



PIPELINE TO SUCCESS

Supporting California Foster Youth
from High School to Community College



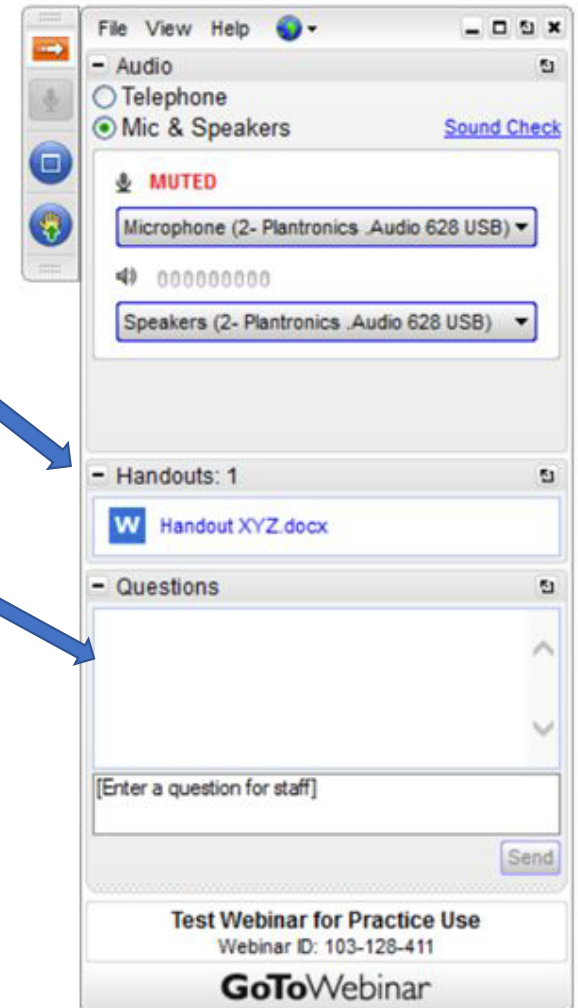
CALIFORNIA ★
COLLEGE 
PATHWAYS 

Supporting Opportunity and Success for
Foster Youth Scholars

California College Pathways Webinar
November 2019

Information to Participate

- Today's PowerPoint can be downloaded from the "handouts" section of your control panel
- To submit questions, click on the "Questions" panel, type your question, and click "send"
- Presentation materials and audio will be posted at www.jbaforyouth.org



Pipeline to Success

*Supporting California Foster Youth from
High School to Community College*

- Background of this Work & Research
- Key Demographic Information
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Questions

Funders and Partners



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- **501(c)(3) non-profit** organization that applies **data science** to help improve student outcomes and career-readiness
- Founded in 2001 as a **forum for educators and employers to align efforts** and share best practices
- All of our work is done through an **equity lens**
- Manage the **Cal-PASS Plus** system of data



Background on this Research Series

[Charting the Course: Using Data to Support FY College Success](#) – 2015

[Accelerating Success: Turning Insights into Action for FY at California Community Colleges](#) – 2017

[Pipeline to Success: Supporting California FY from High School to Community College](#) – 2019



