

## Foster Youth

The Governing Board recognizes that foster youth may be at greater risk for poor academic performance due to their family circumstances, disruption of their educational program, and emotional, social, and other health needs. The district shall provide such students with full access to the district's educational program and other support services necessary to assist them in achieving state and district academic standards.

Homeless students shall not be segregated into a separate school or program based on their status as homeless and shall not be stigmatized in any way.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on the students' best interests as defined in law and administrative regulation. To that end, he/she shall designate a staff person as a district liaison for foster youth to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for homeless students are based on the student's best interest as defined in law and administrative regulation.

### Transportation

The district shall provide transportation for a homeless student to and from his/her school of origin when the student is residing within the district and the parent/guardian requests that such transportation be provided. If the student moves outside of district boundaries, but continues to attend his/her school of origin within this district, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the superintendent of the district in which the student is now residing to agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of the transportation. (42 USC 11432)

The Superintendent or designee and district liaison shall ensure that all appropriate staff, including, but not limited to, each principal, school registrar, and attendance clerk, receive training regarding the enrollment, placement, and rights of foster youth.

The Board desires to provide foster youth with a safe, positive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and promotes students' self-esteem and academic achievement. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to build students' feelings of connectedness with the school, including, but not limited to, strategies that promote positive discipline and conflict resolution, the development of students' resiliency and interpersonal skills, and the involvement of foster parents, group home administrators, and/or other caretakers in school programs and activities.

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To address the needs of foster youth and help ensure the maximum utilization of available funds, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local agencies including, but not limited to, the county placing agency, social services, probation officers, juvenile court officers, nonprofit organizations, and advocates. The Superintendent or designee shall explore the feasibility of entering into agreements with these groups to coordinate services and protect the rights of foster youth.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board on the educational outcomes of foster youth enrolled in the district including, but not limited to, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention rates by grade level, graduation rates, and suspension/expulsion rates.

## Legal Reference:

## EDUCATION CODE

32228-32228.5 Student safety and violence prevention

42920-42925 Foster children educational services

48645-48646 Juvenile court schools

48850-48859 Educational placement of students residing in licensed children's institutions

49061 Student records

49069.5 Foster care students, transfer of records

49076 Access to student records

51225.3 High school graduation

56055 Rights of foster parents in special education

60851 High school exit examination

## HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1522.41 Training and certification of group home administrators

1529.2 Training of licensed foster parents

## WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 Children subject to jurisdiction

309 Investigation and release of child

361 Limitations on parental or guardian control

366.27 Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements

602 Minors violating law; ward of court

726 Limitations on parental or guardian control

727 Order of care, ward of court

16000-16014 Foster care placement

## UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504

## UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

Adopted 01/24/06 TBD

## Foster Youth

670-679b Federal assistance for foster care programs  
11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

### Management Resources:

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Educating Foster Youth: Best Practices and Board Considerations, Policy Brief, March 2008

#### AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Mythbusting: Breaking Down Confidentiality and Decision-Making Barriers to Meet the Education Needs of Children in Foster Care, 2005

#### CITIES, COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS

Our Children: Emancipating Foster Youth, A Community Action Guide

#### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Foster Youth Services: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy>

California Department of Social Services, Foster Youth Ombudsman Office:

<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov>

California Youth Connection: <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc>

Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership: <http://www.ccspartnership.org>