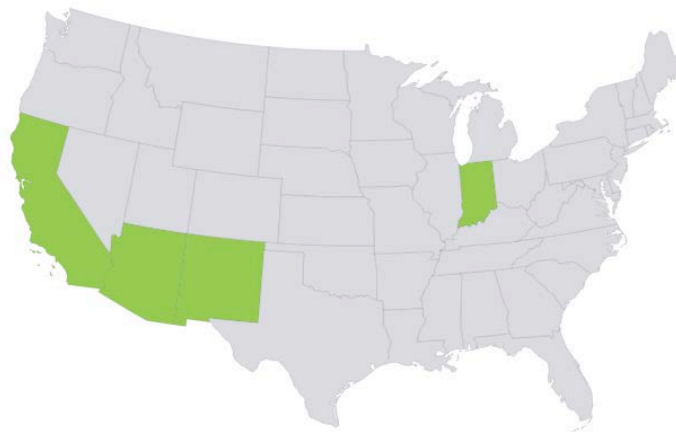


FosterEd is an initiative of the National Center for Youth Law that improves the educational outcomes of students in the State's care. One of just a handful of initiatives recognized by the Center for the Study of Social Policy as helping foster youth thrive, we collaborate with state and local agencies to ensure every student in care has an educational champion and education team supporting their educational success. We use the lessons learned in our demonstration sites to inform system-level change on behalf of students in the foster care and probation systems.



## OUR OUTCOMES

### Improved Systems

In Indiana, FosterEd's success led to its expansion from a privately funded demonstration project in Marion County to a publicly funded initiative of the state Department of Child Services. The initiative currently has 14 full-time Education Liaisons supporting students in foster care throughout the state.

In Arizona, FosterEd:

- Facilitated new information sharing such that the Department of Child Safety regularly shares data with the Department of Education, which regularly informs school districts which of their students are in foster care.
- Worked with the Office of the Attorney General and Administrative Office of the Courts to develop new judicial forms and processes for appointing educational champions.
- Collaborated with the Department of Child Safety to improve the capacity of the statewide case management system to store and analyze education success plans.

In California, FosterEd:

- Led the effort that resulted in California becoming the first state to add foster youth to its education accountability framework. Every school district with 15 or more foster youth must develop and implement a plan for improving their educational outcomes.



- Provided technical assistance to numerous school districts as they developed new policies and programs targeting foster youth. Districts around the state have allocated well over \$10 million to fund such programs.
- Collaborated with the Administrative Office of the Courts to improve the court forms and rules of court governing the appointment of education rights holders.
- Helped enact legislation requiring the Department of Social Services to share information with the Department of Education and requiring the Department of Education to provide school districts critical information about their students in foster care on a weekly basis.

## Increased Supports and Opportunities

In Indiana, the Education Liaisons directly support the educational success of approximately 2,500 foster youth each year. An independent study in 2013 found that the Liaisons were able to resolve 89% of the educational issues faced by these children; 80% of the children had all their educational needs met.

In the Pima County, Arizona demonstration site, FosterEd served 193 students in the first year of implementation.

- Education Liaisons identified 104 educational champions and brought together 362 adults to serve on education teams.

- 83% of adult team members surveyed reported that FosterEd had helped them collaborate with other adults in the youth's life to support the youth's education.

In the Santa Cruz County, California demonstration site, FosterEd served 228 students over two years of implementation.

- Education Liaisons ensured 94% of youth served had an educational champion and brought together 375 adults to serve on education teams.
- 92% of teachers, school staff, and district staff surveyed reported that FosterEd helped them better collaborate with social workers and 89% of adult team members surveyed reported that FosterEd had improved the youth's confidence as a student.

## Improved Success

FosterEd's work in Santa Cruz County, California, and Pima County, Arizona, is being evaluated by the independent research organization RTI International. To date, academic outcome data is only available in Santa Cruz County. The findings below take into account outcomes through Fall 2014. We expect to have outcomes data in Pima County, Arizona, in Spring 2016.

- In Santa Cruz County, high school students served by FosterEd increased their median grade point average from 2.04 to 2.80.
- In Santa Cruz County, among students who entered FosterEd with an attendance rate of less than 95%, 75% increased their attendance rate through their tenth month in the program.

The full Indiana, Santa Cruz County, and Pima County evaluations, along with more information on FosterEd, can be found at [www.Foster-Ed.org](http://www.Foster-Ed.org).

*FosterEd recently began working in New Mexico.*