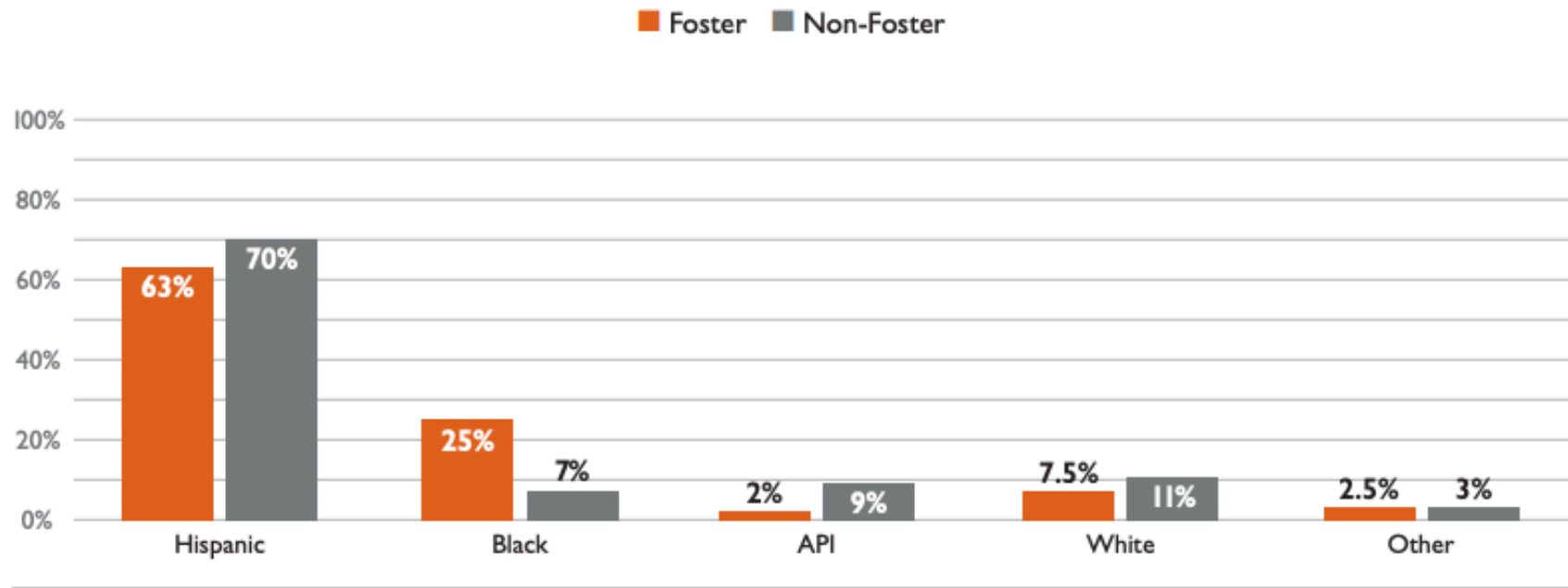
Research Questions

This report links K-12 and community college data to address the following questions:

1. How do foster youth compare to their peers in transitioning from high school to community college?
2. What factors predict success along the transition between high school and community college?
3. What barriers or risk factors contribute to the equity gap between foster youth and their peers in transitioning from high school to college?

