

HF 3714: PRIORITIZATION OF FOSTER YOUTH IN SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Making sure school programming isn't the reason a placement disrupts

HF 3714 AT A GLANCE

Requires priority enrollment for foster youth in child care, before/after-school programs, plus clear information for prospective foster parents on benefits and costs, to prevent placement disruptions from access barriers.

*"I told my county worker I couldn't keep fostering if we couldn't get after school programming. These kids were their **fifth placement**, handing them off meant losing school, friends, everything we'd built. School program waitlists force foster parents to choose: our jobs, or another move for the kids."*

— Foster Parent, Minnesota

Call to Action

★ **Legislators:** Support HF 3714 today!

★ **Community, Teachers, Researchers, Social Workers, Caregivers & Fosters:**

Share stories about how school programming access (or lack of it) has affected placements, school, work, life outcomes; contact your legislators to support HF 3714.

Contact Us

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THE PROBLEM

- Children in foster care face frequent placement and school changes.
- Caregivers struggle to find affordable, stable school programming.
- Foster youth are often waitlisted or denied spots in after-school and early learning programs, even when those programs exist in their school.



WHAT HF 3714 DOES

HF 3714 fixes the crisis driving foster placement disruptions: When foster youth face waitlists and denials of school programming, caregivers can't work, placements fail, and kids move again. It creates clear priority rules, cuts admin delays, and ensures spots for foster youth to be stable in school and home.



Defining "highest priority" for young people in foster care



Streamlined verification process to prevent disputes/admin burden



Clear information to foster parents on costs/available benefits

BENEFITS

1

Stable programming = fewer placement disruptions (each move costs the system significant money and resets trauma recovery for the young person in care).

2

Foster youth gain routines, peer bonds, and school support, which is proven to cut juvenile justice involvement and boost high school completion.

3

Caregivers can work and go to school, and say "yes" to placements without forcing impossible choices.





Who We Are

Foster Advocates is Minnesota's Foster-informed systems change organization. Partnering with “Fosters” (people with lived foster care experience) as we provide the infrastructure for them to become advocates and leaders, transforming child welfare and interconnected systems. Founded in 2018 by Foster Hoang Murphy, rooted in "Nothing about Fosters without Fosters," so those most impacted lead as experts and architects of change, not just survivors of their experiences.

Our Impact

8 Foster-led policy wins

in 8 years:
Keeping Fosters in School Act, Fostering Education Act, Maya's Law, Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson, Foster Success Expansion, Fostering Independence Grants (FIG), Survivor Benefits Notification, Sustainability of FIG.

Minnesota Promise Report

adopted statewide (first Foster-led blueprint) 120+ Fosters engaged across 50+ counties.

200+ paid Foster leaders

trained as leaders, advocates, researchers, fellows, legislative assistants, policy advisors, and more.

Foster Movement Building

800+ downloads and engagement of the Minnesota Promise Report in 25+ U.S. States and 10+ Countries.

50+ systems partnerships

through trainings/technical assistance/partnerships/community of practice/convenings.

What We Do

Foster Advocates operates through three key pillars:

Research



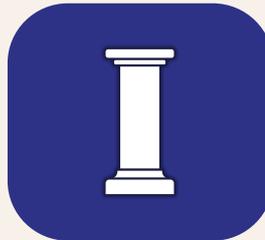
We **center and elevate the lived experiences of Fosters** as they identify gaps, barriers, and solutions for systems change through research.

Relationships



We **collectively organize with Fosters** as they direct the growth of our networks, programs, communication, and advocacy.

Reform



We **advocate for legislative, policy, and practice reform at all levels** to improve experiences for Minnesota Fosters.

"We refuse to sugarcoat the foster care system. We need you to come to the hard truths with open minds... Every Foster's story is different, and all of them are valid."

— Spring 2025 Minnesota Promise Committee

