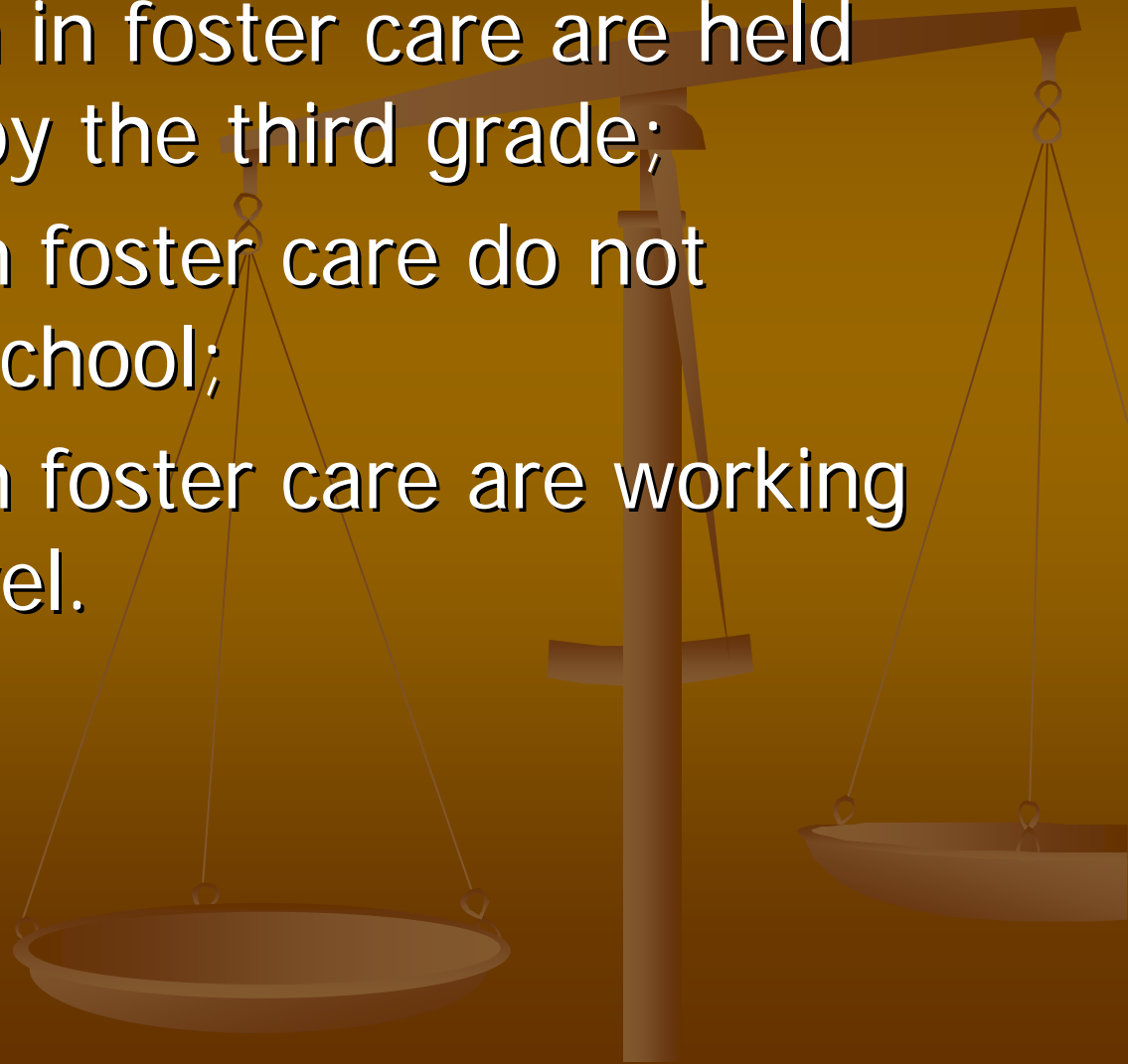


Promoting Education Stability for Children in Foster Care: HB 3075 & the Oregon Experience

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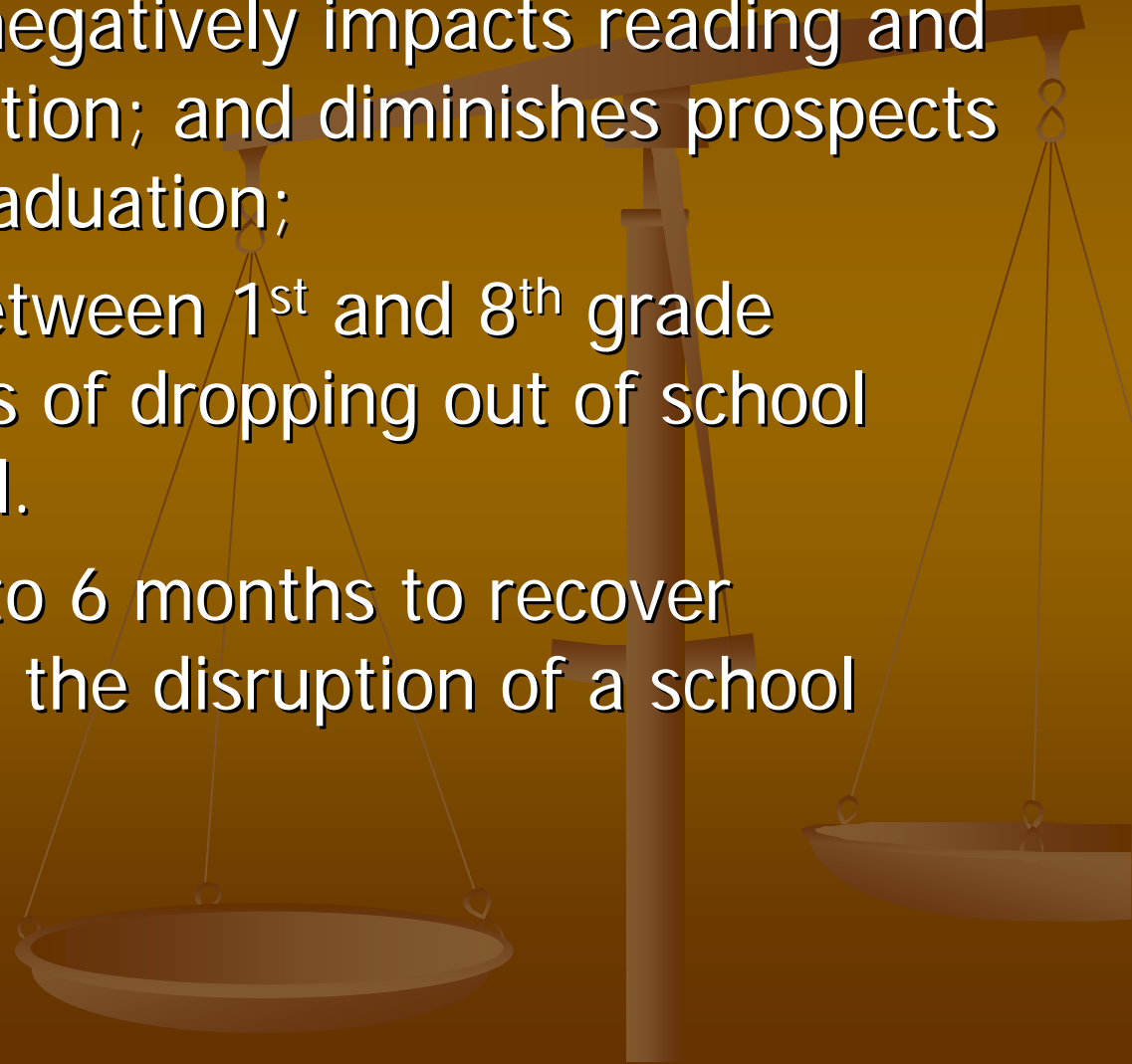
The Problem: lack of academic success

