



Educational Coordinators Briefing December 2011

Why Educational Coordinators?

Foster children disproportionately:

- Unprepared for Kindergarten
- Change home and school placements regularly
- Require special services to succeed in school
- Suffer unreasonable school disciplinary approaches
- Fail to graduate from high school on time, or college and career ready

Why a Public-Private Partnership?

- Education Coordinators are the primary lifeline between a vulnerable youth in foster care and a confident student with a chance at a future. They work with students, families, schools, social workers, lawyers and other providers to make sure youth succeed in school.
- Education Coordinators help Children's Administration fulfill its obligations to improve educational outcomes for youth in foster care in settlement of the Braam lawsuit.
- Public dollars cannot stretch to meet the need. State investment is matched by private philanthropy and matched again by Federal IV E funds.

Biennium program cost:	\$1,980,000
Philanthropy /Federal:	\$1,053,200
<u>State investment:</u>	\$ 932,800 – less than half the cost!

If State Funding is Eliminated for Education Coordinators, what is lost?

- 1,000 students in foster care *will lose individualized educational advocacy* to secure needed school classes and programs, coordinate community wide services, develop educational plans, catch up on credits, speed school transfers, and negotiate effective discipline. Private funding can only serve 600 youth in three counties.
- 17% of these students will not be enrolled because of outright systems barriers.
- High School seniors at risk will drop out of school instead of graduating on time or developing a fifth year plan for success. With Education Coordinators, fewer than 1 in 10 drop out!
- Fourteen talented staff people will lose their jobs dedicated to helping our most disadvantaged students succeed.
- Nearly \$400,000 in Federal IV E matching funds will stop.
- Washington State may face additional litigation on behalf of the Braam plaintiffs.

Contact Janis Avery, CEO of Treehouse.

206-267-5101 or janis@treehouseforkids.org