

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Response to
Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Follow-Up Questions
Fiscal Year 2012

Senator Cunningham:

- Please provide information as to: (a) whether any schools or school districts have discontinued participation in the School Linked Services program as a result of school staffing reductions and (b) whether any new schools or school districts have replaced those schools or school districts that have discontinued participation in the program.

Response: All currently funded School Based Youth Services programs continue to be supported by their respective school districts. Of the 92 programs DCF/DPCP funds, less than 5% have lost some type of in-kind support, specific to staffing resources. However, this minimal loss has not impeded any program's ability to effectively operate and meet its level of service obligations.

Senator Pennacchio:

- Provide information on the Kinship Guardianship program and whether there are data available as to the outcomes of children in Kinship Guardianship compared to children who do not participate in Kinship Guardianship.

Response: The Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) program provides a child with a permanent home with a relative or family friend who is willing to make a lifelong commitment to care and protect the child until adulthood, when it is determined that return home is not feasible and adoption is neither feasible nor likely.

Since 2004, DCF has focused on reducing the number of children in out-of-home placement. This has been accomplished by reducing the number of children who enter placement through making reasonable efforts to keep the child safe at home if at all possible. For children who do enter placement, the focus is on having them return home, or find a placement through adoption or KLG as quickly as possible. As the chart below indicates, DYFS has decreased the number of children in placement by 45% between 2004 and 2011. The KLG program has been vital to our success in reducing the number of children in out-of-home care.

End of fiscal year	# of Children in Placement	# of Children in KLG	# of Children in Subsidized Adoption
2002	11,254	3	7,326
2003	12,186	114	7,904
2004	12,937	528	8,444
2005	11,813	1,234	9,270
2006	11,219	2,002	9,947
2007	9,978	2,515	10,729
2008	9,375	2,524	11,895
2009	8,603	2,655	12,699
2010	7,861	2,517	13,378
2011 (as of March)	7,129	2,421	13,541

The Department does not have data to provide a meaningful comparison of the outcomes between the different permanency placements of returning home, adoption, or KLG. However, the KLG program has become a significant asset in our efforts to attain permanency for all youth in out-of-home care.