- 83% of children in foster care are held back in school by the third grade;
- 46% of youth in foster care do not complete high school;
- 75% of youth in foster care are working below grade level.

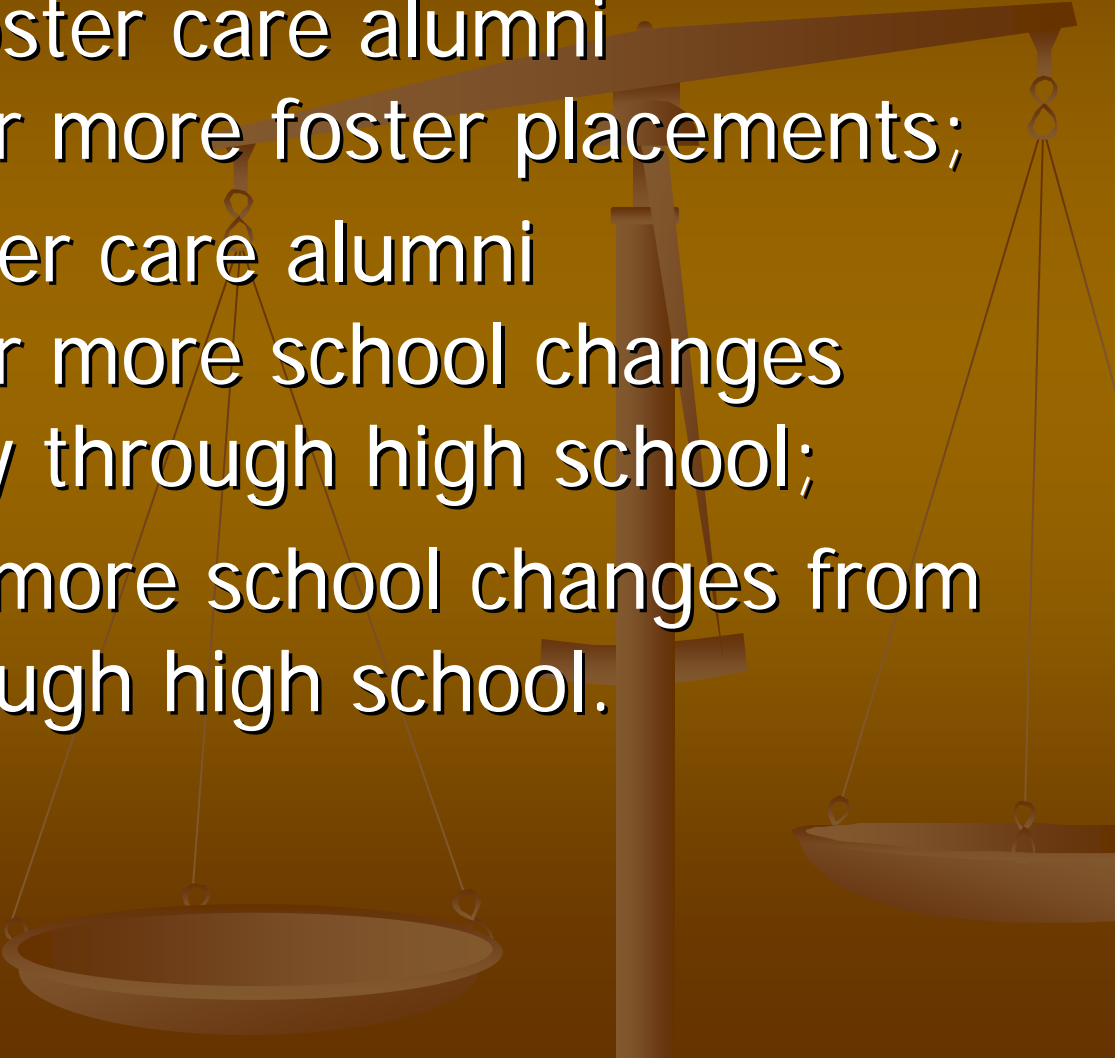


The Problem: student/school mobility

- Student mobility negatively impacts reading and math skills acquisition; and diminishes prospects for high school graduation;
- School mobility between 1st and 8th grade increases the odds of dropping out of school during high school.
- It takes a child 4 to 6 months to recover academically from the disruption of a school change.