Key Demographic Information

Figure 1A: Race/Ethnicity of High School Cohort



Equity gaps in high school achievement persist for foster youth

Figure 2A: Average GPA by Grade Level

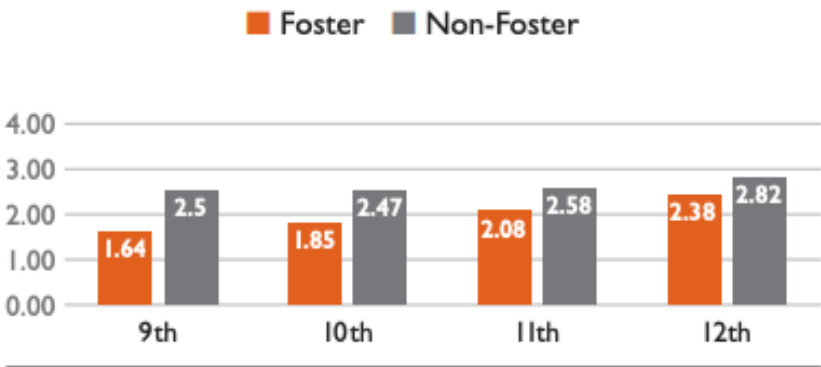


Figure 2B: Average GPA by Race/Ethnicity

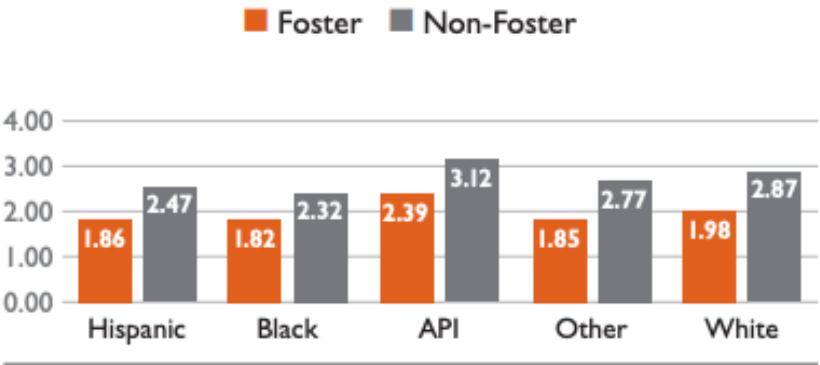
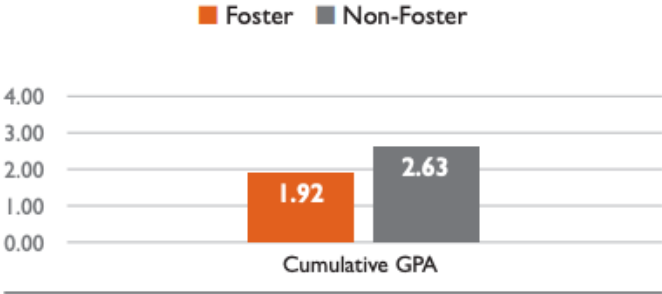


Figure 2C: Cumulative High School GPA



Equity gaps in high school achievement persist for foster youth

Figure 2C: Cumulative High School GPA

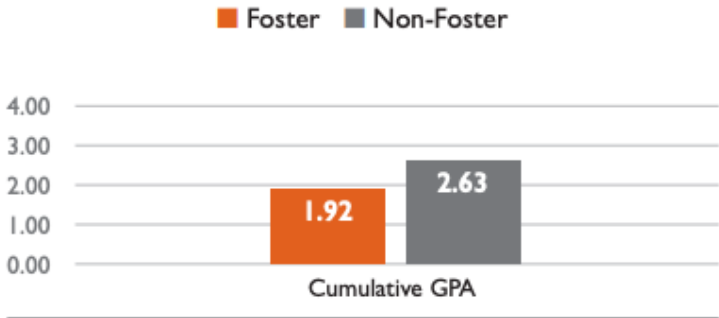
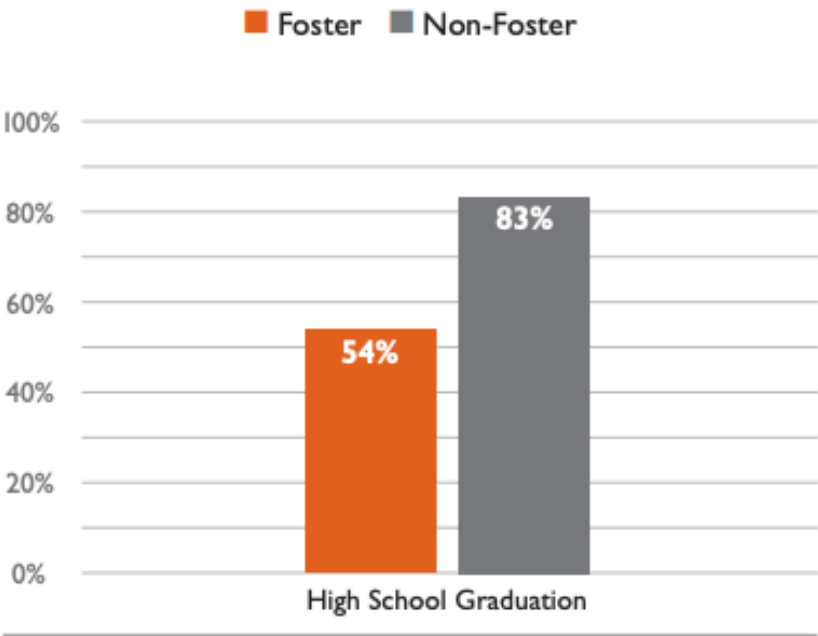


Figure 2D: Four-Year Graduation Rates for 12th Grade Students



Throughout high school, foster youth experience barriers that impede academic success

