

Collaborating for the Success of Students in Foster Care



The Meadows Center
FOR PREVENTING EDUCATIONAL RISK

Objectives

- Learn about students in foster care
- Share perspectives
- Network and begin collaborative planning

Why Focus on Students in Foster Care?

- In Texas, more than 17,000 school-aged children and youth receive support through this system.
- This number includes refugee and immigrant children and youth and students of detained and/or deported parents.
- Most of these students have achievement gaps related to educational instability.

Challenges That Have an Impact on Educational Outcomes

- Chaotic, abusive, and/or neglected home environment
- Great loss
- Language barrier
- Acculturation issues

From: Texas Education Agency. (2013). *Foster care and student success: Texas systems working together to transform education outcomes for students in foster care*. Retrieved from <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/FosterCareStudentSuccess/liaisons/>

Challenges That Have an Impact on Educational Outcomes (cont.)

- Lack of school readiness
- School instability
- Negative school experiences
- Lack of student input in educational decisions
- Inadequate transition planning
- Minimal collaboration among service providers

(Texas Education Agency, 2013)

Service Providers Involved in the Life of a Student in Foster Care

Family

- Biological parent
- Foster or surrogate parent

Justice System

- Judge
- Child's attorney
- Parent's attorney
- State's attorney
- Guardian ad litem
- Court-appointed special advocates

Community

- Local businesses
- Sports associations
- Local rec. centers

External Specialists

- Therapists
- Medical providers
- Unaccompanied Minor Program



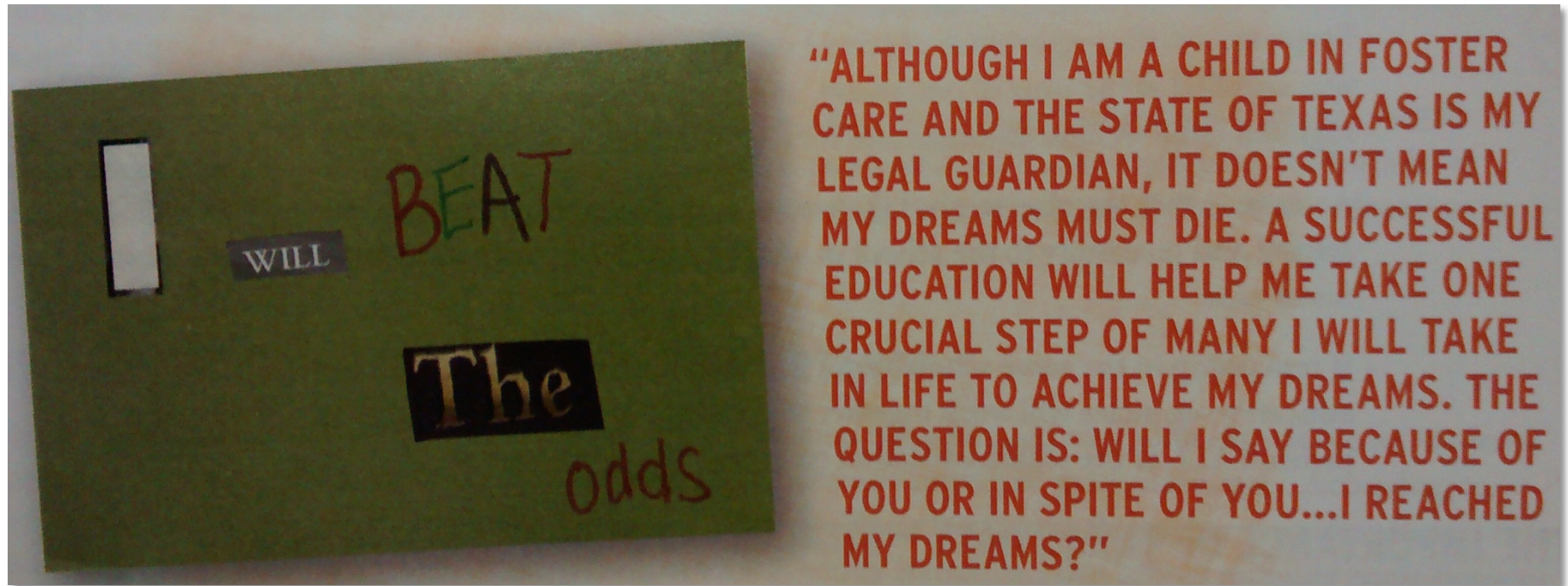
Department of Family and Protective Services

- Caseworker
- Education specialist
- Preparation for adult living specialist, etc.

