Adoption Competency and Education

Adoption Competent Mental Health · https://bridges4mentalhealth.org/hub/adoption-competence/adoption-competency-and-education/

Educational Systems and Permanency/ **Child Welfare Competency**

Children involved in child welfare systems often encounter learning challenges that go beyond the classroom. Permanency/Child Welfare competent practices acknowledge and address the school-based mental health and relational needs of students affected by child welfare.

Why Permanency/Child Welfare Competency Matters

Permanency/Child Welfare competence for professionals is a **school success strategy** that supports learning, encourages healthy behaviors, and fosters positive relationships both in and outside of school settings. Permanency/Child Welfare-competent schools create environments where students affected by child welfare can learn, connect, and succeed. Permanency/Child Welfare competence helps education professionals:

Go beyond available training on trauma with evidence-based practices to effectively address core underlying issues of adoption, foster, and kinship care, along with other traumas (e.g., attachment, grief, and loss).

Utilize resources that help them apply new knowledge and skills in school settings.

Develop a shared language to foster interdisciplinary collaboration between school administrators and mental health professionals as they share insights with teachers.

Experience better outcomes with students by gaining foundational knowledge, values, and skills that make a difference.

Permanency/Child Welfare competence enables schools to create a more fully trauma-sensitive learning environment that supports students' healing processes and maximizes learning potential, promoting understanding, compassion, and resilience.

Why Work with the National Center?

The National Center supports schools in meeting students' academic, relational, and emotional needs. By working with the National Center, educational systems can:

Strengthen staff understanding of how trauma, separation from family, and placement moves affect learning

Improve collaboration with educational professionals, families, and youth-serving systems

Support student success by building supportive, inclusive learning environments

The National Center helps schools move beyond behavior management toward relationship-centered, trauma-informed learning environments where students feel understood and can thrive.

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Educational Systems