Figure 3A: Average Attendance Rate in 2016-2017

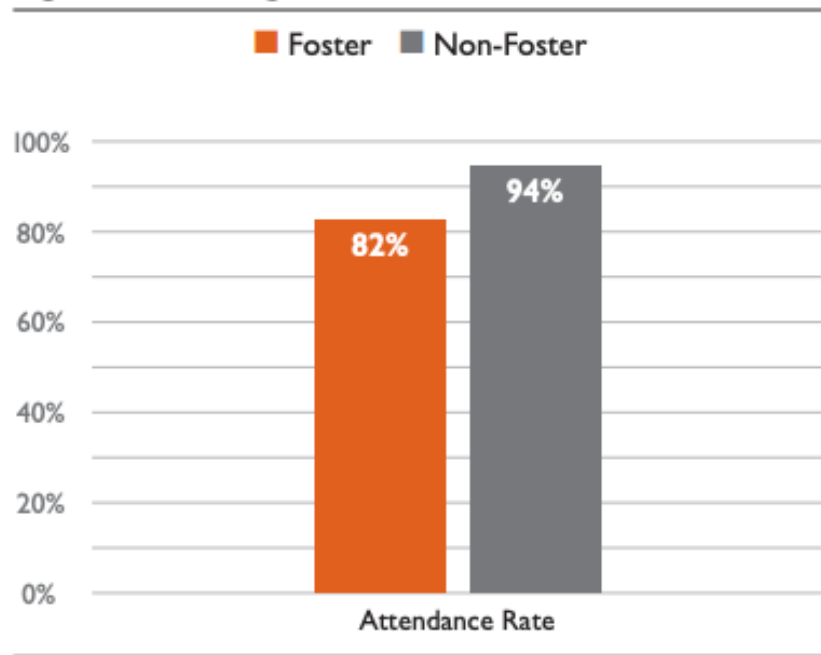


Figure 3B: Students Suspended/Excluded in 2016-2017

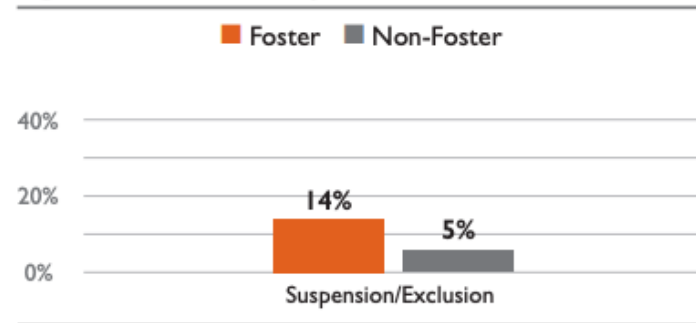
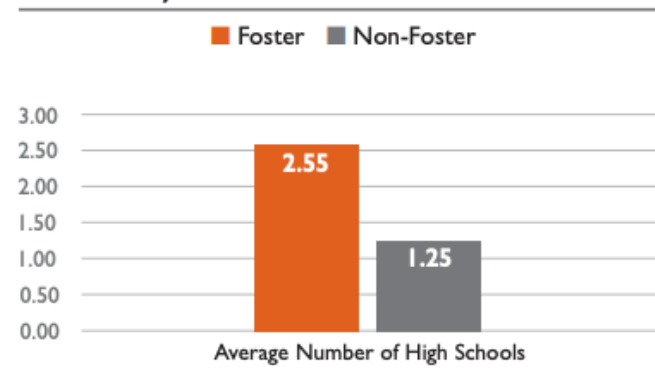
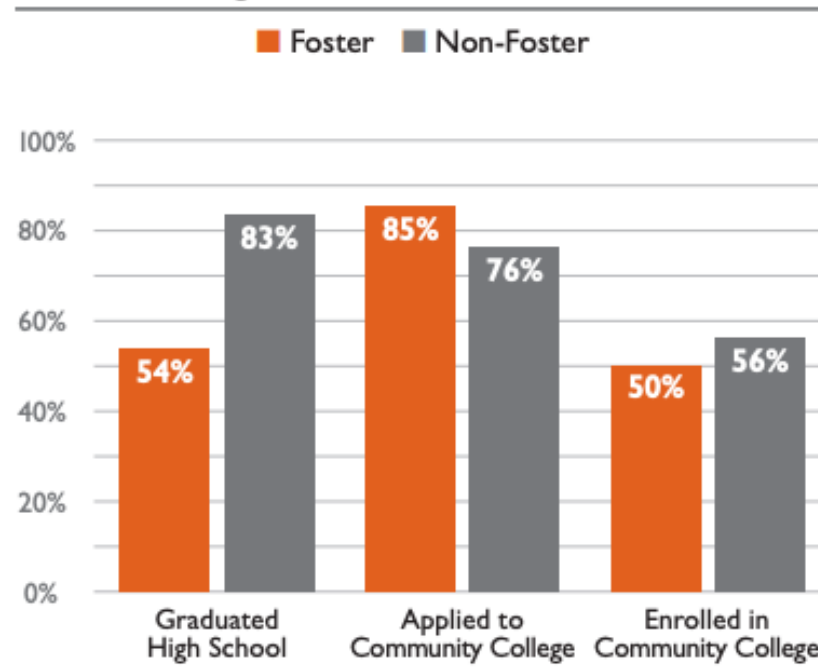


