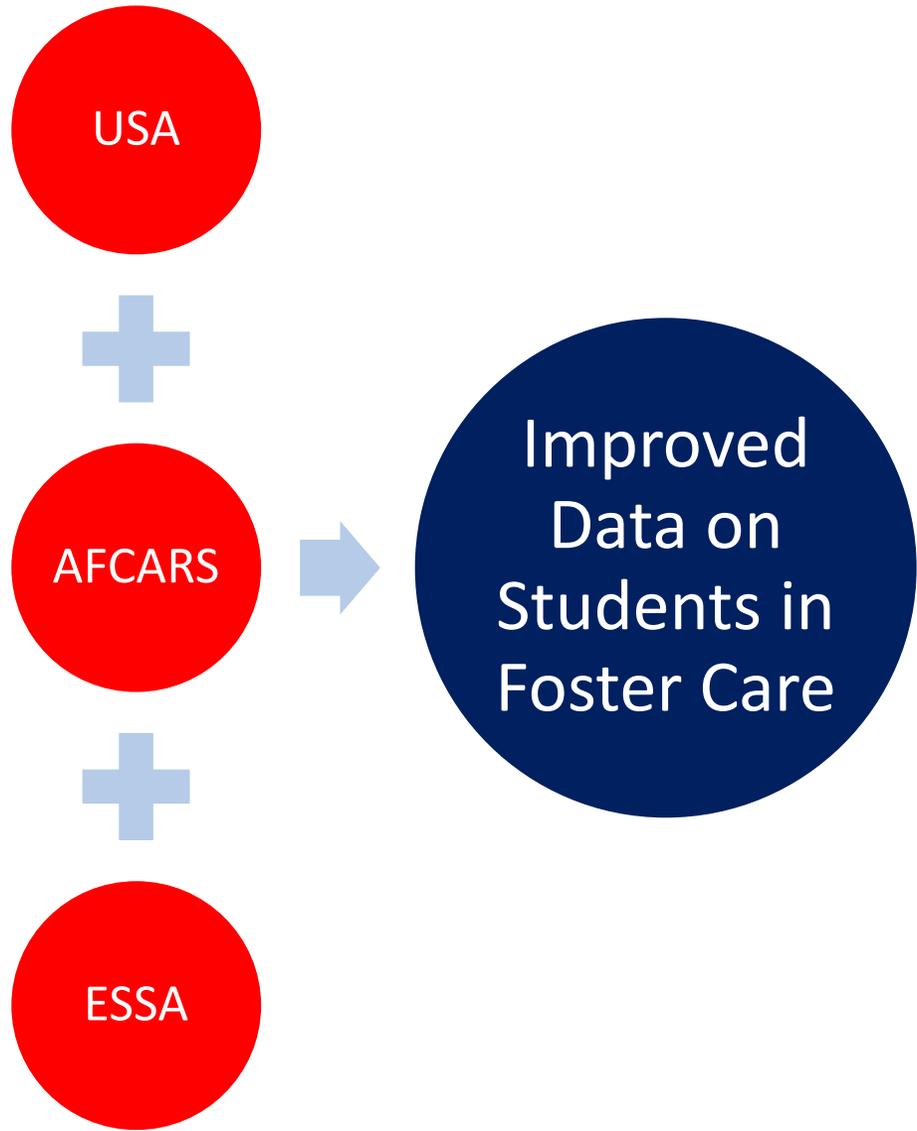


National Datasheet Fast Facts

Educational Experience or Outcome	Findings
School aged children in foster care (5-17)	268,517
% of foster youth w/ 2+ living placements	65%
% of youth who change schools when first entering care	31-75%
% of 17-18 year old who experience 5+ school changes	34%
Likelihood of being absent from school	2x other students
Likelihood of 17-18 year old in care being expelled	3x other students
Reading level of 17-18 year old in foster care	Avg. 7 th grade level (44% HS or higher)
% of foster youth receiving special education services	36-47%
% of 17-18 year old in foster care who want to go to college	70-84%
% of foster youth who complete high school by 21	65%
% of graduated foster youth who enroll in college	32-45%
% of foster care alumni who attain a bachelor's degree	3-11%

