OFFICE OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
Families and Children Letter FCL #30

TO: Directors, Public Children Services Agencies

FROM: Jeffery Van Deusen, Deputy Director
       Office of Families and Children

DATE: May 25, 2022

SUBJECT: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Lunch and Learn Trainings for Child Welfare

Background

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was implemented in Ohio in December of 2016. This landmark legislation created educational changes for youth in foster care. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by children in care, including placement moves, being under-credited, and the impact of trauma and other issues impacting a child’s ability to learn, ESSA provisions stress the shared responsibility by child welfare agencies and educational entities for ensuring educational stability for children in care.

Training

Through collaboration between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), free trainings are being offered to support child welfare entities in the continued application of ESSA for foster youth.

The “ESSA Lunch and Learn for Child Welfare” will be 30-minute lunch-time sessions to provide high-level reviews of best interest determinations, transportation, and enrollment for the lens of child welfare workers. All five of the trainings will be the same to support attendance of all PCSA ESSA points of contact. In addition, attendance is open to all child welfare case workers and child welfare supervisors interested in joining. All meetings are from 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm to allow for questions and follow-up discussions.

Tuesday June 14, 2022
Wednesday June 22, 2022
Tuesday June 28, 2022
Tuesday July 12, 2022
Wednesday July 20, 2022

To join, please use the link: Click here to join the meeting
Resources

ESSA guidance documents, model best interest determinations, and timeline of process can be found at both https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Foster-Care and Educational Stability for Foster Youth | Office of Families and Children | Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Contact

If you have any additional questions regarding the ESSA Trainings, please contact Lucy Gobble at Lucy.Gobble@jfs.ohio.gov.