Figure 3C: Average Number of High Schools Attended by 12th Grade Students



Foster youth are applying to college at high rates but many do not subsequently enroll

Figure 4: High School to Community College Transitions



What relates to first-year community college success for both foster & non-foster students?

Students who received these services and grants were more successful in their first-year than those who did not.

Education Plan
+0.19 GPA | +3.34 Units

Counseling or Advisement Services
+0.12 GPA | +3.14 Units

Pell Grants
+0.07 GPA | +2.12 Units

Student Support Grants
+0.20 GPA | +3.00 Units

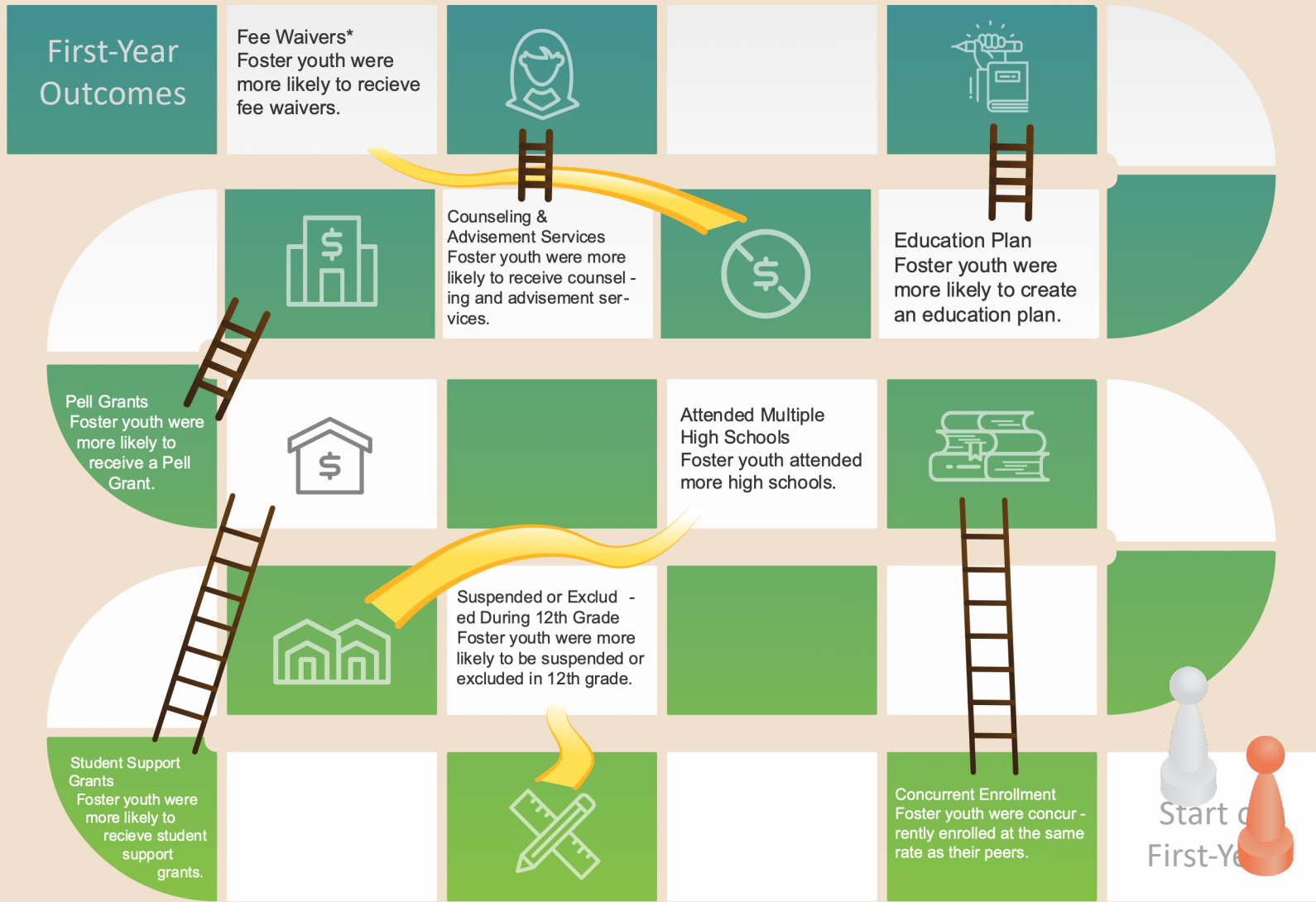
Attending more high schools and being suspended or excluded during 12th grade related to lower first-year GPA and units earned. Those who received fee waivers had a lower GPA than those who did not.