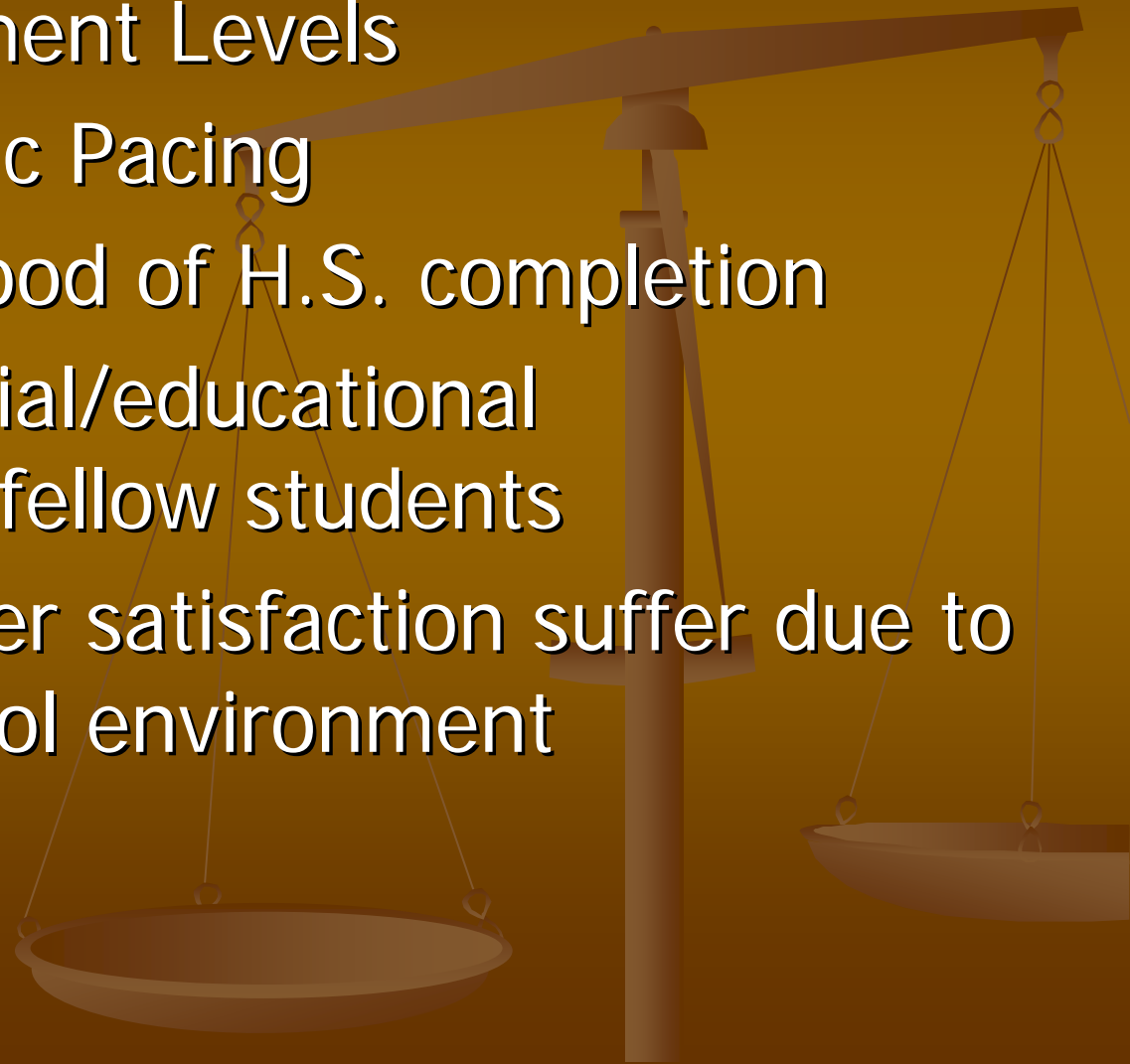


The problem: foster care moves

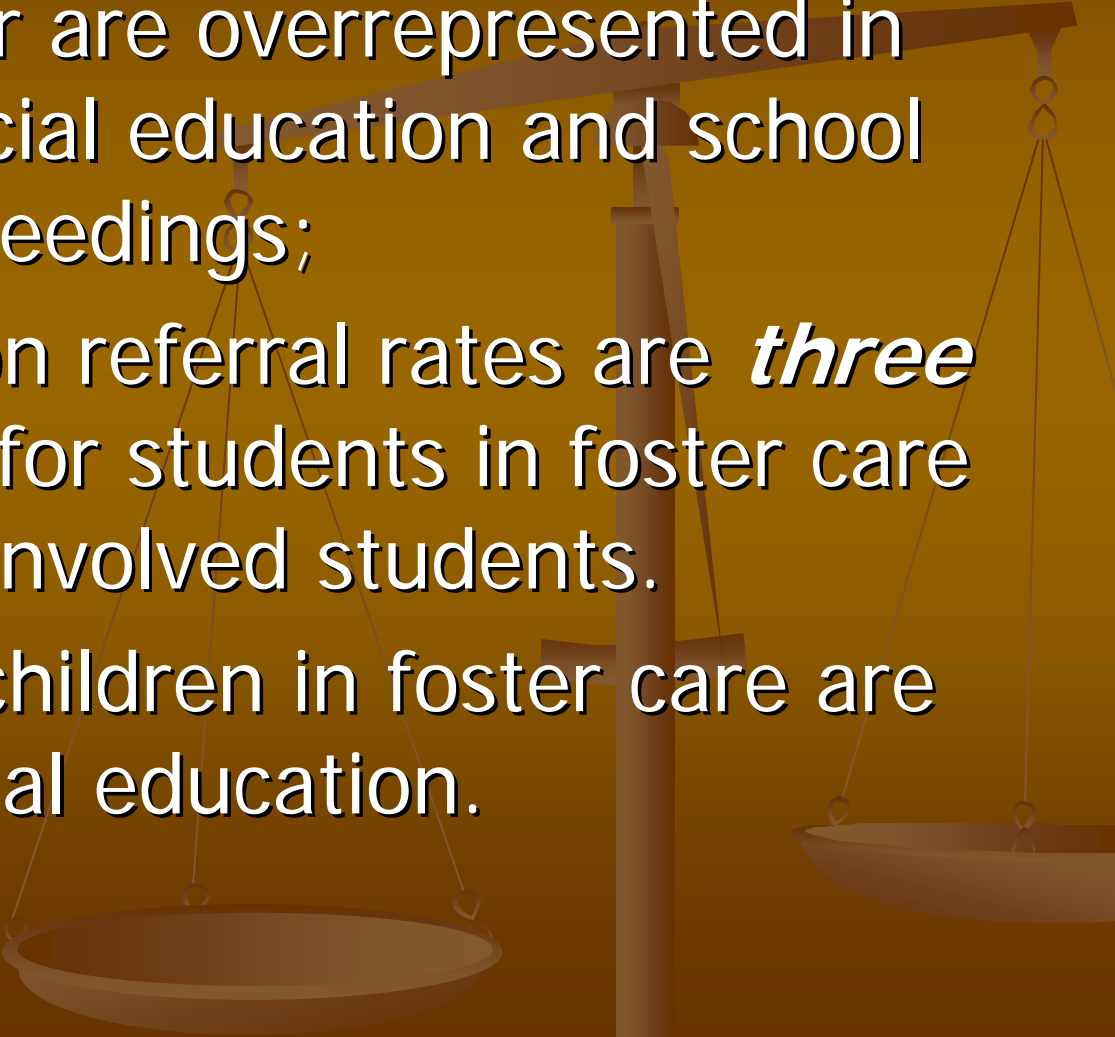
- 32.3% of NW foster care alumni experienced 8 or more foster placements;
 - 65% of NW foster care alumni experienced 7 or more school changes from elementary through high school;
 - 30% had 10 or more school changes from elementary through high school.
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The Problem: Long-Term Impact of High Student Mobility

