

Priorities and Recommendations- Laura Obrist

Priorities:

1. More robust processes for higher ed. info dissemination/planning support for Nevada high schoolers in foster care
2. More accessible info on trade/vocational credential routes for Nevada high schoolers in foster care
3. Concrete strategies for more effectively addressing disproportionality in school discipline for Nevada K-12 students in foster care
4. Stronger support for Nevada K-12 students in foster care who have learning challenges/disabilities

Recommendations:

1. Incorporate education-focused work into Independent Living programming, ideally through specialized positions in each jurisdiction that are dedicated to learning about the topic and supporting clients with secondary education success and higher education-focused preparation, admission, financial aid, and transition tasks.
2. Create a comprehensive resource guide on trade/vocational options available at Nevada's public colleges/universities, as well as options available outside of the public higher education system that are high-quality and affordable (utilizing sufficient "gift aid," as opposed to excessive loans).
3. Compile aggregate data on disproportionate school discipline rates for K-12 students in foster care, for every Nevada school district, using the Nevada Report Card website; then, work with the school district-level foster care points of contact and child welfare agencies to create an action plan for the schools that have the most disproportionate school discipline rates for students in foster care.
4. Compile aggregate data on K-12 students in foster care who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), for every Nevada school district, using the Nevada Report Card website; then, work with the school district-level foster care points of contact and child welfare agencies to: a) create an IEP compliance action plan for the elementary, middle, and high schools that have the greatest number of students in foster care with IEPs; and b) deliberately connect high school students in foster care who have IEPs with community-based resources, like the student transition services offered through Vocational Rehabilitation.