

# Meetings with Weld County Child Welfare Greeley Evans Weld County School District 6 Greeley, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

This year the district engaged for the first time in a practice that has greatly benefitted highly mobile students in foster care. The goal of the regular meetings was to open a channel to discuss the mutual needs of Greeley-Evans District 6 and Weld County Child Welfare, all under the theme of supporting students and their cases to encourage educational stability. Students in foster care or other out-of-home placements, due to their high mobility, have several needs not encountered by students who are not highly mobile. This includes a large number of frequently changing adult support team members whose contact information must be up to date at the school, rights to immediate enrollment and education rights, needs for transportation when changing homes, or needs for wraparound or outside services.

In the summer of 2022, a liaison supporting students in foster care, kinship care, or other out of home placements began engaging with the designated education contact at Weld County Child Welfare to discuss needs arising for specific students. After several meetings on a variety of topics, both sides agreed it would be mutually beneficial to have a monthly check-in meeting with the objective of addressing student needs and increasing inter-organizational understanding by sharing policies, procedures, and similar information.

A number of unexpected benefits came from these regular meetings. First, the relationship between the school district and the Child Welfare department of Weld County was strengthened. Individuals from both organizations began to get in touch with impromptu needs outside of the regular meeting. For example, when a school reached out to the liaison with questions on the status of a student in foster care regarding continued attendance and enrollment, the liaison was able to connect with the Child Welfare education contact to confirm the child's placement for better insight on how to advise the school. Second, the regular meeting clarified single points of contact and their roles for each respective organization. An example of this included county caseworkers starting to reach out to the district liaison for assistance with logistical items needed to support students to continue their education such as transportation or school supplies which removed the need to utilize other less-appropriate avenues (such as a BID meeting) for more efficient communication and service to students.

Both sides have expressed the meetings have been beneficial. The county has noted appreciation for the improved working relationship and fields questions to the school district about student needs more frequently. Additionally, the district has relied on the same close relationship to verify student placement status with the county to troubleshoot issues faced by some students such as needs around student records, resource provision, or other similar issues.

The meetings are planned to continue into the coming school year as they present a clear and dedicated opportunity for both organizations to make their needs known to the other. For districts wishing to engage in this practice, it should be noted that county Departments of Human Services have a designated education contact who should be able to be a resource to increase support for schools to assist students who are in out-of-home placements. Keep an open mind about what the collaborative relationship will look like and commit to the regular meeting time to demonstrate respect for county partners and the knowledge and expertise they bring.