- Lower Achievement Levels
- Slower Academic Pacing
- Reduced likelihood of H.S. completion
- Decrease in social/educational attachments to fellow students
- Teaching/teacher satisfaction suffer due to less stable school environment



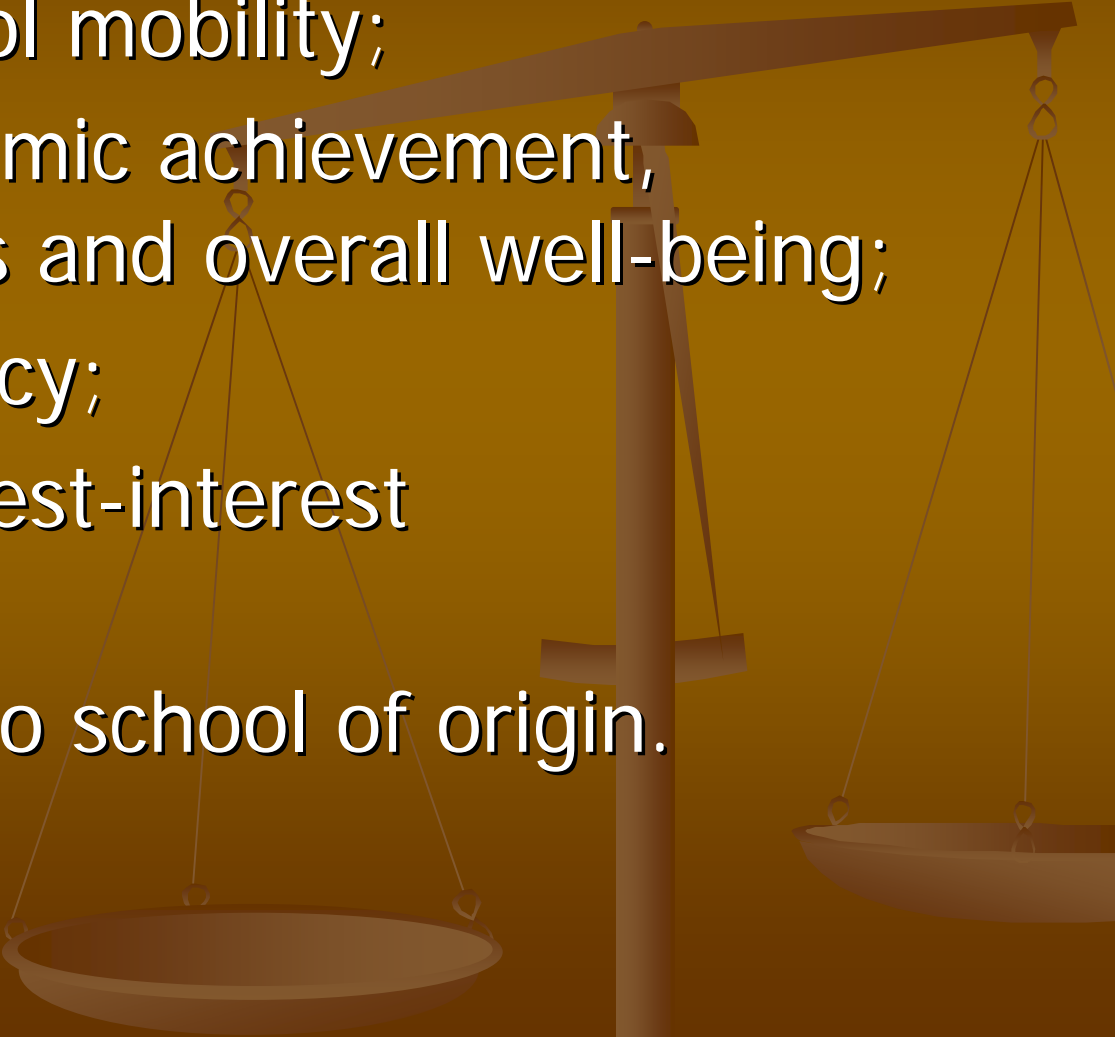
Educational Profile: children & youth in foster care

- Children of Color are overrepresented in foster care, special education and school disciplinary proceedings;
 - Special Education referral rates are ***three times greater*** for students in foster care than non-court involved students.
 - (30%-50%) of children in foster care are eligible for special education.
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Educational Profile: children & youth in foster care

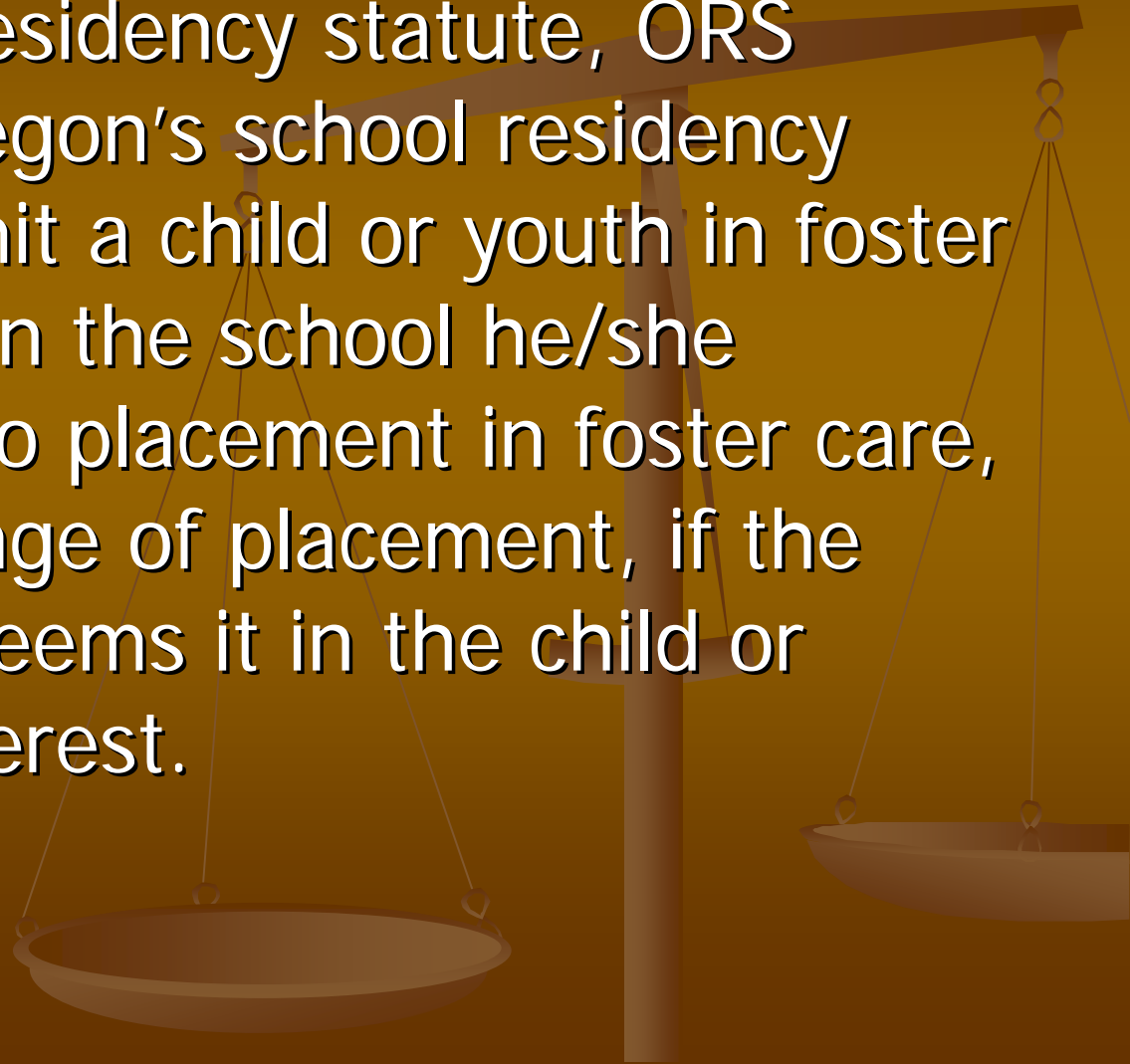
- Foster children with disabilities in Portland have lower GPA's; have higher rates of alternative education placement; are exempted at higher rates from state testing; and experience greater numbers of education placements than similarly situated peers with the same disabilities who are not in out-of-home care.

