



# Changing a Child's Story: PTA's Role in Supporting Communities of Care for Foster Children and Youth

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# The Foster Care System in New York

## By the numbers:

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
16,203	14,882	14,134	14,928	13,128	13,153*

Black/African American	36%
Hispanic	27%
White	25%
Other	11%

# Foster Care Living Situations

*Two main types: Non-Congregate and Congregate*

1. Non-Congregate care: foster homes, some group homes, kinship care
1. Congregate care: group homes, institutions, residential treatment facilities

Foster children and youth can move between both types of care at any time

# Foster Care Living Situations: Non-Congregate

<b>NON-CONGREGATE</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>11,371</b>
Foster Boarding Home	14%	1,898
Foster Adoptive Home	36%	4,745
Approved Relative Home	36%	4,728

# Foster Care Living Situations: Congregate

<b>CONGREGATE</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>1,782</b>
Institution	8%	999
Group Home	2%	319
Group Residence	1%	101
Agency Operated Boarding Home	1%	181
Other	1%	182

# Foster Care Specialized Education Services

Early Intervention (EI)	2%	294
Individualized Education Program (IEP)	15%	2188

# What does this all mean to PTA?



# What does this all mean to PTA?

Family engagement is essential

Not every child is living with family

Not every child has a family

*“Mental and behavioral health is the largest unmet health need for children and teens in foster care”* - American Academy of Pediatrics

# Does your PTA/PTSA/SEPTA/SEPTSA:

1. Have welcome packets to new families coming in to your district at all times of the school year?
2. Have alternative means of communication to all families in your school, regardless of membership?
3. Have inclusive language for meetings and events?
4. Consider meetings and events at different times and locations?

*This is all standard inclusive and equitable family engagement*

# Does your PTA/PTSA/SEPTA/SEPTSA

## Offer presentations:

1. On IEP/504 basics?
2. With “build a binder” workshops
3. With speakers on relevant topics?

# Family Engagement

Support children by strengthening their families (protective factors)

1. Help the adults in children's lives to manage stress and increase their resilience
2. Honor families' cultures, history, and heritage
3. Empower adults in children's lives and help them build decision-making and advocacy skills
4. Provide resources and tangible assistance, and help families recognize when they need help
5. Create inclusive and safe spaces for children and for the adults in their lives

# NYS PTA Resources

**NYS PTA  
DEI Page:**



**NYS PTA  
Family Engagement  
Page:**



**NYS PTA  
DEI Toolkit:**



# Thank you!



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