School

- Teachers
- Interventionists
- Counselors and school social workers
- District foster care liaison

“A successful education will help me...
achieve my dreams...”



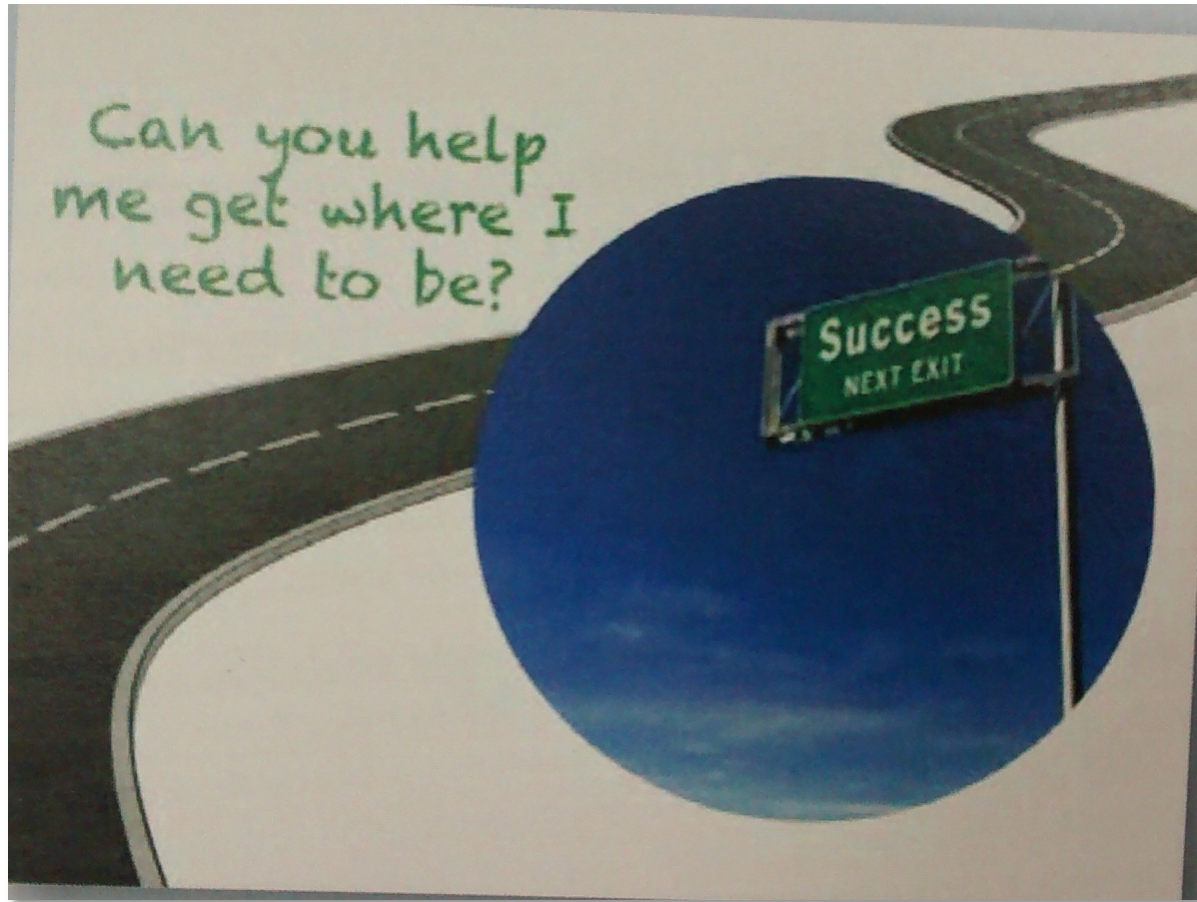
(Texas Education Agency, 2013)

What Do the Data Tell You?

In Texas in 2012–2013	Students in Foster Care	Peers
Received special education	23.6%	8.7%
Had in-school suspensions	21.2%	10.5%
Had out-of-school suspensions	16.0%	4.8%
Were in disciplinary alternative education program	5.1%	1.6%
Graduated	38.7%	72.4%

From: 2012-2013 Updates. (2015, January). *Data on foster children attending Texas public schools.*

Can We Help?



(Texas Education Agency, 2013)

What Does Collaboration Involve?

- Sharing critical information to the appropriate people
- Brainstorming solutions
- Thinking outside the box for solutions
- Listening and learning from each other
- Being committed to the process
- Including all those involved in the process