

# National Foster Care Month

## 5 Ways to Support Students in Foster Care in May



Each May, we honor National Foster Care Month by raising awareness and supporting the educational success of children and youth in foster care across Pennsylvania. Here are five ways you can support the education stability for children and youth with foster care experience:

# 1

### Ensure School Stability in a Supportive School Environment

Ensuring school stability means students remain in their school of origin if in their best interest, receive transportation, and do not have enrollment delays when changing schools. Ensure students feel safe, supported, and seen by providing intentional check-ins. A stable, caring school experience can be a powerful protective factor for students in foster care placement.

# 2

### Raise Awareness for Students in Foster Care

Have your school Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) present to school staff or your school board about the education rights and needs of students in foster care. Coordinate a Wear Blue Day to raise more awareness within your school community.

# 3

### Prepare Students for K-12 Transitions and Transitions to Adulthood

School Foster Care POCs should be familiar with the support networks of students in foster care enrolled in their schools. Make time in May to meet with County Children and Youth Agency (CCYA) staff you work with to discuss summer support, to prepare for the following school year and to discuss assistance that may be provided for students graduating or preparing for college.

# 4

### Engage with Local Community Organizations

Strengthen your network by partnering with local agencies and community organizations. These partnerships can help bridge gaps in services and provide wraparound support that extends beyond the classroom, like mental health, tutoring, and mentorship services. Use our directories at [Bit.Ly/FCdirectories](https://bit.ly/FCdirectories) and county resource list at [Bit.Ly/FCregionresources](https://bit.ly/FCregionresources) to help you get started.

# 5

### Organize a Donation Drive

Collect essential items and supplies to support youth in care during transition. This might include comfort items for a child's first night in care, age-appropriate birthday gifts and greeting cards, school supplies, or to assist college-bound students with needed items entering higher education or independent living.

Visit [PAFosterCare.org](https://PAFosterCare.org) for more information about education stability for children and youth in foster care in Pennsylvania.

