

WHAT IS iGRAD?

iGRAD is a new program to help students 15 and over in foster care to do well in Kansas public schools and meet their educational goals, including graduating with their peers. Educational liaisons from Keys for Networking and Families Together, Inc. will work closely with foster care providers, child welfare social workers, and resource families as well as biological parents to assure student records are readily available to receiving districts so that student needs are easily defined and the school can help students in foster care access necessary support services.

Referrals for students with general education needs can be made by calling Keys For Networking at 1-800-499-8732.

Referrals for students who have identified special education needs, an identified 504 accommodation plan or have need for initial evaluation for special education services can be made by calling Families Together, Inc. at 1-800-264-6343.

**SERVING YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE
AGES 15 AND OVER**

A partnership between KS Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Keys for Networking, and Families Together, Inc

Funding for project provided by Chafee Dollars awarded to the Kansas Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services

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CARE AGES 15 AND OVER**

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ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

Nationally, only 54% of youth in foster care of transition age obtain a high school diploma or GED (National Foster Care Month, 2006).

In August, 2006 there were approximately 1500 youth in foster care age 15 and over. If Kansas statistics mirror national norms, only 810 of these 1500 students are expected to graduate or obtain a GED.

Frequent changes in placement often result in frequent changes in school districts as well. Frequent changes in schools makes continuity of academic planning for high school challenging. Important information, such as grade reports, school attendance records, assessments, Individualized Educational Program and Section 504 Accommodation histories aren't always readily available when the student enrolls in a new school.

The iGRAD program addresses many of these issues in an effort to support youth in meeting their educational goals.

PROJECT FEATURES

The project features a partnership between two Kansas parent information centers and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Our goal is to inform, educate and train youth and advisors from child welfare and the public education systems to help them become wise customers of public education and ways to accumulate credits. Keys for Networking and Families Together will provide educational liaisons to assist youth in foster care in tracking credit histories, capturing missing transcript data, and analyzing information as it relates to the graduation requirements of the current school. Educational liaisons will work with planning teams for each youth in foster care (15+) to examine his/her performance in classes. They will compare actual work against standardized test scores, including the state proficiency measures, and examine the array of federal and state supports available to each student at each school he/she attends. Keys for Networking and Families Together staff will be available to teach, coach and train the youth and the agency personnel who support them in interpreting No Child Left Behind state assessment information, developing proficiency with the state standards in core academic subjects as well as tailoring Individual Education Plans and Section 504 Accommodations to maximize academic achievement at each grade.



PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Increase graduation rates for youth.
- Improve timeliness of graduation from secondary school.
- Increase percentage of youth in foster care who meet their educational goals.
- Youth prepared for further education, employment and independent living.



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