The Solution: HB 3075 (ORS 339.133(4))

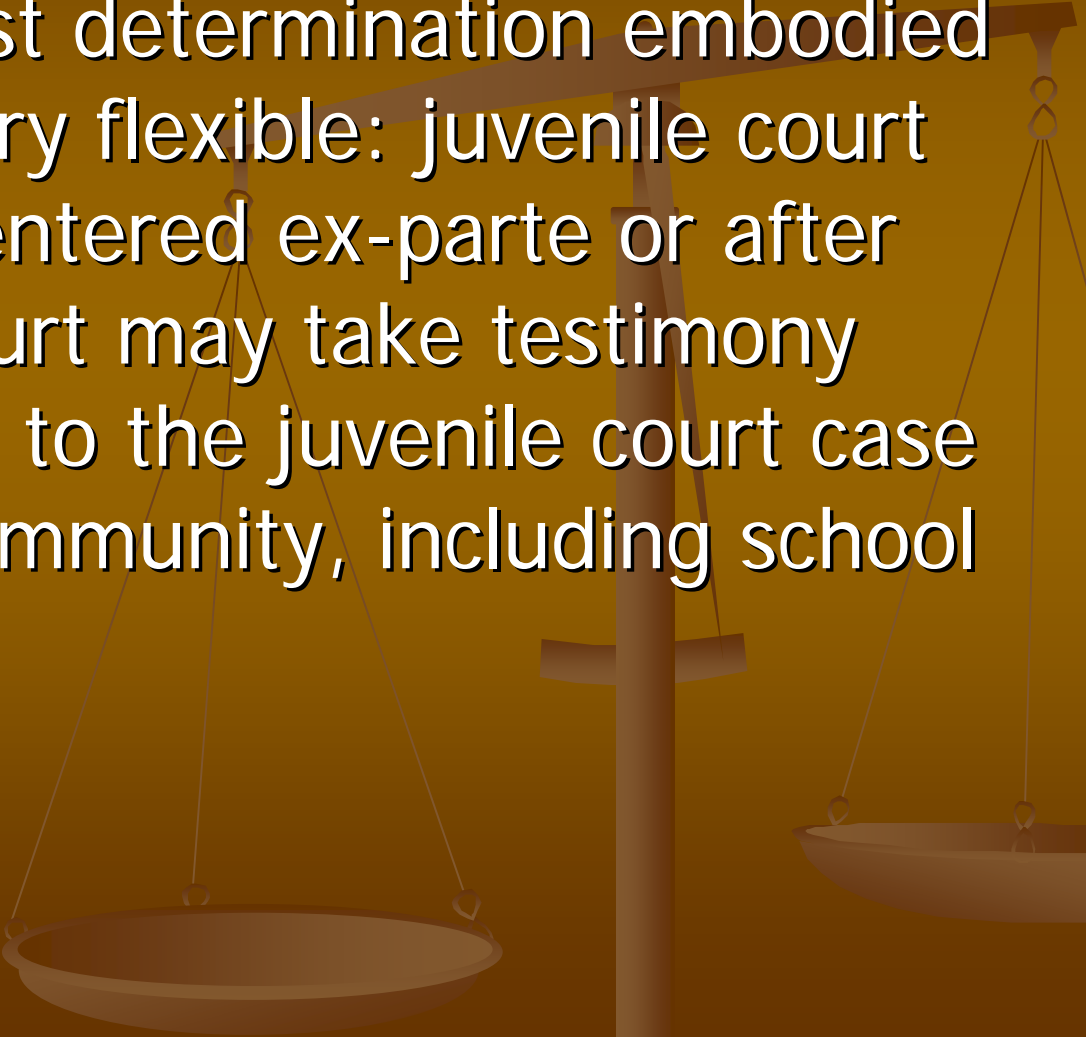
- Decreases school mobility;
 - Increases academic achievement, graduation rates and overall well-being;
 - Good public policy;
 - Individualized best-interest determinations;
 - Transportation to school of origin.
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The Solution: HB 3075

