



# Education

March 2016

IN THIS ISSUE: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
QUICK CAREERS AND EXPLORE E-READING

TOP

6

## Reasons Students Need a High School Diploma

www.study.com

6

**A high school diploma keeps students in good company!**

81% of Texans have a high school diploma \*

87% of U.S. adults have a high school diploma

\*2010 US Census

5

**What an Achievement!**

Earning a high school diploma is viewed by employers as a milestone achievement. The GED test isn't easy and can be more difficult to pass the longer the student is out of school.

4

**That diploma can forecast the student's future**

Students are more likely to get a job with health insurance and retirement.

Students are more likely to survive layoffs and downsizing.

Students are more likely to avoid homelessness, poor health, and prison.

3

**Students will make more than minimum wage with a high school diploma**

High school graduates make \$143 more *per week* than

2

**The student serves as a role model** to younger siblings, classmates, and youth in foster care struggling to complete graduation requirements.

1

**High school diploma gives students more choices**

- Vocational certificates
- Tech training for in-demand jobs
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Military Service
- Better jobs, career promotions
- Successful relationships
- Community respect

## It's never too early to start the conversation about preparing for life after high school

In order to help our children and youth achieve optimal success in adulthood, caseworkers must begin discussing college and career readiness, including post-secondary plans, options for testing supports and preparation, and further education and training, during their monthly face-to-face meetings, Transition Planning, during Permanency Planning and Case Planning Meetings.

There are many opportunities for children and youth in conservatorship to access resources and support to prepare them for life after high school.

A few examples are:

- College tours
- Visit a college or training class
- Presentations on career choices - offered at schools, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club
- Job shadowing
- Attending professional meetings
- Career exploration and aptitude assessments <http://www.assessment.com/>



## Conversation Starters

*"What kind of skills do you think you need to be a (fireman, teacher, truck driver, chef, veterinarian)"*

"When I was 8, I wanted to be a (ballerina, forest ranger, nurse, cashier)-but then I became interested in (computers, how things worked, helping people)."



**"What do you want to be when you grow up?"**

"One of the best things I liked about college was that you could take really interesting classes - such as Exploring Egyptian Artifacts or Modern Dance." What kind of college class would you take?"

*" You like (baseball, chess, cheer team?) What job would use those same skills? "*



### Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)

**What they do:** Provide basic nursing care in hospitals, nursing homes, physicians' offices

**Education/Training:** H.S. graduate. One year state-approved program and state test to be licensed.

**Average salary:** \$42,490

**Outlook:** Increasing Need



### Truck Driver

**What they do:** Deliver and pick up merchandise or deliver packages within a certain area

**Education/Training:** H.S. graduate. 5-week training program offered through continuing education. Licensed commercial driver.

**Average salary:** \$19.68 per hour

**Outlook:** Growth area

#### **HS Diploma + Training**

911 Dispatcher – \$37,000

Dog Groomer – \$29,458

AC Technician – \$43,670

Locksmith – \$29,000

### PC Repair Technician

**What they do:** Maintains computers by fixing complications with hardware and software

**Education/Training:** H.S. graduate. 6-month program for certification.

**Average salary:** \$38,200

**Outlook:** High need area



## Quick Career Choices

allow students to complete training and coursework in less than one year and enter the workforce with a marketable skill

Source: [www.careerprofiles.com](http://www.careerprofiles.com)

### Paralegal/Legal Assistant

**What they do:** Support lawyers in legal research, administrative tasks, and drafting legal documents

**Education/Training:** Paralegal certification program approved by the American Bar Association. 2-year associate/4-year bachelor's program

**Average salary:** \$47,570

**Outlook:** In-demand profession



*"A high school dropout makes on average \$19,000 a year, a high school graduate makes \$28,000 a year, a college graduate makes \$51,000 a year. Over the course of a career, a college grad will make nearly \$1 million more than a high school graduate. That's a lot of money."*

### Dental Assistant

**What they do:** Provide assistance to dentists, orthodontists. Promote dental health to patients.

**Education/Training:** H.S. graduate. One year state-approved program and state test to be licensed.

**Average salary:** \$42,490

### Firefighter / EMT

**What they do:** Provide protection and services from fire and emergencies.

**Education/Training:** H.S. graduate. Training at community colleges and fire academies

**Average Salary:** \$38,000



## State Deadline to file FAFSA

Free Application for Federal  
Student Aid

**March 30, 2016**

Refer students to School Counselor  
or PAL for assistance in completing  
the form <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

**Test fees can be waived for  
students in foster care**

**See School Counselor**

**Many college application fees  
can also be waived for  
students in foster care**

**Complete ETV paperwork**

Review student's Personal  
Graduation Plan (PGP)

