

September 2021, Vol 1

# FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

*Building a Network of People to Support Foster Youth*



## New Year, New Goals

### Importance of School Stability for Students in Foster Care

School success for children and youth in the child welfare system depends on few school disruptions, access to developmentally appropriate coursework, opportunities and connections, and coordination of educational transition services when necessary.

It takes leadership, effective decision making, and systems working together to ensure educational stability of students in foster care.

## School Stability Checklist

Does the Child Have:

- Current Education Status Documented? School Stability Since Last Hearing?
- Educational History Documented?
- School Records Being Accessed as Needed? Regular Attendance?
- Meaningful School Participation?
- Needs Addressed for Special Education/504 Evaluation, Identification, and Supports, if applicable?
- Clean Disciplinary Record?
- Post High School Education Plans (Beginning at Age 14)?
- A Voice in Education Decisions and Planning? Adults Involved as an Education Advocate?
- A Clearly Defined Education Decision Maker? Clear Recommendations For, and Findings of, the Court?

Reprinted from: Legal Center for Foster Care and Education, Educational Judicial Bench Card, 2014.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christy Hendricks at [christy.hendricks@mt.gov](mailto:christy.hendricks@mt.gov) or 406.444.0794

Number of Foster Youth Enrollments by School Year

School Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2017-2018	2132	513	178	34	5		
2018-2019	2234	567	173	37	7	*	*
2019-2020	2423	475	129	32	5		
2020-2021	2049	520	130	25	*		*

\*indicates less than 5 but greater than 0.

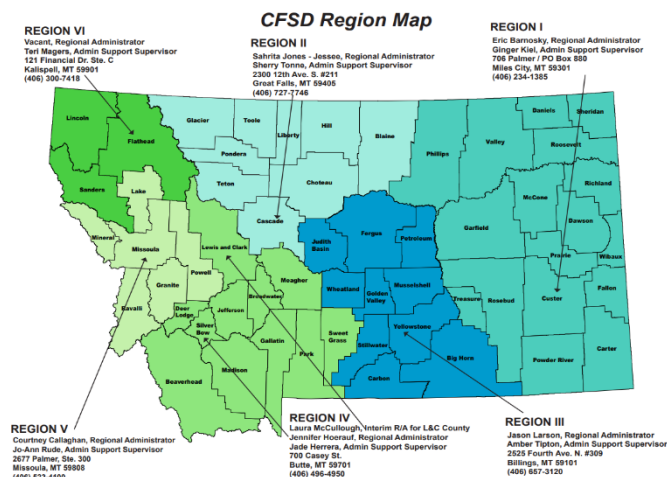
*"You might be temporary in their lives they might be temporary in yours but there is nothing temporary about the love or the lesson" – Tonia Christie*

# DPPHS SPOTLIGHT – Child and Family Services Division

By Brandi Loch, CFSD Program Planning Supervisor

Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) provides state and federally mandated protective services to children who are abused, neglected, or abandoned. This includes receiving and investigating reports of child abuse and neglect, working to prevent domestic violence, helping families to stay together or reunite, and finding placements in foster or adoptive homes. We are looking forward to collaborating with school districts across Montana this school year, to assure for child safety and well-being. Thank you for all you do in this effort!

CFSD has six regions across Montana. Each Region has a staff-person committed to being a point of contact for non-case specific foster care questions and concerns for our partners in education across the state. The regional points of contact are below, as well as the map that outlines where the six regions are designated, and who the Regional Administrators are for each region.



## CFSD Regional Point of Contact:

**Region 1** – Eric Barnosky 406-234-0864 [ebarnosky@mt.gov](mailto:ebarnosky@mt.gov)

**Region 2** – Kelley Lucotch 406-268-3763 [klucotch@mt.gov](mailto:klucotch@mt.gov) OR

April Palmer 406-268-3770 [april.palmer@mt.gov](mailto:april.palmer@mt.gov)

**Region 3** – Suzanne Braun 406-970-7897 [sbraun@mt.gov](mailto:sbraun@mt.gov)

**Region 4** – Butte, Bozeman, Dillon, Anaconda, Livingston: Jennifer Hoerauf 406-496-4964

[jhoerauf@mt.gov](mailto:jhoerauf@mt.gov) Helena, Townsend: Laura McCullough 406-444-684 [lmccullough@mt.gov](mailto:lmccullough@mt.gov)

**Region 5** – Kate Larcom 406-329-1591 [klarcom@mt.gov](mailto:klarcom@mt.gov)

**Region 6** – Jennifer Blodgett 406-300-7422 [jennifer.blodgett@mt.gov](mailto:jennifer.blodgett@mt.gov)

Best Wishes for a wonderful 2021-2022 School Year!!

You can reach Brandi Loch at [BrandiLoch@mt.gov](mailto:BrandiLoch@mt.gov) or 406-799-1823

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2021 Paving the Way to Educational Success Virtual Conference – October 5-7

## RESOURCES

OPI Foster Care Website

GEMS Data - Foster Care

CFSD (mt.gov)

[Effects of Placement & School Stability](#)