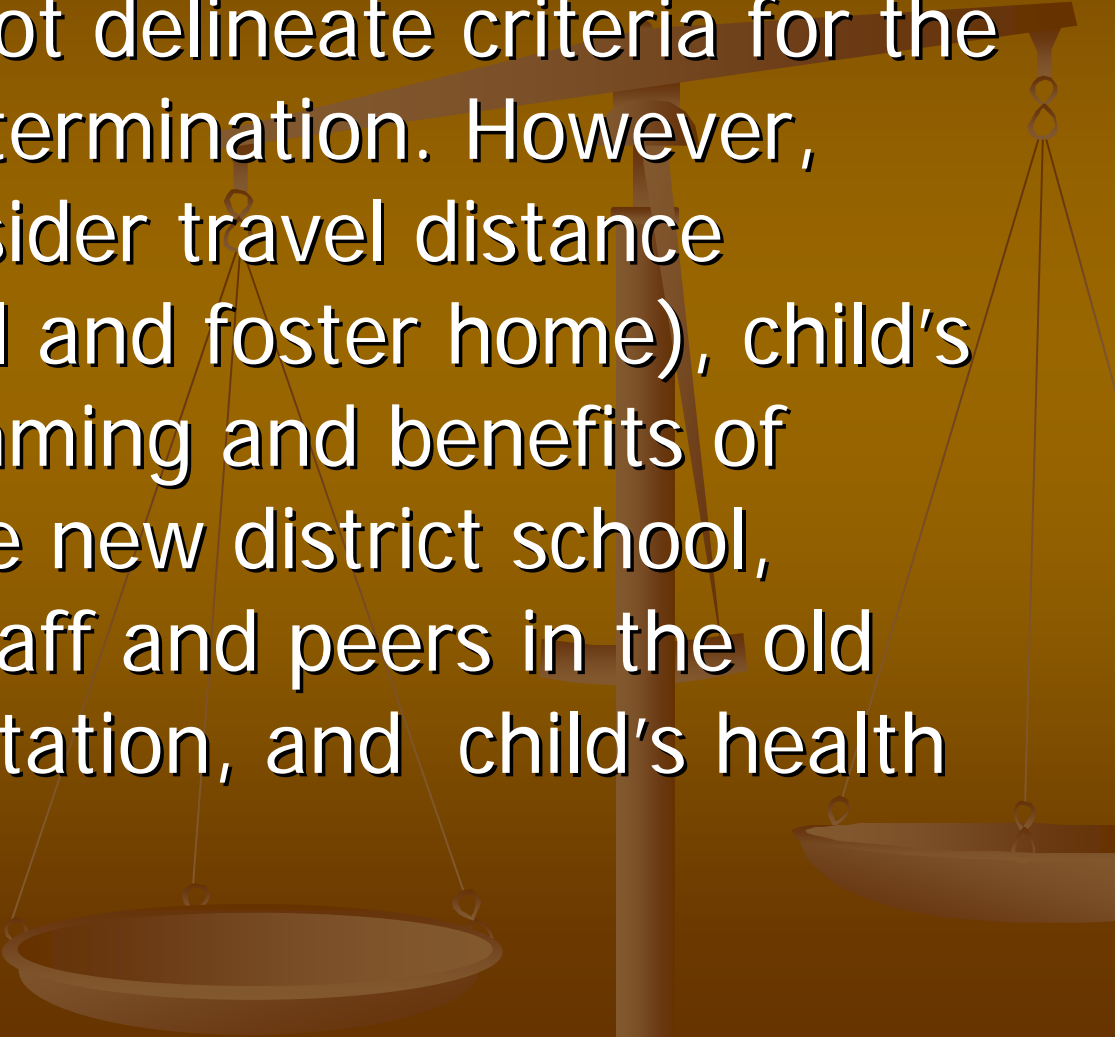
- Amends state residency statute, ORS 339.133(4), Oregon's school residency statute, to permit a child or youth in foster care to remain in the school he/she attended prior to placement in foster care, or through change of placement, if the juvenile court deems it in the child or youth's best interest.



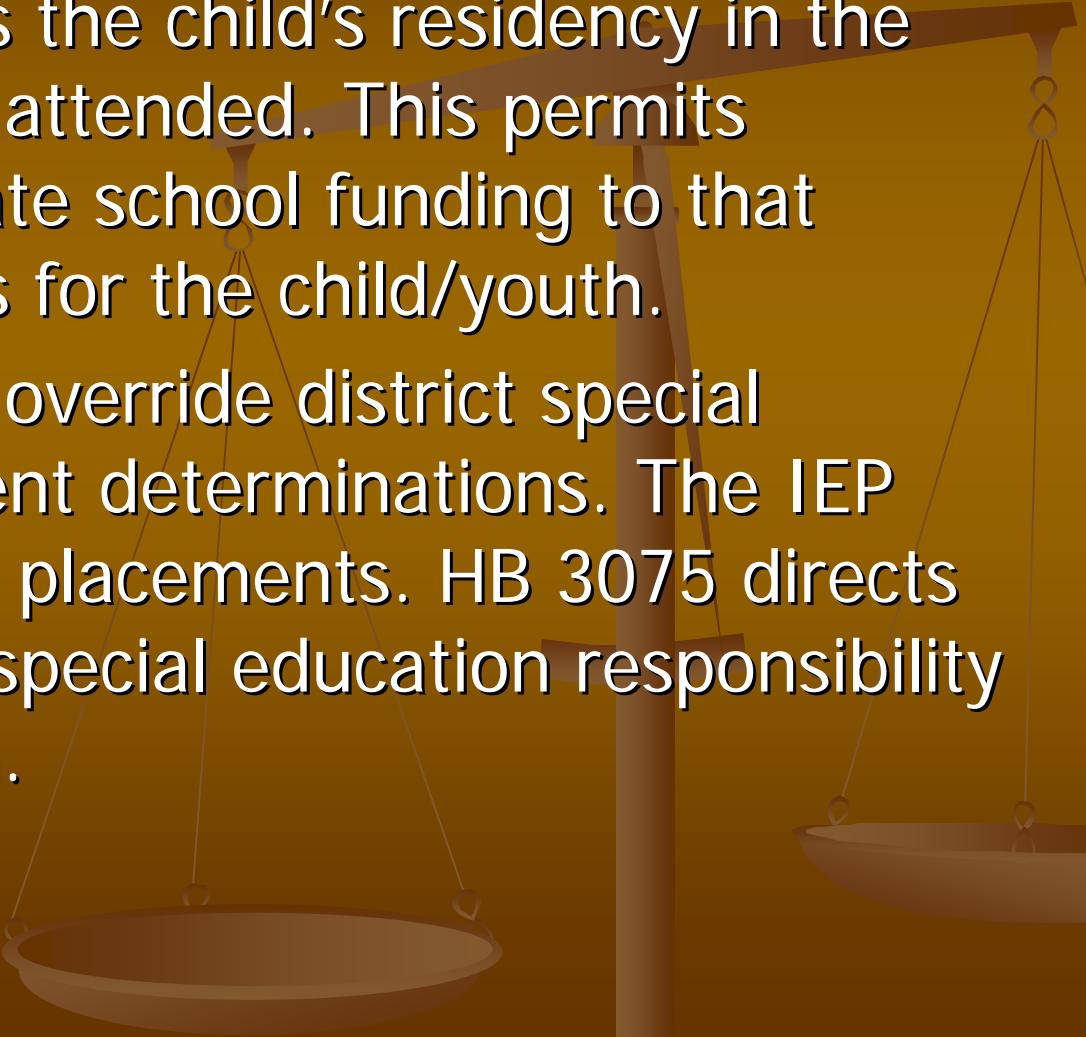
HB 3075: Best Interest

- The Best Interest determination embodied in HB 3075 is very flexible: juvenile court orders may be entered ex-parte or after hearing. The court may take testimony from the parties to the juvenile court case and from the community, including school district input.
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HB 3075: Best Interest