Number of High Schools Attended
-0.05 GPA | -0.64 Units

Suspended or Excluded During 12th Grade
-0.14 GPA | -2.11 Units

Received a Fee Waiver
-0.15 GPA | 0 Units

What Relates to First-Year Community College Outcomes for Foster Youth?



First-Year Outcomes for Foster Youth

After accounting for the previous factors and additional demographic factors, there was still a gap in first-year community college outcomes for foster youth.

-0.33 GPA

-3.97 Units

In their first year of community college, foster youth are not performing at the same level as their peers

Figure 5: First-Year Community College GPA

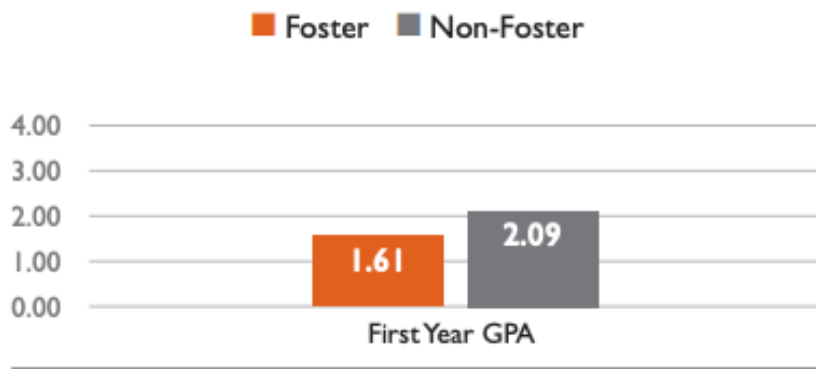
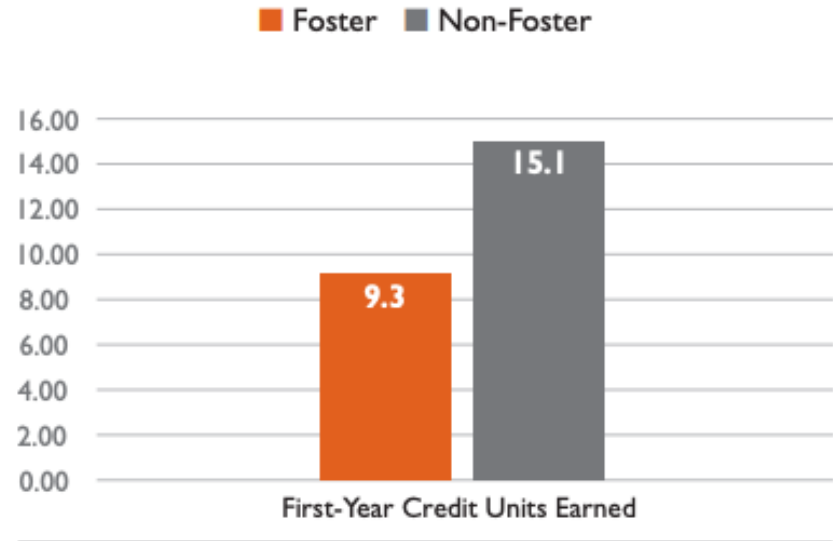


