



Endless Dreams

A video and curriculum to educate teachers about foster care

The educational needs of youth in foster care—half a million at any given time—remain largely unrecognized. Yet the foster care experience has an enormous impact on educational outcomes at every level. A youth’s foster care status alone can be associated with a performance gap in standardized test scores.

To improve educational outcomes for youth in care, the child welfare, educational, judicial, and mental health systems must work together. Casey Family Programs developed the Endless Dreams Video and Training Curriculum to assist in this effort. These practice-oriented tools were designed to support education advocates, specialists, and liaisons, CASA volunteers, child welfare professionals, and others to assist youth in care with their educational needs.

Video

The Endless Dreams video showcases the great potential of schools to support and enrich the lives of youth in care. The video features a young woman in care and describes how life in foster care impacts her education. Casey Family Programs offers this 15-minute video upon request, at no charge.

Training Curriculum

This comprehensive, peer-reviewed curriculum is composed of ten one-hour modules:

Module 1: Introduction to the Educational Needs of Youth in Foster Care and Out-of-Home Care

Module 2: Understanding the Foster Care System—Part I

Module 3: Understanding the Foster Care System—Part II

Module 4: Understanding the Impacts on Youth Who Are Part of the “System”

Module 5: Roles and Responsibilities: Working With Youth in Foster Care

Module 6: Improving Educational Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care and Out-of-Home Care

Module 7: Indicators of Systems Change

Module 8: Educational Support for Youth in Transition

Module 9: Class-Wide Strategies for Increasing Knowledge Around the Issue of Out-of-Home Care Students for All Participants

Module 10: Beyond the School Day: Building a Supportive Community

Each module includes a facilitator's guide which provides:

- Training outcomes
- Materials needed
- Details on the facilitator's role before, during, and after the presentation
- A step-by-step agenda for the session (including a script or outline for the facilitator)
- Overheads and handouts

The Endless Dreams Training Curriculum illustrates how child welfare practice and the regulatory environment affect the educational needs of youth in care. The curriculum provides solid, practical

advice for educators on implementing policies and procedures to improve outcomes. Optimally, each school that completes the training takes steps to address the particular needs of youth in out-of-home care in its annual school building plan.

Certification to deliver the Endless Dreams Training Curriculum requires a six-hour “train the trainer” learning session. Upon successful completion of the learning session, trainees will be certified by Casey to train others in the Endless Dreams curriculum. Also, newly certified trainers will receive a complimentary copy of the Endless Dreams Video and Training Curriculum.

Testimonial

“This curriculum is very well structured—I will use it to educate and inform teachers about what foster care is and the impact it has on a youth's educational achievement.”

—Program director
San Diego County, California

For additional information on the Endless Dreams Video and Training Curriculum, please visit www.casey.org/ToolsAndResources.