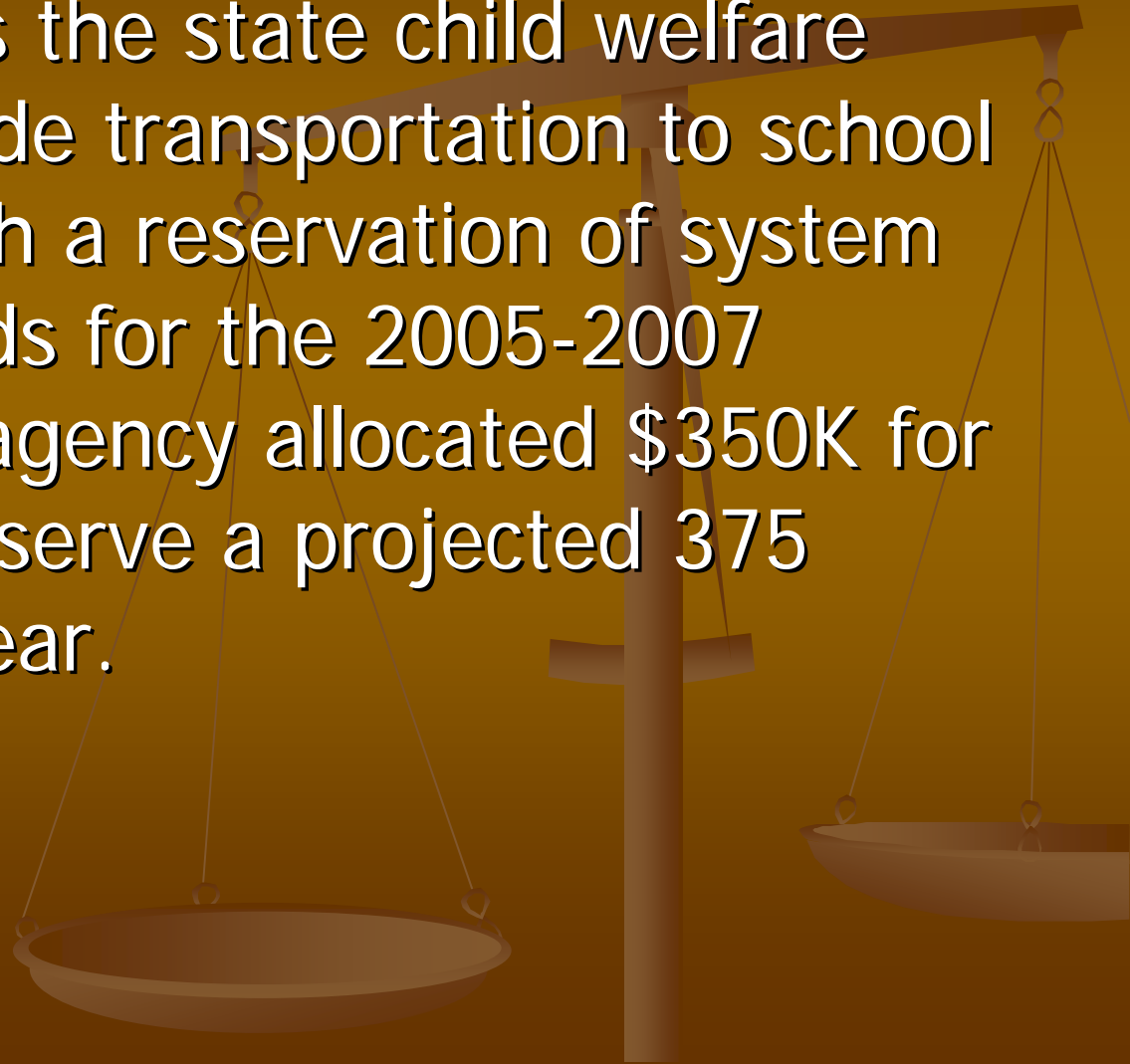
- HB 3075 does not delineate criteria for the best interest determination. However, courts may consider travel distance (between school and foster home), child's current programming and benefits of placement in the new district school, connection to staff and peers in the old school, transportation, and child's health and safety.
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HB 3075: funding and federal law

- HB 3075 maintains the child's residency in the last school district attended. This permits continuation of state school funding to that district for services for the child/youth.
 - HB 3075 does not override district special education placement determinations. The IEP team makes these placements. HB 3075 directs which district has special education responsibility for the child/youth.
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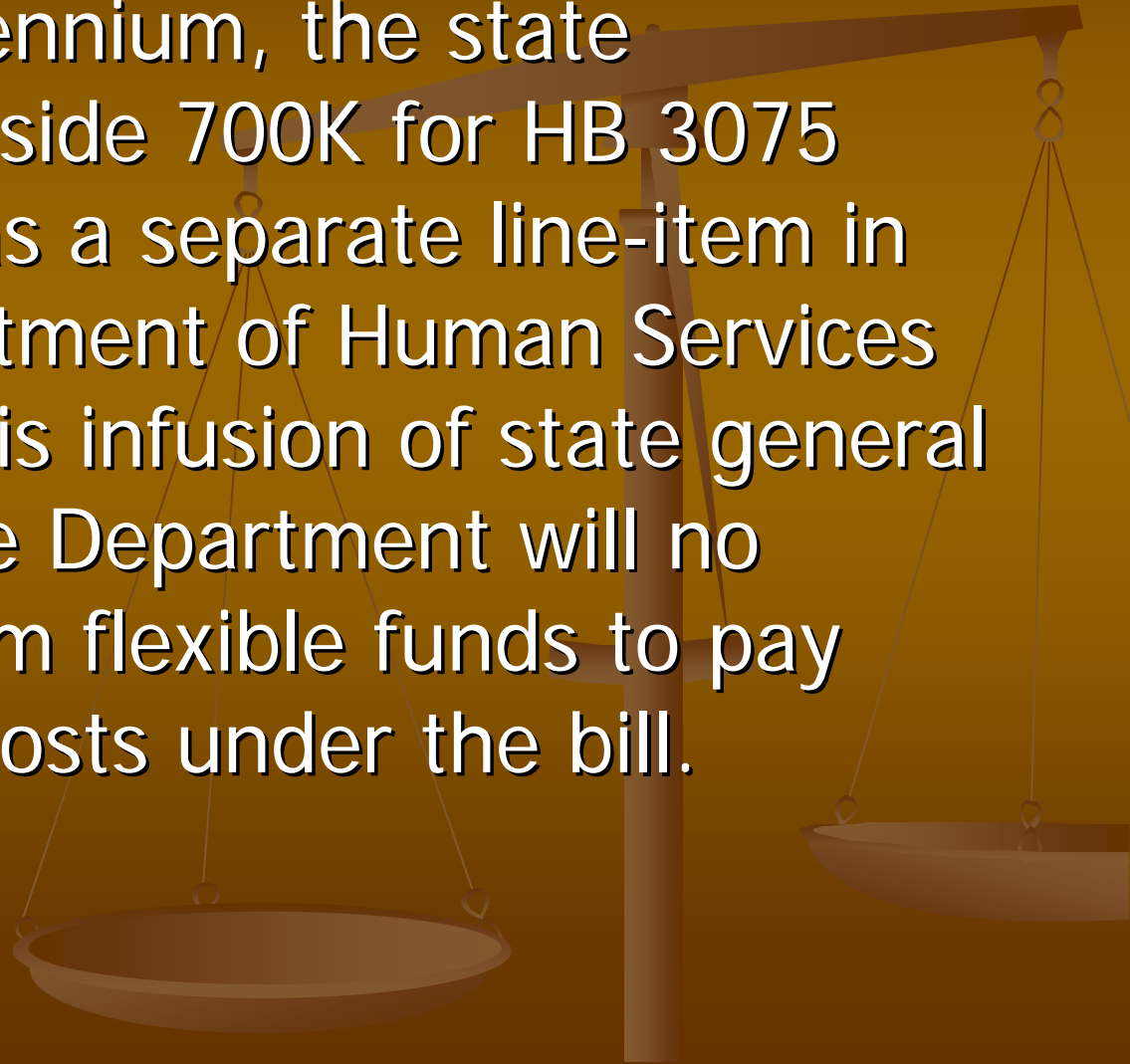
HB 3075: Transportation

