

Instruction

Education for Foster Youth

The Board of Education 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 that may be addressed with the provision of a safe, positive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and that promotes students' self-esteem and academic achievement.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide foster youth with full access to the District's educational program and implement strategies necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth as identified in the District's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

The Superintendent or designee shall also develop strategies to build a foster youth's feelings of connectedness with school, including, but not limited to, strategies that promote positive discipline and conflict resolution, the development resiliency and interpersonal skills, and the involvement of foster parents, group home administrators, and/or other caretakers in school programs and activities.

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

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 on the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth and other related rights.

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 and officials including, but not limited to, the county placing agency, social services, probation officers, and juvenile court officers. 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.

At least annually and in accordance with the established timelines, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the 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.

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of foster youth graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from District-established graduation requirements that are in addition to Statewide coursework requirements.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

39807.5 Payment of transportation costs by parents/guardians; waiver for foster youth

42238.01-42238.07 Local control funding formula

42920-42926 Foster children educational services

48645-48647 Juvenile court schools

48850-48859 Education of foster youth and homeless students

48915.5 Recommended expulsion; foster youth with disabilities

48918.1 Notice of recommended expulsion

49061 Definitions; directory information

49069.5 Students in foster care; grades and credits

49076 Access to student records

51225.1 Exemption from District graduation requirements

51225.2 Course credits

51225.3 High school graduation requirements

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

56055 Rights of foster parents pertaining to foster youth's education

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1522.41 Training and certification of group home administrators

120341 Foster youth: school placement and immunization records

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 Minors subject to jurisdiction

309 Investigation and release of child

317 Appointment of legal counsel

361 Limitations on parental control

366.27 Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements

602 Minors violating law; ward of court

726 Limitations on parental 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