



A Road Map for Learning

A practice framework and resource guide to improve education outcomes

Helping youth in out-of-home care achieve educational success is a cornerstone of our practice philosophy at Casey Family Programs. Success requires knowledge and collaboration across the child welfare, legal, and educational systems.

Education provides a positive counterweight to the abuse, neglect, separation, and impermanence youth may experience when they enter out-of-home care. For these youth, positive school experiences:

- Help them make more successful transitions to adulthood
- Increase their chances for personal fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency
- Improve their ability to contribute to society
- Provide opportunities to form lasting connections with adults and ultimately enhance their well-being

In 2004, Casey Family Programs published *A Road Map for Learning: Improving Educational Outcomes in Foster Care*. It is a guide for everyone working towards successful educational outcomes for youth.

The Framework at a Glance

A Road Map for Learning provides a modular framework for achieving collaboration across the federal, state, and local legal, educational, and child welfare systems to improve educational outcomes for youth in foster care. Emphasizing the needs of K–12 students, the framework addresses the educational challenges facing preschool populations as well as youth who have emancipated from care. The framework contains tools, policies, programs, and curricula for parents, caregivers, teachers, and child welfare professionals that are highly adaptable to practice.

A Road Map for Learning shows how to integrate the predictors of academic success into an educational plan. It supports youth in out-of-home care in driving their own educational success.

A Road Map for Learning is available free of charge in hard copy (136 pages) or as a downloadable PDF file from Casey Family Program's Web site.

Key Objectives

The framework is organized in a modular format for quick access to eleven key educational objectives and the practices and resources for attaining them:

School Transfer Issues

1. Provide school placement stability
2. Secure and maintain accurate and accessible school records

Collaboration and Training Issues

3. Facilitate collaboration and training among all involved systems
4. Train caregivers to be education advocates at school and at home

Supports and Services Issues

5. Provide education advocates and education specialists/advocates
6. Give youth access to supplemental education supports and services
7. Address special education needs as appropriate for youth
8. Decrease disparate outcomes for youth of color

Preparation Issues

9. Ensure that youth are literate, acquire basic skills, and have extracurricular opportunities
10. Prepare youth to achieve their postsecondary education, training, and career goals

Public Policy Issues

11. Promote public policies that support education during and after care

Each objective's module in the framework includes background information, promising practices, resources, handouts and checklists, and suggestions for immediate action.

Testimonial

"A Road Map for Learning is an excellent tool for caseworkers and caregivers to use when advocating for the educational needs of youth in foster care."

—Social worker
Seattle, Washington

For additional information, to request a hard copy, or to download *A Road Map for Learning*, please visit www.casey.org/ToolsAndResources.

