The mission of the Denver Public Schools is to provide all students the opportunity to achieve the knowledge and skills necessary to become contributing citizens in our diverse society.

https://childservices.dpsk12.org
Historical Background
The Fostering Connections Act of 2008 ensured each school district had an appointed Child Welfare Education Liaison (CWEL) to help with enrollment, transportation, and transfer of school records.

In 2012, CDE appointed a state coordinator for foster care education to ensure that students in foster care are achieving academically through course completion, advancing to the next grade, accruing credits toward graduation, and on a path to post secondary success.

What is ESSA?
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a law passed in December 2015 that governs the United States K–12 public education policy. The law replaced the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Contains key protections for children in foster care that require state and local educational agencies to collaborate with child welfare agencies. The goal is to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care.

Overview of ESSA key points
Student will remain in school of origin (unless it is not best interest to enroll at a new school. This is decided in a BID meeting- Best Interest Determination.)

Student can immediately enroll in the new neighborhood school (even if they lack records)

The new (enrolling) school immediately contacts the school of origin to obtain relevant academic and other records

Enrollment must not be denied or delayed for any population of students because documents normally required for enrollment have not been provided

Title I funds can be used in collaboration with state funds to help with transportation to school of origin

What can foster parents do?
Foster and kinship parents can complete the Federal Programs Form at enrollment to self identify. Someone will then reach out to check in.

What can schools do?
- Notify CWEL and ESSA program of foster students
- Collaborate on foster and kinship student needs
- Immediately enroll and request records

Who can help?
The DPS CWEL is Courtney Leyba
e: Courtney_leyba@dpsk12.org
p: 720.423.2640
The DPS ESSA foster care liaison(s) are Allison Drexel and Heidi Krebs
e: allison_drexel@dpsk12.org, heidi_krebs@dpsk12.org
p: 720.423.1807, 720.423.1808
The DPS ESSA foster care program manager is Jackie Bell
e: jackie_bell@dpsk12.org
p: 720.423.1801

What can we provide?
- help with free school meals
- emergency basic need items
- help with school fees and waivers
- school supplies and uniforms
- community resources