



“Elevator Speeches” to Inform the Community about Educational Stability

Speech #1

Vermont students who come into DCF custody are dealing with enough life disruption; they don't need to encounter unnecessary school upheaval. By working together, the Department for Children and Families, educators and local communities can help these students remain in their familiar educational settings even if their living placement must change. Research shows that educational stability leads to greater academic success and better long-term well-being for kids in out-of-home care and that is our goal for all of our youth.

To learn more about Vermont's efforts to promote educational stability and success for Vermont students in care contact: www.vtfutres.com.

Speech #2

Every time a student in out-of-home care changes schools they lose an average of 4-6 months of educational progress. School instability contributes significantly to the fact that youth in foster care are half as likely to graduate high school as other students and have lower scores on standardized tests. You can support the educational success and well-being of Vermont students in foster care by:


- Identifying local foster families so children do not need to move to a new school district.
- Brainstorming transportation options if the child is placed out of district.
- Educating yourself and others on the needs and rights of students in out-of-home care.
- Collaborating with support people in other areas of the child's life to create a plan for educational success and well-being.

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Speech #3

Real Vermont stories illustrate how teamwork, creative problem-solving and legal systems can come together to achieve better educational outcomes for youth in out-of-home care.

Consider one 8th grader who has been in foster care for the past few years, living in several different homes during that time. Despite residing outside his original school district, this boy has been able to attend school in his local community throughout his time in care. The local





VT-FUTRES
Fostering Understanding To
Reach Educational Success

Educate Local Communities Toolkit

DCF District and the principal at his school understood the importance of this boy having a consistent place to learn and connect and used the MOU that VT DCF has with the Agency of Education to allow the student to remain in one school district while residing in another. Thanks to their collaboration and advocacy, this student was recently able to graduate middle school with his peers, providing him with a meaningful ending to his 8 years in the school. To learn more about Vermont's efforts to promote educational stability and success for Vermont youth in care contact: www.vtfutres.com.

Speech #4

To successfully transition to adulthood with the skills needed for steady employment and life management, young Vermonters in foster care require a stable education. Traditionally a change in home placement has meant a change in school for young people in out-of-home care. Now Vermont educators, DCF workers, families, and others in the youth's life are charged with working together to either ensure that the young person remains in her/his school original school while in state care, or, if a new educational setting is in the best interest of the young person, to provide a smooth and thoughtful transition. The VT-FUTRES Project is working across the state to educate child team partners about the educational needs and rights of youth in state care. To learn more about Vermont's efforts to promote educational stability and success for Vermont youth in care contact: www.vtfutres.com.