Figure 6: First-Year Community College Credit Units Earned



Efforts to increase foster youth access to financial and academic services are working

Figure 8: Community College Financial Support by Type

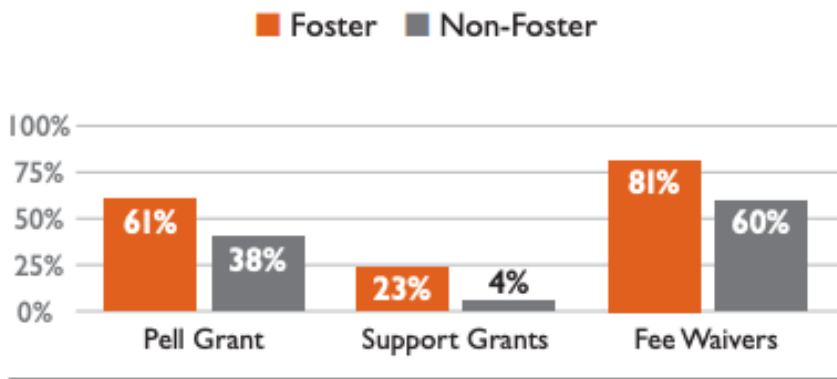
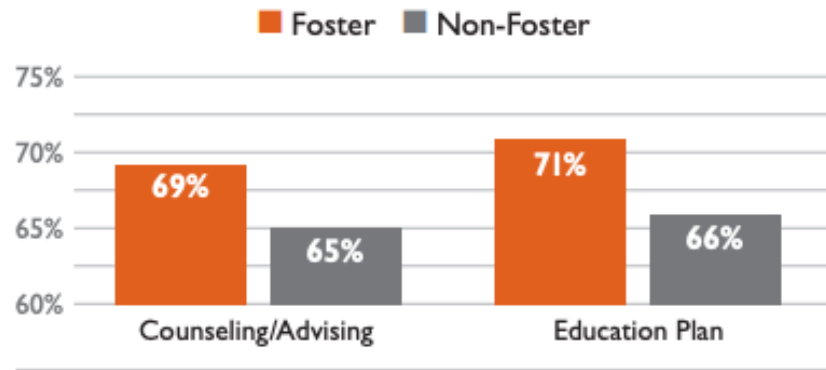


Figure 9: Community College Educational Support by Type



Recommendations



Reduce school mobility for foster youth

- Ensure a best interest determination process (BID) that includes
 - An education rights holder is available for all students
 - Developing cost sharing agreements and transportation plan templates
 - Documenting processes for sending and receiving students between schools

Recommendations



Address suspensions and exclusions for foster youth
in high school

- Re-examine existing suspension/exclusion procedures
- Prioritize trauma informed training for all school personnel

Recommendations



Provide funding for foster youth specific supports within K-12 systems

- Provide dedicated financial resources for supporting foster youth within K-12 systems

Recommendations



Develop strategies to reduce summer melt

- High schools and colleges should develop and implement strategies and programs that specifically focus on reducing this lack of momentum for foster youth

Recommendations



Increase access to financial supports for foster youth in community college

- Ensure access to financial support for tuition and daily life expenses
- Targeted efforts toward getting foster youth into these financial aid programs

