



Foster Care Awareness Month May 2024

WHEREAS, there are over 6,000 children served by the foster care system in Nebraska;

WHEREAS, students involved in the foster care system face unique challenges, including mobility, housing, disruptions in education, access to healthcare, mental health, and systems involvement;

WHEREAS, children served by the foster care system in Nebraska may spend as many as 20 months away from their home, and on average are served by 2.4 to 4 out-of-home placements;

WHEREAS, these challenges often lead to lower graduation rates for students in the foster care system, with 55% graduating on time during the 2022-23 school year;

WHEREAS, raising awareness of foster care promotes achievement for youth in the program and connects families and children to resources;

WHEREAS, supporting youth in the child welfare system requires empathy, training, funding, a multi-agency approach, and intensive support from community partners;

WHEREAS, policymakers, school leaders, teachers, and community members should elevate youth voices to better support children served by the foster care system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Nebraska State Board of Education recognizes May as Foster Care Awareness Month;

RESOLVED, the State Board of Education directs the Nebraska Department of Education to raise awareness of the challenges of children involved in the foster care system and share resources for students, schools, districts, and the community;

RESOLVED, the State Board reaffirms its commitment to coordinating cross-agency data sharing and leadership in improving the education and lifetime outcomes of youth involved in the foster care system;

RESOLVED, the State Board encourages school districts to raise awareness and provide resources for their families and children involved in the foster care system, their unique educational needs, and opportunities to improve their systems for supporting youth; and

RESOLVED, the State Board encourages communities and school districts to elevate youth voices of those who are or have been involved in foster care through the advocacy of their personal experiences, viewpoints, and ideas for systemic changes to better serve all Nebraska's learners.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 3rd day of May 2024.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President

Deborah Neary, Vice President