



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Oregon achieves . . . together!

Foster Care Students & Education

Deborah Lange, Director, Federal Systems, Office of Teaching & Learning

Jan McComb, Legislative Liaison

Oregon Department of Education

March 13, 2019

Senate Education Committee

Oregon Foster Care

What is Foster Care?

“Foster Care” means substitute care for children placed by the Department of Human Services or a tribal child welfare agency away from their parents and for whom the department or agency has placement and care responsibility, including placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions and pre-adoptive homes.” ORS 339.133



Oregon Foster Care

2018 Oregon DHS Child Welfare Foster Care Data

FFY 2018 Age of Children Served in Foster Care		
Age Group	Number	Percent
Age 0-5	4,613	39.4%
Age 6-12	3,730	32.9%
Age 13-17	2,291	20.4%
Age 18+	811	7.3%
Total	11,445	100.0%

11, 445 Total children who spent at least one day in Foster Care
7,672 Point in Time Foster Care (9/30/2018)

* Data represents 2018 preliminary data book numbers from DHS.

Oregon Foster Care

Reasons for Oregon Foster Care Entry: 2017 Child Welfare Data Book

Reasons Children Enter Foster Care FFY 2015 to FFY 2017

(includes all types of foster care)

Removal Reason	FFY 2015		FFY 2016		FFY 2017	
	Number	% of Entrants	Number	% of Entrants	Number	% of Entrants
Neglect Abuse	2,667	70.3%	2,708	71.1%	2,856	70.3%
Parent Drug Abuse	1,799	47.4%	1,880	49.4%	2,113	52.0%
Inadequate Housing	498	13.1%	578	15.2%	698	17.2%
Domestic Violence	n/a	n/a	463	12.2%	622	15.3%
Inability To Cope	506	13.3%	653	17.1%	566	13.9%
Physical Abuse	494	13.0%	502	13.2%	557	13.7%
Parent Alcohol Abuse	370	9.8%	359	9.4%	535	13.2%
Incarceration Of Parent	387	10.2%	420	11.0%	413	10.2%
Child Behavior	272	7.2%	286	7.5%	282	6.9%
Sex Abuse	168	4.4%	166	4.4%	210	5.2%
Abandonment	121	3.2%	138	3.6%	125	3.1%
Child Drug Abuse	45	1.2%	38	1.0%	62	1.5%
Death Of Parent	21	0.6%	27	0.7%	42	1.0%
Child Alcohol Abuse	20	0.5%	22	0.6%	23	0.6%
Relinquishment	15	0.4%	8	0.2%	13	0.3%
Child Disability	42	1.1%	52	1.4%	-	0.0%
Total Foster Care Entrants	3,793		3,808		4,065	

Oregon Foster Care

2017 Child Welfare Data Book



- **13.7%** of children entering foster care had four or more removal reasons
- **10.8%** of foster care exits occurred within three months of entry
- **56.5%** children who left foster care were reunified with parents
- **34.7%** of children were placed with relatives in foster care
- **82.9%** were placed with one or more siblings
- **62.3%** had two or fewer placements in foster care

Oregon Foster Care

National Education Data for Children/Youth in Foster Care

Nationally: By the Numbers

- **56%-75%** of foster students change schools when entering foster care
- **34%** of 17-18-year-olds in foster care have experienced 5+ school changes
- **50%** of foster students complete high school by age 18
- **2 – 9 %** of former foster youth attain a bachelor's degree



Did You Know?

Foster Care Youth are 2.5-3.5 times more likely to receive special education services and have higher rates of suspension/expulsion

Oregon Foster Care

Every Student Succeeds Act Provisions for Children in Foster Care

ESSA provisions are designed to reduce disruptions in education:



- Applies to Child Welfare & Tribal Foster care only;
- Allows foster students to remain in the same school/school district when entering foster care and when their foster home placements change;
- Requires schools to immediately enroll children in foster care after a school move;
- Requires points of contact in every state education agency and many school districts;
- Requires plans for school transportation;
- Requires tracking achievement.

Oregon Foster Care

School District Foster Care Data

School districts with the highest foster care enrollment (K-12):



- Portland 224
- Salem: 178
- Medford 124
- Eugene 112
- Springfield 97
- Beaverton 90

Additional Support

Students in Child Welfare custody qualify for an additional weight (.25) for school districts in the State School Fund distribution formula.

*Foster Care Data Collection as reported by DHS (10-1-18).

Oregon Foster Care

School of Origin

What is School of Origin?

If a child's foster home placement moves, the school district/school of origin remains the same. School of Origin applies to foster students between 4 – 21 years old. In addition:

- The school district/school of origin only changes when there is a “Best Interest Finding” made by the juvenile court;
- Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams still have the authority to make all special education placement decisions;
- School district of origin arranges transportation to new school and is reimbursed by DHS.



Oregon Foster Care School Records Transfer

For students who are in substitute care programs (OAR 581-021-0255):

- Schools shall request the student's education records within 5 days of student seeking initial enrollment; and
- When the school receives the request for records, they shall be transferred no later than 5 days after receipt of request.



Oregon Foster Care

2016-17 Graduation Rates

Student Outcome	Foster Care	Non-Foster Care
Graduates	35%	77%
Other Completers	11%	3%
Continuing Enrollment	18%	6%
Non-completers/dropouts	37%	13%

* Data represents unverified 2016-17 school year data; based on 10,800 students in public schools in foster care between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2017.

Oregon Foster Care

Foster Care Data in Oregon

Use & Access of Data Across State Agencies

- DHS and ODE have a data sharing agreement for foster care data;
- Oregon does not currently have *verifiable* education outcome data for children in foster care;
- Matching data has been complicated by state agencies not having a common denominator for students;
- Foster Care data will be on 2018-2019 State Report Card;
- DHS/HECC share data for higher education outcomes.
- DHS/ODE share data for automatic certification for Free & Reduced Lunch.



Oregon Foster Care

Please Contact Us

First and Last Name, Position
Deb.Lange@state.or.us

First and Last Name, Position
Jan.Mccomb@state.or.us