Recommendations



Ensure foster youth have access to educational support services

- Ensure foster youth have access to counseling and advising services and have the tools to create an education plan

Recommendations



Create data systems that allow data sharing across K-12, colleges, and child welfare to enhance the identification of foster youth in college systems

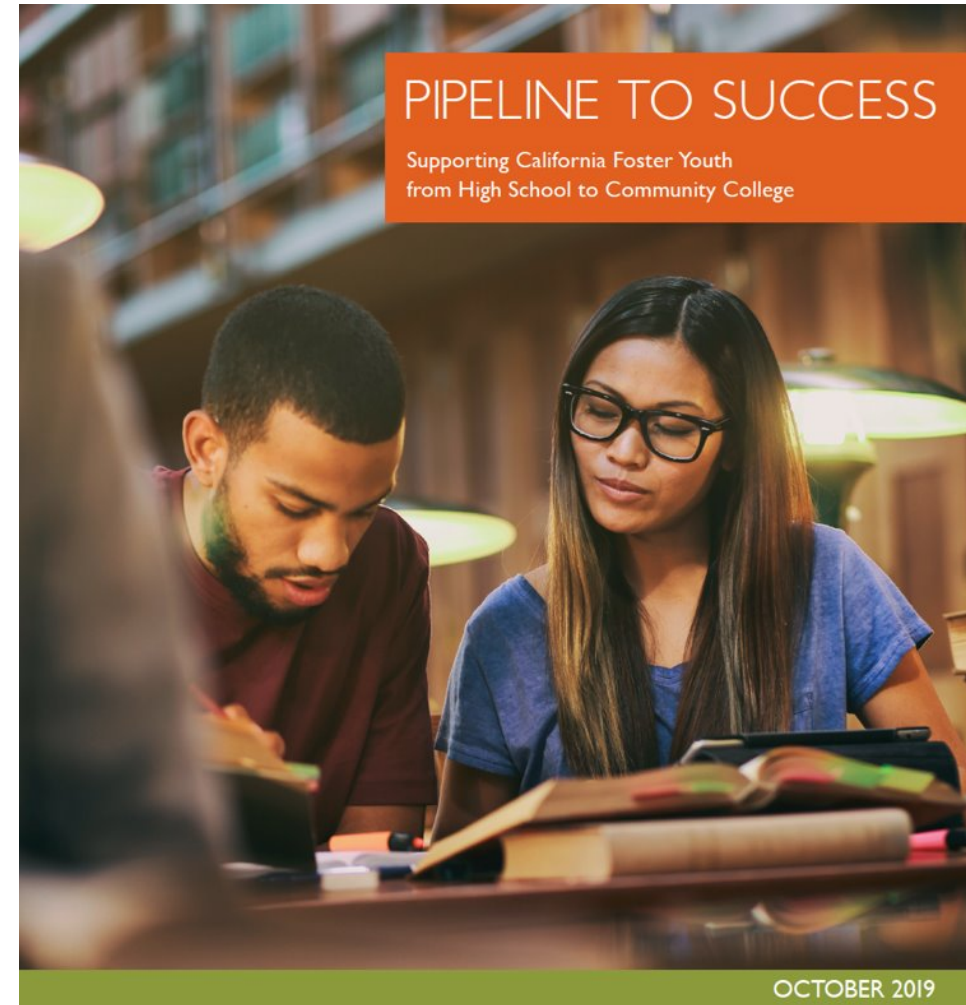
- Systematic linkage of data from the multiple systems to provide better insights and support for foster youth
 - In this study, about 63% of foster youth in 12th grade that went on to community college self-identified as foster youth

Want to learn more?

Electronic version on

[California College Pathways](#)

and [ERP](#) websites



Thank You!

Your commitment to improving the lives of foster youth students inspires us to continue our work leveraging data to accelerate success for this historically disadvantaged population.

Elle Gemma Gruver

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Question & Answer

CLICK ON THE “QUESTIONS” PANEL, TYPE AND HIT “SEND”