

## INSTRUCTIONS

### POLICY – EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

BP 6173.1

The County Board recognizes that foster youth may face significant barriers to achieving academic success due to their family circumstances, disruption to their educational program, and their emotional, social, and other health needs. To enable such students to achieve state and district academic standards, the County Superintendent or designee shall provide them with full access to the district's educational program and implement strategies identified as necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth in the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

The County 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, the County Superintendent or designee shall designate a staff person as the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) liaison for foster youth to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.

The County Superintendent or designee and SBCEO liaison shall ensure that all appropriate staff receive training on the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth and other related rights.

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

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

At least annually and in accordance with the established timelines, the County Superintendent or designee shall report to the County Board on the outcomes for foster youth regarding the goals and specific actions identified in the LCAP, including, but not limited to, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention

rates by grade level, graduation rates, and suspension/expulsion rates. As necessary, evaluation data shall be used to determine and recommend revisions to the LCAP for improving or increasing services for foster youth.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32228-32228.5 Student safety and violence prevention  
42238.01-42238.07 Local control funding formula  
42920-42925 Foster children educational services  
48645-48646 Juvenile court schools  
48850-48859 Educational placement of students residing in licensed children's institutions  
48915.5 Suspension and expulsion; students with disabilities, including foster youth  
48918.1 Notice of expulsion hearing for foster youth  
49061 Student records  
49069.5 Foster care students, transfer of records  
49076 Access to student records  
51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements  
51225.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course  
51225.3 High school graduation  
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan  
56055 Rights of foster parents in special education

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1522.41 Training and certification of group home administrators  
1529.2 Training of licensed foster parents  
120341 Foster youth: school placement: immunization records

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 Children subject to jurisdiction  
309 Investigation and release of child  
317 Appointment of legal counsel  
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

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1415 Procedural safeguards; placement in alternative educational setting  
6311 State plan

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

670-679b Federal assistance for foster care programs

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Foster Youth: Supports for Success, Governance Brief, May 2016

Our Foster Youth: What School Boards Can Do, May 2016

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

Foster Youth Education Toolkit, December 2016

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations

CITIES, COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS

Our Children: Emancipating Foster Youth, A Community Action Guide

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, Non-Regulatory Guidance, June 2016

WEB SITES

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

Alliance for Children's Rights: <http://www.kids-alliance.org>

California Child Welfare Council: <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CAChildWelfareCouncil.aspx>

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 Foster Youth Education Task Force: <http://www.cfyetf.org>

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

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

Foster Ed: <http://foster-ed.org>

National Center for Youth Law: <https://youthlaw.org>

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD

December 11, 2020