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Education and Its Importance in the Work We Do for Foster Youth

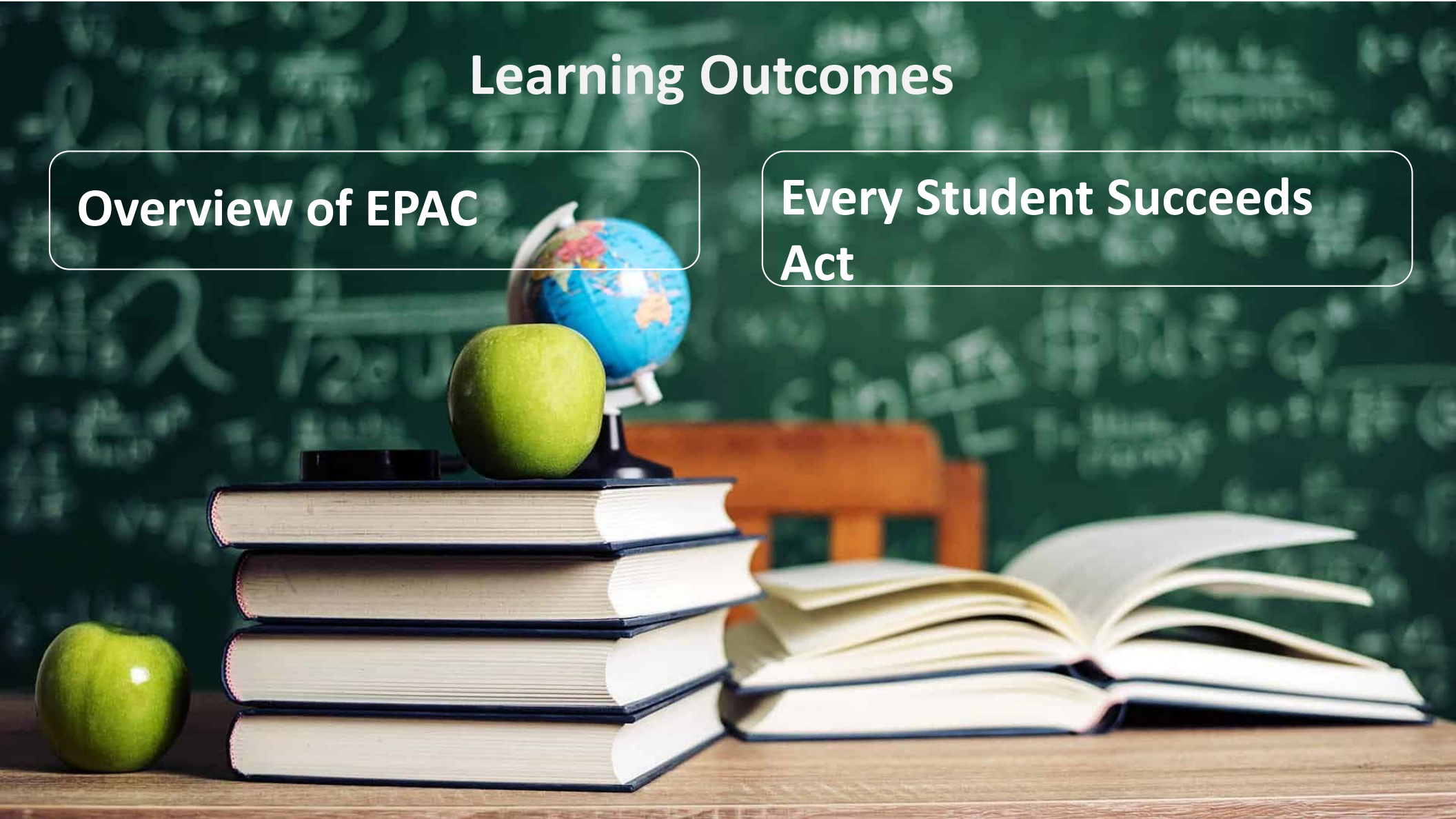
Presented by
Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation Services



Learning Outcomes

Overview of EPAC

Every Student Succeeds
Act



DIVISION OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES

National Demographic Data of Youth in Foster Care

Number of Children and youth in foster care on September 30, 2016	437,465
% of youth in foster care who change schools when first entering care	31%-75%
% of 17-18 year-old youth who experienced 5 or more school changes	About twice that of other students
Likelihood of a 17-18 year-old in foster care being expelled	About 3 times that of other students
% of youth in foster care receiving special education services	35.6%-47.3%
% of 17-18 year-old foster youth who want to go to college	70%-84%
% of foster care alumni who attain a bachelor's degree	3-10%

*Source: National Factsheet on the Educational Outcomes of Children in Foster Care-Revised April 2018

*These data come from the most recent report from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) released November 30, 2017.

Education Support Services within the Division

To address the critical need of providing education support services to youth in foster care, the Division created the **Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC)** services unit in 2010.

EPAC provides education support services to all school-aged youth in care between the ages of 5-17 years old.

Policy and Practice for Providing Education Support Services for Youth in Foster Care

To ensure foster youth receive the appropriate services to meet their educational needs, the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) implemented:

DFCS Policy 10.13 – Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care



How You Can Utilize Education Support Monitors

Education Support Monitor's

Responsibility

- 1 _____
 - 2 _____
 - 3 _____
 - 4 _____
 - 5 _____
 - 6 _____
- 
- A man in a dark suit and tie is standing in front of a chalkboard. He is holding a piece of chalk in his right hand and is in the process of writing. The chalkboard has the word 'Responsibility' written at the top and a list of numbers 1 through 6, each followed by a horizontal line. The background is a dark, slightly blurred wall.

Every Student Succeeds Act and the Implications for Foster Youth

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Key PROVISIONS

Every Student Succeeds Act guidance encourages educational and child welfare agencies to consider ways to support better outcomes for student in foster care and facilitate successful transitions from the elementary and secondary education to college and careers.



Special Foster Care Considerations

- Are parental rights still intact? How much should that parent be included in the educational decisions?
- Students on an IEP
- Students in facility schools or residential treatment
- School of origin definition and considerations
- Contact information and flow of communication



How Systems Can
Promote Foster
Care Education

Foster care youth consistently underperform in school compared to their general population peers and are far less likely to complete high school or college. The challenges foster youth and former foster youth face academically are very likely to translate into increased difficulty in finding and holding gainful employment when they enter the workforce.



Remember our youth need as much support, early intervention and documentation as possible. Their future depends on US!

Breakouts



Q: How can state and local POCs in both agencies help the foster youth successfully matriculate?

Q: What is your understanding of EPAC's and the ESM's role in the foster youth's academic career?

Q: What supports/resources can the school systems provide for foster youth?

Q: How would you like for the schools and EPAC to build their partnership?

Q: What are the most glaring concerns regarding foster youth?