



## Treehouse Educational Advocacy: Public-Private Partnership with DSHS

*Educational Advocacy is the primary lifeline between vulnerable youth in foster care and success in school. It's the only state-funded program that purposefully eliminates barriers to education so 2,400 children in foster care will do better in school this year.*

### The Problem:

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- The foster care high school graduation rate: 22 – 48% All students: 71%
- 75% of youth entering foster care or changing placements must change schools. School change in high school increases students dropping out.
- In Washington less than 2% of foster youth earn a bachelor's degree.
- After foster care, Washington youth are homelessness (22%), mentally ill (54%) and, within two years, incarcerated (25%).

### The Solution: Educational Advocacy Public-Private Partnership with DSHS

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- Educational Advocacy is the only program that coordinates between school services, tutoring, mentoring, advocacy and hands-on help to prevent school failure and out of school time.
- Educational advocacy is a key compliance strategy in the Braam settlement.
- Advocacy improves school stability which helps foster kids keep permanent homes.
- Educational Advocates made 30,000 contacts for foster youth who have complex educational needs and require specialized, professional knowledge and skills.

### The Results:

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*320 students in foster care are in school solely because of Educational Advocacy.*

#### **Academic Achievement – students progress to the next grade or graduate**

- 95% of high school seniors graduated or continue pursuing high school completion
- 38% of 9th graders earned enough credits to catch up to grade level.

#### **Increases and Improves Access to School Services and Programs**

#### **Reduces School Changes and Speeds Enrollment**

- 30% of youth who changed homes stayed in their original school.
- 60% of youth with a single home change were re-enrolled in school within 3 days.

#### **Decrease Disciplinary Referrals**

- Behavior plans improved: dismiss or reduce 75% of expulsions and 41% of suspensions

*Without this resource, the rate of foster youth dropping out could increase 10%.*

**Questions?** Contact Janis Avery 206-267-5101 or [janis@treehouseforkids.org](mailto:janis@treehouseforkids.org)

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