FOSTER CARE DATA EXCHANGE POLICIES AND PRACTICES: Texas

Students in foster care[1]

17,090

Graduation rate[2]

61.4% students in foster care

90.3% all students

Academic achievement[3]

Meets Grade Level or Above	Students in foster care	All students
Reading/language arts	**26%**	**46%**
Mathematics	**28%**	**48%**

Data Exchange at a Glance

Formal agreement[4] established between SEA and CWA:
Yes, in 2010 (updated in 2011 & 2014)

Frequency of data exchange:
Annually

Direction of exchange:[5]
Bidirectional between SEA and CWA and from SEA to LEAs

Data categories shared:
Demographic and education information

Data Exchange Process

Texas has a data-sharing agreement between the Texas Education Agency as the SEA and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as the CWA. The data-sharing agreement was created in response to legislation requiring the SEA to share data with the CWA on student outcomes.

The data exchange is intended to occur annually. It takes approximately 6 weeks for the SEA to examine the data. The exchange process occurs as follows:

The CWA prepares the data. The CWA identifies students in foster care during the current school year and then generates a dataset of the collected information.

The SEA and CWA exchange data. The CWA sends a standardized computer file to the SEA. The SEA then uses a secure method to store the data in the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), a data system encompassing all data requested and received by the SEA about public education. Data are matched and then used to create standard reports containing information, including, but not limited to, demographics, grade level, promotion and retention, and disciplinary information. After the SEA creates the standard reports, it sends the standardized secure confidential data reports electronically back to the CWA.

The SEA shares data with local educational agencies (LEAs). Exchanged data are made available to LEAs and schools. LEA and school staff must log into a State data system to retrieve the information about students in foster care and integrate the data into their local data systems.

👥 Drivers of Success

Some key facilitators that support the implementation of Texas' data-sharing agreement include:

1. The Educator Preparation Data Workgroup, a working group spearheaded by the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission, serves to bring together the CWA, SEA, and other leadership to facilitate discussions on understanding and improving the data exchange. In addition, this working group assists the SEA in examining data longitudinally.

2. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which requires reporting on student graduation and dropout rates.

🔭 Future Opportunities

Several opportunities related to the implementation of the data-sharing agreement include:

1. Involving the LEAs more in the exchange process. Both the CWA and the LEAs identify students in foster care, but the LEAs' process is disconnected from the data agreement between the SEA and CWA. A real-time avenue for SEA, CWA, and LEA data systems to be able to communicate in a secure, confidential manner in real time would be immensely beneficial to support the accurate identification of students in foster care in the LEA.

2. Additional grants and sources of funding to increase SEA data technology infrastructure and related staffing for the data exchange and analysis process.

3. Sharing more information and data collected by CWA with the SEA.

Notes

[1] The number of students in foster care in the 2020-2021 school year, available at https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/enroll-2020-21.pdf.

[2] The percentage of students in foster care graduated in 2021, available at
https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker?_service=marykay&_program=perfrept.perfmast.sas&_debug=0&frc=yes&ccyy=2021&lev=S&prgopt=2019%2Ffrc%2Freport_card.sas.

[3] Academic achievement data from 2021, available for all grades at
https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker?_service=marykay&_program=perfrept.perfmast.sas&_debug=0&frc=yes&ccyy=2021&lev=S&prgopt=2019%2Ffrc%2Freport_card.sas.

[4] An MOU or other formal agreement. The formal agreement for Texas is available at https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/TEA%20%20HHSC%20ECI%20-%20MOU_0.pdf, and Texas Education Code § 0297 is available at https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.7.htm.
[5] Data in the exchange can flow from one agency to another or be bidirectional.

Additional Information

Data provided by the CWA to the SEA:

- name
- birth date
- address
- enrollment status
- gender
- race/ethnicity
- school exit status (e.g., dropout, graduation)
- special education services and settings (e.g., counsel therapy, residential care)

Data provided by the SEA to the CWA:

- education ID number
- grade level
- promotion and retention
- discipline history

Foster Care Data Exchange Indicators (Standard Reports) with the Texas Education Agency and Department of Family and Protective Services

Attendance:

- ethnicity
- gender
- grade
- attendance
- limited English proficient (LEP)
- special education
- gifted/talented
- bilingual
- migrant

Disability Type (Primary Disability)

Discipline – by race and ethnicity (America Indian; Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino; White; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; Two or More Races)

- in school suspension
- out of school suspension
- discipline reason incident

Enrollment:

- male
- female
- race/ethnicity
- grade level
- military
- ESL
- special education

- gifted/talented
- economically disadvantaged
- at-risk
- bilingual
- immigrant

Graduation Program Type:

- distinguished
- foundation
- minimum
- recommended

Leaver Code Status:

- admin withdrawal
- died
- dropout
- enrolled in another school
- expelled
- graduated
- high school equivalency
- home schooling
- removed child protective services
- RTN home CNTRY/Emigrate Cntry

Special Education Services:

- assistive tech
- audio therapy
- C-Print

- cart
- counsel therapy
- cued language transliteration
- deaf-blind interpreting
- ECI
- health services
- medical services
- medically fragile
- mobile services
- multiple disabled
- occupational therapy
- oral transliteration
- physical therapy
- PPCD
- psych services
- recreational therapy
- sign language interpreting
- sign language transliteration
- social services

- special trans services
- student participation in receive instructional services
- student receiving speech w/ special education
- student receiving speech therapy only
- type well

Special Education Settings (not a conclusive list):

- home based instruction
- homebound – usual
- hospital class
- mainstream – usual
- non-public school
- off home campus
- other environment
- residential care

FOR MORE INFORMATION about students in foster care, please visit:

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education:
https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/students-foster-care/

Texas Education Agency Foster Care & Student Success:
https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/foster-care-and-student-success

Foster Care and Student Success Texas Data and Trends (2018) Report:
http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/84706/foster-care-and-data-trends-2018-final.pdf

The State snapshot is developed based on publicly available information and information provided by the State.