

2021-2022 Indiana Foster Youth Educational Outcomes Key Findings

May 10, 2023

THE FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES REPORT

- Required by Indiana Code 20-19-3-17
- Compiled annually by IDOE, in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)
- Full report for the 2021-2022 school year available here: [2021-2022 Foster Youth Educational Outcomes Report](#)

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES DATA

DCS identified **22,895 children** in the foster care system at some point during calendar year (CY) 2021.

- This is a **28.1% decrease** in children in out-of-home care since CY 2018.
- **4.2%** of youth in out-of-home care during CY 2021 were *under the age of one*; **32.9%** were *under the age of five*.
- **68.3%** were White, **17.9%** were Black, and **13.2%** were two or more races.

KEY FINDINGS

- Approximately **91.6%** of Indiana foster youth are enrolled in a traditional public school.
- Foster youth are ***twice as likely*** to need a Graduation Waiver.
- Foster youth are ***twice as likely*** to be retained when compared to their peers.
 - Most youth, regardless of being identified as free/reduced lunch, foster youth, or special education, are being retained in Kindergarten.
- Suspension and expulsion rates have **increased**.
- The Indiana SAT School Day (Grade 11) exam was administered for the first time and there were **significant achievement gaps** in all student groups.

2021-2022 FOSTER CARE REMEDIATION PLAN

IDOE and DCS continue to collaborate on the 2021-2022 Foster Care Remediation Plan. This will include a plan to:

- Continue to encourage schools to incorporate and enhance their positive discipline practices.
- Continue to intensify services and supports offered to students in foster care in order to increase graduation rates.
- Create/enhance an access pipeline for foster youth to be evaluated and enrolled if needed in First Steps and/or enrolled in On My Way Pre-K.

IDOE continues to partner with other state agencies, including DCS, to ensure collaboration and commitment to support our state's foster youth population.



THANK YOU!