Guidance for youth in foster care: transfers, credits, & coursework
This document was created to provide guidance on transfers, course work, and credits and for students in foster care. The information provided in this document comes from House Bill 18-1306 and Colorado Revised Statute 22-32-138. Please note that the guidance from these sources is not mandated by law, but provides options for education providers to be flexible in educational coursework planning and credit attainment for youth in foster care.

Transfers
When a student in out-of-home placement transfers from one school to another school, the sending education provider shall certify to the receiving education provider the course work that the student has fully or partially completed. The receiving education provider shall accept the student's certified course work and the course work certified by previous education providers in which the student was enrolled as if it had been completed at the receiving education provider. The receiving education provider shall apply all of student's certified course work toward completion of the student's requirements for grade level promotion at the receiving school, or for graduation from the receiving school if the student is enrolled in twelfth grade.

The receiving education provider may award elective credit for any portion of the student's certified course work that is not aligned with the curriculum of the receiving education provider or for demonstrated competencies that are not aligned with the receiving education provider.

If a student in out of home placement who is transferring at the beginning of or during twelfth grade is ineligible to graduate from the receiving provider, the education provider may request a diploma from a previously attended education provider, and the previously attended education provider may issue a diploma if the student meets the education provider's graduation requirements.

Prerequisites and Course Work
When a student experiences out of home placement at any point during high school, an education provider may waive course or program requirements or other preconditions for placement in courses or programs under the jurisdiction of the education provider.

An education provider may waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another jurisdiction or the student has demonstrated competency in the content area. If the receiving school does not grant a waiver to a child who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the education provider is encouraged to provide an alternate means of acquiring the related course work or competency requirements so that timely graduation may occur.