



**THE MISSION**

To ensure foster youth across the state have access to meaningful, engaging, educational support programming grounded in best practices and focused on achieving high school graduation and post-secondary matriculation rates that match or exceed those of their peers in the general population.

**THE VISION**

We advocate for creating a **sustainable public funding source** dedicated to providing all foster youth in California with the support they need to graduate from high school and successfully pursue progressive post-secondary educational and career pathways aligned with their interests and goals.

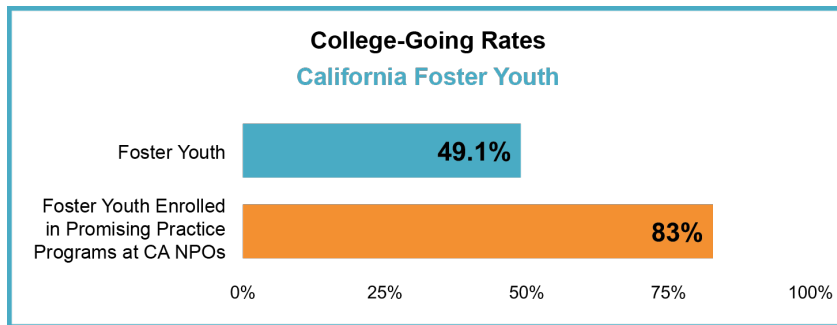
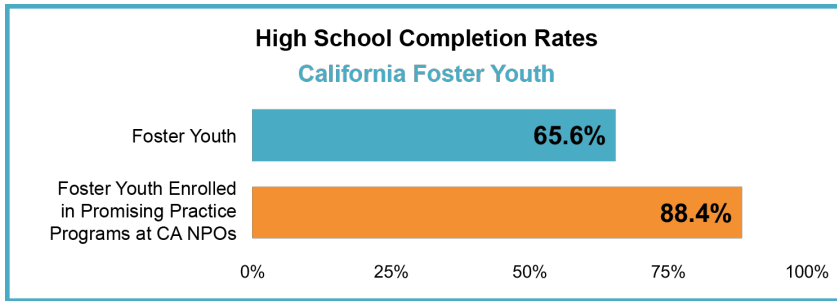
**ABOUT THE COLLECTIVE**

Established in 2020, our Collective brings together six leading California-based nonprofit direct service providers committed to closing the educational opportunity gap for young people in foster care.



<b>First Star</b>	Los Angeles · San Bernardino · Sacramento
<b>National Center for Youth Law</b>	Contra Costa · Los Angeles · Santa Clara · Santa Cruz
<b>Children, Youth and Family Collaborative</b>	Los Angeles
<b>Pivotal</b>	Santa Clara · San Mateo
<b>Promises2Kids</b>	San Diego
<b>United Friends of the Children</b>	Los Angeles

Together, tFYPC member organizations deliver educational support programming to over **3,000** youth annually, achieving a combined high school completion rate of **88.4%** for foster care students. Additionally, **83%** of graduating seniors in these model programs enroll in post-secondary programs.



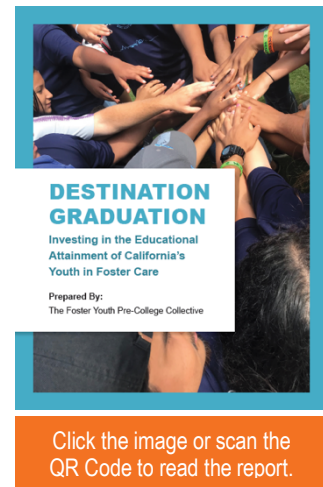
## THE CHALLENGE

All young people deserve a quality education that sets them up for future success. Yet, many youth in foster care feel abandoned within systems that are no substitute for family. The trauma and chronic instability they experience after family separation impact their emotional growth and academic progression. While some system-involved students are fortunate to get assistance to overcome these obstacles and excel in school, thousands are left stranded by circumstances beyond their control.

Currently, there is no mandate for the child welfare system to ensure youth in their care complete high school and receive the skills and support they need to prepare for post-secondary programs. Without prescriptive oversight and dedicated funding, many students in the state's custody will fall short of their educational goals.

**Destination Graduation**, a report released by the Collective in 2024, details the disparities and challenges facing students in foster care and highlights key data, including:

- **34.4%** of California students in foster care do not complete high school within four years, which is **25% lower** than the rate for the overall student population.
- Foster youth drop out at **three times the rate** of all California high school students and are far more likely to drop out than all other student subgroups with unique needs.
- Students in foster care frequently change schools, often multiple times during a single school year, which contributes to poor educational outcomes. During the 2023-2024 academic year, **over 7,000** California foster youth in grades 7-12 experienced school instability, nearly **four times the rate** for the general student population.
- Although many students with a foster care background express interest in higher education, **less than half (49.1%)** will enroll in college or other post-secondary programs after high school.



## THE OPPORTUNITY

Youth in foster care require intensive, frequent, and individualized attention to help them graduate high school, prepare for college, and compete in the workforce. Through strategic investments in community-based providers and partnerships, California can scale promising practices that level the playing field for system-involved youth. Program models focused on building relationships, social connections, and support networks motivate foster youth to keep pace academically with their peers and prepare them for life as productive young adults.

### THE DRIVERS OF SUCCESS: A Trio of Integrated Foundational Supports



Individualized, frequent, and trauma-informed interventions for youth in grades 6-12



Service provision that follows the youth regardless of their system status (i.e., if they exit care while enrolled in the program)



Support after high school graduation to ensure young people are ready, confident, and connected to a supportive community as they enter college, trade school, and other career training programs