A Decade of Federal Law Improvements





Fostering
Connections
Act



Every
Student
Succeeds
Act



Shared
Responsibility
to Support
School
Stability

Texas Decided to Take Action



Our Humble Beginnings



Champions



“Our” Children & Youth



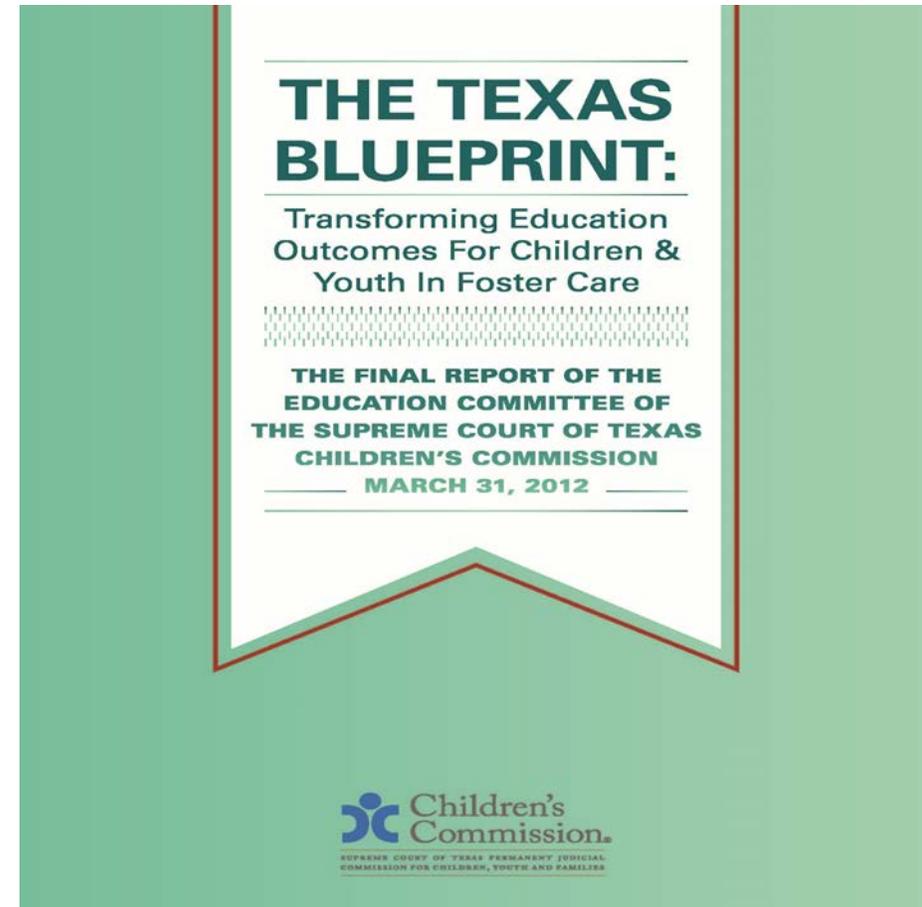
Uniquely Texas

- Our champions increase in number every day
- Laws, laws, laws and policy
- Relationships
- Our Data Story
- A new look at how we do our jobs and how we can better support youth in schools



High-Level Commitment Remains a Constant

- 2010 – 2012
 - Education Committee
- 2012 – 2014
 - Implementation Task Force
- 2015 – present
 - Foster Care & Education Committee



And the Circle Grows Larger

- DFPS Ed Specialists 2006
- LEA Foster Care Liaisons 2009
- ESC Foster Care Champions 2011
- CASA Education Advocacy Toolkit 2014
- Higher Education Champions 2015
- Local Consortia Everyday!

Texas Law and Policy Highlights

- Family Code sections requires courts/ad litem to inquire and know about education
- School stability
- Education decision-maker
- Surrogate parent
- Credit recovery
- Eligibility for pre-K
- Transfer of records
- Provisional enrollment
- PEIMS code to identify children in foster care
- Tuition and Fee Waiver
- Hiring preference for youth formerly in care
- Changes to Apply Texas

Texas Data Story



Ways Texas Has Been A National Leader

- ✓ 2011 Discretionary Grantee
- ✓ Highlighted in national CIP meetings, American Bar Association publications, and numerous other national conferences
- ✓ Texas Blueprint used as model for other state judicially lead collaborations
- ✓ Highlighted in Federal joint guidance released in 2016
- ✓ Will be featured in US Department of Education webinars in summer and fall of 2018

PRESENT DAY: Celebration of Texas Successes

- ❖ First, and one of only a few, court lead, state level collaborations in the country
- ❖ One of only a few states that has documented 10 years of thoughtful attention, efforts and progress to improve education outcomes for children in care
- ❖ Ongoing agency commitments at the Children's Commission, TEA and DFPS (among many other state agencies and leaders) to maintain staffing, policies and practices to support the work
- ❖ Partners who understand the importance of data, and commit time, energy, and resources to ensuring data is matched, analyzed, and used to guide the work.
- ❖ Tremendous leadership and commitment on the part of the Permanent Judicial Commission to lead this effort and devote staff and resources to continue to address key issue areas through committee and sub-committee work

Looking to the Future



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It's a Marathon; Not a Sprint!



National Landscape for the Future

- Glimmers of hope in some of the data—but continued poor outcomes means more work must be done
- Ten years of progress has created more opportunities to focus on the issue of improved education stability and success for children in care—we cannot overlook or miss those opportunities for continued advances
- Data will play a critical role in future efforts—changes to AFCARS and implementation of ESSA data requirements
- Data sharing at the local level will become critical to comply with state data requirements and tracking and accountability of new policies and practices

The Sky is the Limit!



Where Do We Go From Here?

- We are here to support YOU move forward!



Don't Lose Sight of the Forest Through the Trees!





Contact Information

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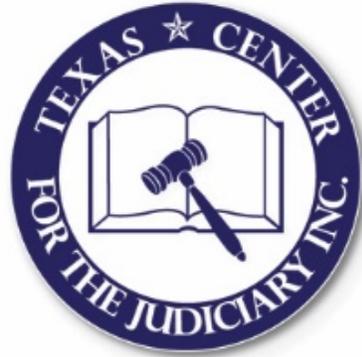
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Thank you for attending this presentation!