

Houston Independent School District

Foster Care

Fact Sheet

- Nationwide, 513,000 young people live in foster care.
- The State of Texas ranks fourth highest with 28,883 youth currently in foster care.
 - In the Greater Houston community alone, 6,613 youth currently live in foster care.
 - 10% “age out” of the system each year.
- The typical young person aging out of foster care in Houston will have been in the system more than 5 ½ years.
 - They will have moved more than 8 times to different foster homes, group facilities, shelters or residential treatment centers.
 - These youth lack the traditional family and social supports to successfully transition to adulthood.
- Youth exiting the foster care system are:
 - twice as likely as their peers to drop out of high school;
 - suffer from unemployment rates as high as 50%
 - experience high rates of homelessness; and,
 - at great risk of arrest and incarceration.
- The social and economic costs are too extreme to ignore.

Foster Care Resource:

- The Houston Alumni and Youth (HAY) Center – www.haycenter.org
1906 Cochran Street
Houston, TX 77009
- <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/FosterCareStudentSuccess>

Homeless Resources:

- The Homeless Network – www.homelessyouthnetwork.org
- The Coalition for the Homeless – www.homelesshouston.org