

**A. Children removed from their parents generally experience better outcomes when placed with kin, including:**

**4. Better educational outcomes and educational stability**

- Tiffany Conway & Rutledge Q. Hutson, *Is Kinship Care Good for Kids?*, CTR. FOR L. & SOC. POL'Y (Mar. 2, 2007), <https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/public/resources-and-publications/files/0347.pdf>

This fact sheet provides a summary of various research studies. The authors conclude that children in kinship care are less likely to change schools in comparison to children in non-kinship care placements or group care facilities. A data analysis from 2005 shows that only 63% of children in kinship care changed schools compared to 80% in non-kinship care and 93% in group care.

- Amy Holtan, et al., *A Comparison of Mental Health Problems in Kinship and Non kinship Foster Care*, 14 EUROPEAN CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCH. 200 (2005), [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/7762944\\_A\\_comparison\\_of\\_mental\\_health\\_problems\\_in\\_kinship\\_and\\_nonkinship\\_foster\\_care](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/7762944_A_comparison_of_mental_health_problems_in_kinship_and_nonkinship_foster_care).

Children in kinship care demonstrate higher levels of competency in school settings when compared to children in non-kinship care settings. This study measures the behavioral outcomes of 214 Norwegian children in kinship and non-kinship care settings using the Child Behavioral Checklist, which assesses behavioral and emotional problems in children. The checklist also measures competency in school settings and finds that children in kinship care score higher in this category, especially girls in kinship care. Holtan reasons that children in kinship care experience fewer placements, maintain greater contact with their biological parents, and stay closer to their original community which is associated with positive behavioral outcomes, such as school competency.

- Mass. Court Improvement Program, *Stable Placement, Stable School: Improving Education Outcomes of Children in Foster Care in Massachusetts* (Mar. 2019), <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/04/23/Educ%20Study%20Report%20printer%20Final%20March%202019.pdf>.

This study looks at data collected in Massachusetts during the 2014-2015 school year for 6,000 foster care children, as well as surveys from school counselors and other professionals who work with the children. The study finds that, in Massachusetts, children with fewer foster care placement changes have better school experiences. They are less likely to attend 2 or more schools, less likely to be chronically absent, less likely to have a disciplinary action, and less likely to be held back a grade at the end of the school year. Students in kinship homes fare better academically overall than students in non-kinship placements and have fewer school changes, better attendance, and less disciplinary actions. Recommendations from the study include adding support to keep children at home, placing children with kin when possible, and providing kin with services.