Kern County Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program

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kern.org/instructionalservices/
foster-youth-services

A program operated by
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Office of Mary C. Barlow ...advocates for children

FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES
Coordinating Program

Ensuring Educational Rights & Stability For Foster Youth in Kern County

Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) is a state-funded educational advocacy program of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office that provides linkages and support services to Probation wards and dependents in foster care and group homes (ages 4-21) to increase academic achievement, attendance, and positive school behaviors.

Why Foster Youth Services?

Foster youth often experience multiple changes in their living arrangements, which can lead to changes in their educational placements. High mobility can potentially disrupt, or even damage, their educational growth. Because of these complexities, recent research shows that 75% of foster youth are working below grade level, 83% are held back by the third grade, and 46% will eventually drop out of high school.

Who is Eligible for Foster Youth Services?

Children and youth between the ages of 4 and 21 who are:

- In out-of-home placement or living at home, and under court supervision (WIC 300).
- Wards placed by the court in out-of-home care (WIC 602).
- Supervised by your county under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).
- Under supervision of the tribal court (ICWA).

How Does Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program Benefit Foster Youth?

FYSCP was established to meet the unique educational needs of foster youth by providing advocacy and other support services designed to encourage the academic and personal success of all students in foster care.

FYSCP services include:

- Advocacy services including assistance for students who are experiencing delays in enrollment,tutoring, counseling, mentoring, vocational training, emancipation services, and other related services;
- Assistance to all Kern County school districts, placing agencies and care providers in meeting foster youth legal obligations and educational rights when they are placed in new school districts;
- Assistance in mediation between group homes, school districts, and/or placing agencies;

- Collaboration with county departments and agencies including Independent Living Programs to protect foster youth educational rights of and assist with immediate and appropriate, stable school placements;
- Training for all stakeholders on critical issues, including educational rights, legal mandates, best practices, and other school related topics;
- Various educational and motivational programs, and events to assist youth with successful transition from foster care;
- Building awareness in schools and group homes in the understanding of laws, procedures, and needs for supporting a foster youth's education; and
- Maintaining Foster Focus, a database of foster youth students in Kern County public schools, to ensure they receive appropriate educational supports and services as outlined in Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP).

How Does AB 490 Support Foster Youth?

AB 490 requires that every school district appoint a foster youth liaison to protect the educational rights of wards and dependents, ensuring they are made aware of their right to remain at the school of origin; access to academic resources; timely transfer of grades and credits, and immediate enrollment into school.

FYSCP is available to assist districts and other agencies in understanding these requirements and to provide strategies for working with these students.

FYSCP also educates school site staff, care providers, service providers, and others in the community on the educational needs and rights of foster youth.

The goal of the Kern County Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program is to improve educational outcomes for students placed in foster care through innovative educational support.