**Get copies of official transcripts**

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Fails STAAR?  
See ISD for Individual Graduation  
Committee (IGC) to review and  
assess student competency

**Check your local school for  
Student Assessment Calendar**

STAAR and TAKS

EOC-End of Course

Credit by Exam

PSAT, SAT and ACT

TELPAS (Texas English Language  
Proficiency Assessment Systems)

## Explore E-Reading



**A**ccessible through computers,  
Smartphones, laptops, tablets,  
e-readers such as Kindle

**A**vailable through public  
libraries, schools, consortiums,  
online communities

**B**ooks for children, teens,  
adults, reference material,  
magazines, videos, music,  
audio-books, television shows

**Site:** [www.OverDrive.com](http://www.OverDrive.com) and [www.hoopladigital.com](http://www.hoopladigital.com)

**Audience:** Children, Teens, and Adults

**Register:** Get a free public library card to register. You can also access  
[www.OverDrive.com](http://www.OverDrive.com) through your local public school with student ID.

**Note:** Help the beginner reader with "whispersync," an audio feature  
that highlights each word.

**Site:** [www.freebooksy.com](http://www.freebooksy.com)

**Audience:** Children, Teens, and Adults

**Register:** Free. Offers free e-books in chosen categories every day

**Site:** [www.BookBub.com](http://www.BookBub.com)

**Audience:** Children, Middle school, Teens, and Adults

**Register:** Free. Offers free and discounted e-books every day

## Reading site for Pre-school - Grade 2

[Sight and Sound Reading \(PreK-2\)](http://www.sightandsoundreading.com/reading-tutoring-resources/) - Caregivers can help the struggling reader with free online reading program. It is a great homeschool reading curriculum, or the caregiver can use it as supplement to help struggling readers.

[www.sightandsoundreading.com/reading-tutoring-resources/](http://www.sightandsoundreading.com/reading-tutoring-resources/)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Regarding Foster Care Liaisons

#### School District, College Champions, Education Service Centers

**1. What are the responsibilities of the School District Foster Care Liaison?**

The law states that each school district and open enrollment charter school shall appoint at least one employee to act as a liaison to facilitate the enrollment in or transfer to a public school of a child in the district who is in the conservatorship of the state.

**2. What are some of the Key Activities of the School District Foster Care Liaison?**

- Streamline enrollment processes for students in foster care
- Implement student data tracking and monitoring mechanisms
- Ensure that students in foster care receive school nutrition and meal programs without further application
- Help coordinate withdrawal, records transfer, and facilitate credit recovery
- Become a foster care expert and promote practices that align with federal and state law
- Coordinate with child welfare partners
- Provide foster care-related information and training to the district
- Work with DFPS to help students maintain their school placement, when appropriate
- Review student schedules to ensure they are on track to graduate
- Encourage successful transition into adulthood and post-secondary opportunities
- Encourage student involvement in extracurricular activities
- Know which supports are available within the district and community for students in care

**3. What types of trainings and resources can foster care liaisons provide to their district and local campuses?**

- The Child Welfare System, DFPS staff, and DFPS Education Specialists
- Confidentiality/Sensitivity
- Enrollment/Withdrawal
- Foster Care Education Laws
- Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting
- The Impact of Trauma on Learning
- Transition Supports and Post-Secondary Opportunities

**4. Are School District Foster Care Liaisons registered with TEA?**

Yes! To see the list of district liaisons who are registered with TEA, visit: <http://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/liaisons/>

**5. Where else can stakeholders and students find support for students in foster care?**

Each of the 20 Education Service Centers (ESC) in Texas has a foster care liaison to provide support to area school district staff. Texas public colleges and universities have designated a **College Champion** to assist students who were formerly in foster care.



## Quick Summary

Every Texas public school district and open-enrollment school must appoint a Foster Care Liaison to facilitate enrollment and services for children and youth in foster care.

TEA and Education Service Centers provide additional training for School District Foster Care Liaisons.

### Resources

**TEA's Laws & Guidance for Students in Substitute Care**

<http://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/laws>

**The Children's Commission Transforming Education Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care law**

<http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/foster-care-education/education-committee.aspx>

**Federal & State Education Policy Foster Care Education & Policy Coordinator**

Kelly Kravitz 512-463-9235  
[Kelly.Kravitz@tea.texas.gov](mailto:Kelly.Kravitz@tea.texas.gov)  
[fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov](mailto:fostercareliaison@tea.texas.gov)

**Source:** Foster Care & Student Success Resource Guide.  
<http://tea.texas.gov/FosterCareStudentSuccess/>