

# Act 1 of 2022 – Assisting Students Experiencing Education Instability

## Students in Foster Care Placement

### Did you know?

Students in foster care placement that have experienced “education instability” are eligible for assistance under Pennsylvania law.

### What are some benefits Act 1 of 2022 may provide students in foster care placement?



**Establishes a Point of Contact for the student and the stakeholders in their education, protection, and care.**



**Ensures equal access to participate in school-sponsored and extracurricular activities.**



**Eliminates fees for students.**



**Assesses graduation progress to ensure timely graduation of students.**



**Considers alternative pathways to graduation for students.**

### Why is Act 1 important?

Students in foster care face a number of systemic barriers. Schools can reduce these barriers and contribute to positive childhood experiences by facilitating equal access to academic and extracurricular activities, and to promote grade retention and on-time high school graduation.



Scan QR code to visit  
PDE Act 1 of 2022 Basic  
Education Circular (BEC)



Scan QR code to visit  
PA Foster Care website.



Scan QR code to visit  
Act 1 of 2022 Education  
Instability website.

Contact RA-EDDOP@pa.gov

# How to put Act 1 into Action

## Address fees

School entities should explore regional and local resources, or other funding sources to address fees covered under Act 1. Collaboration with child welfare agencies may result in financial assistance when available. **Title I, Part A funds must be used only as a last resort** after other funding sources have been exhausted.

## Identify and name a Point of Contact

Schools may consider appointing their existing Foster Care Point of Contact, or building-level contacts, as the Act 1 Point of Contact.

## Build a community of support

When students in foster care begin at a new school, the Act 1 Point of Contact and Foster Care Point of Contact should meet with the goal to promote the student's belonging in their new school.

## Assess all prior work and award credits

The Act 1 Point of Contact assesses the student's academic history and investigates whether the student has already completed partial credit or a course that meets a requirement at the current school.

## Develop pathways to graduation

The Act 1 Point of Contact works with grade 9-12 students, their caseworker, and their education decision maker (EDM) to create a graduation plan.

## Consider Act 1 and special education

Ensure graduation and credit recovery plans align with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 plans. Students who have IEPs may elect to remain in school until age 22, even if Act 1 offers an earlier pathway to graduation.