- The bill requires the state child welfare agency to provide transportation to school of origin through a reservation of system of care flex funds for the 2005-2007 biennium. The agency allocated \$350K for this purpose to serve a projected 375 children each year.



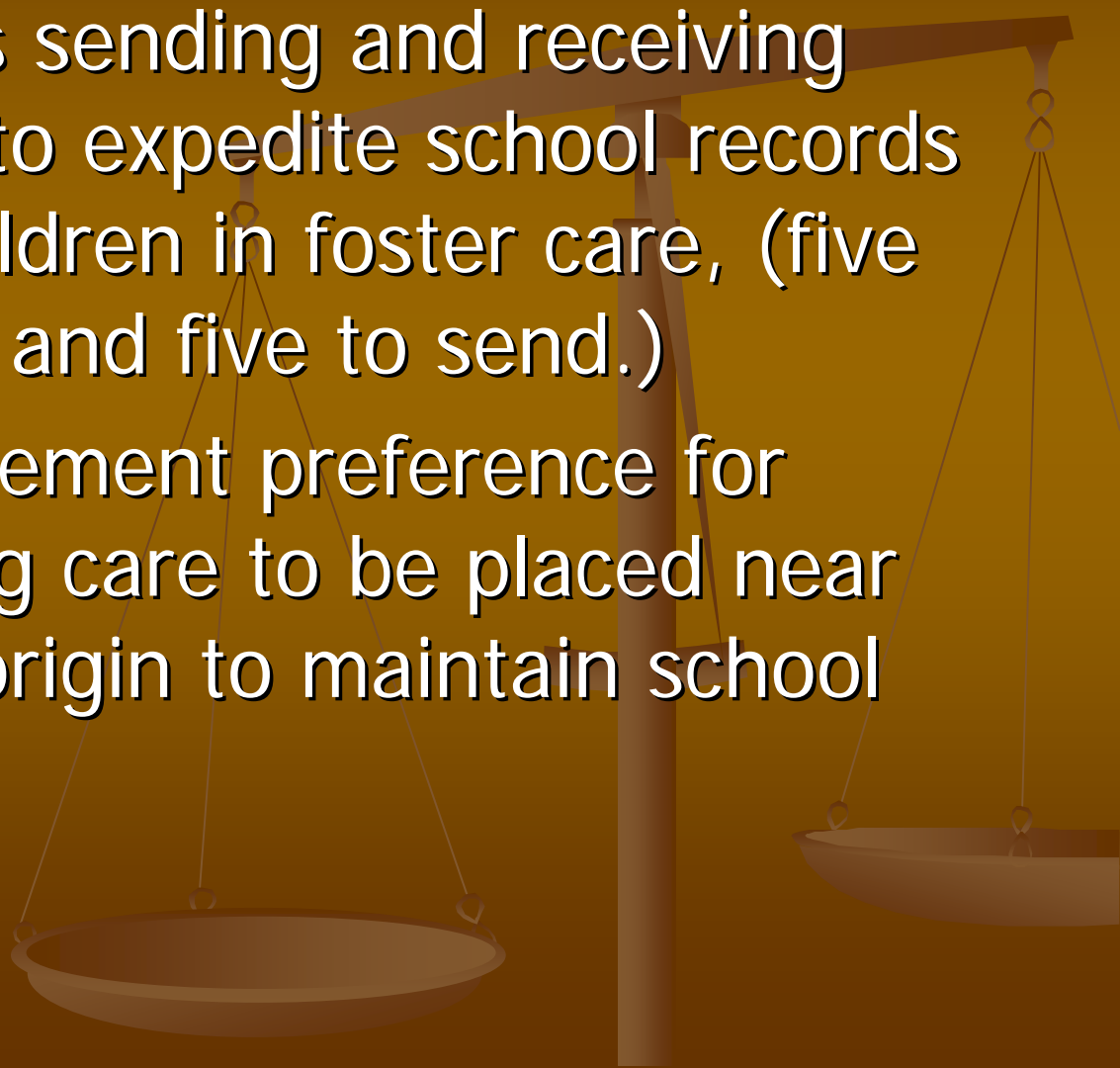
HB 3075 Transportation

- In the 07-09 biennium, the state legislature set aside 700K for HB 3075 transportation as a separate line-item in the state Department of Human Services budget. With this infusion of state general fund dollars, the Department will no longer draw from flexible funds to pay transportation costs under the bill.



HB 3075: records and placement preference

- The bill requires sending and receiving school districts to expedite school records transfers for children in foster care, (five days to request and five to send.)
- The adds a placement preference for children entering care to be placed near their school of origin to maintain school residency.



HB 3075 Recap

- HB 3075 became law in July, 2005. The state Department of Human Services expended approximately \$210,000 in transportation costs during the 2005-2007 biennium, ending June, 2007. In a November, 2006 report to the state legislature, DHS acknowledged the importance of school stability for children in care.

HB 3075 Recap

- The DHS legislative report noted further that in addition to transportation funding, the department must have local resources available to purchase transportation through public transportation systems, utilization of volunteer programs, foster parent availability and department staff, in order to meet the goals of the legislation.