

Graduation Success & Educational Advocacy – What's the Difference?

Treehouse provides a range of supports to help students in foster care experience success at school and have access to resources and support systems that all kids need to graduate from high school with a plan for the future. It takes all of us in coordination, with consistent positive adult presence and collaboration between foster parents, caseworkers, school staff, mentors, and Treehouse. Treehouse approaches this work with two academic support programs--**Graduation Success** and

Educational Advocacy.

| Program | Graduation Success | Educational Advocacy |
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| Description | Treehouse Education Specialists work directly with youth. They partner with social workers, caregivers, schools, and community partners to help youth graduate from high school with a plan for their future. | Treehouse Educational Advocates work with social workers, caregivers, and schools to resolve difficult issues at school and to remove barriers to kids' school success. |
| Who do we serve? | This program serves middle and high school aged youth throughout the state. | This program serves shelter care and dependent youth (including trial-return-home) in Pre-Kindergarten through 12 th grade (high school completion) in <u>all</u> Washington state schools. |
| Eligibility | Youth must be in out-of-home care (foster, kinship/fictive, group home) at time of initial referral and enrolled in 8 th through 12 th grade anywhere in the state. | Youth must currently have an open DCYF, tribal, or federal case, (or be in shelter-care) Advocacy serves youth between the ages of Pre K – 12th grade. |
| Referral Process | Referrals for Graduation Success may be made by DCYF caseworkers, foster care case managers, CASAs, attorneys and OSPI Foster Care Liaisons. Referrals must be made through Treehouse's online referral process: www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/make-a-referral/ | Referrals to Educational Advocacy can be initiated by the DCYF social worker or CHET screener, OSPI Foster Care Liaisons, or CPA case workers through Treehouse's online referral process: www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/make-a-referral/ |
| Length of Service | This program is designed to be long term and once a youth is referred, Treehouse can continue serving them regardless of dependency status. | This program is generally short-term, (1 day to 6 months), but can be longer if the needs of the youth necessitate continued involvement. |
| Strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with youth to set and achieve their own goals through a Student-Centered Plan • Daily monitoring of student's ABCs (attendance, behavior and course completion) • Timely and individualized interventions on ABCs • Coach students on academic mindset, self-determination, self-advocacy and perseverance • Remove barriers to school success in enrollment, school transitions, special education needs, and discipline. At times a dual enrollment with Advocacy may be necessary to address these barriers. • Connect youth to community and school-based education services • Support youth's efforts to explore and pursue college and career options • Help pay for extracurricular and school activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help students access education-related support services including addressing special education needs and avoiding school changes when students' home placements change, if possible • Pave the way for seamless transitions when school changes are unavoidable • Minimize the effects of disciplinary actions that keep students out of school • Assist youth in advancing to the next grade level by identifying appropriate education placements or by identifying and making connections to credit retrieval programs • Train and/or coach social workers, parents, and caregivers to work with schools in advocating for students' educational rights |
| Questions? | For general information on these programs, please call our front desk at 206-767-7000 For information about eligibility or making referrals, please contact our Intake Coordinator: 206-267-5144 | |