



INSTRUCTION

BOARD POLICY – EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

BP 6173.1

The County Board of Education (County Board) and the County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) recognize 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 County Superintendent or designee shall provide foster youth with full access to Santa Barbara County Education Office's (SBCEO) county-operated programs and implement strategies necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth as identified in SBCEO's local control and accountability plan (LCAP). The County Superintendent or designee shall also develop strategies to build a foster youth's feeling of connectedness with 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 SBCEO county-operated programs and activities.

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 as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. To that end, the County Superintendent or designee shall designate a staff person as the 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.

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.

Annually, the County 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.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the County Superintendent of Schools or designee to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Federal	Description
20 USC 1415	Procedural safeguards
20 USC 6311	State plan
29 USC 794	Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504
42 USC 11431-11435	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
42 USC 670-679b	Federal assistance for foster care programs
Management Resources	Description
Alliance for Children's Rights Publication	Foster Youth Education Toolkit, December 2016
California Child Welfare Council	Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations, September 2013
Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership Pub.	Our Children: Emancipating Foster Youth, A Community Action Guide
CSBA Publication	Our Foster Youth: What School Boards Can Do, May 2016
CSBA Publication	Foster Youth: Supports for Success, Governance Brief, May 2016
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, Non-Regulatory Guidance, June 2016
Website	National Center for Youth Law
Website	Foster Ed
Website	CSBA
Website	Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership
Website	California Youth Connection
Website	California Foster Youth Education Task Force
Website	California Department of Social Services, Foster Youth Ombudsman Office
Website	California Department of Education, Foster Youth Services
Website	California Child Welfare Council
Website	Alliance for Children's Rights
State	Description
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 32228-32228.5	Student safety and violence prevention
Ed. Code 42238.01-42238.07	Local control funding formula
Ed. Code 42920-42925	Foster children educational services
Ed. Code 48645-48646	Juvenile court schools
Ed. Code 48850	Academic achievement of students in foster care and homeless children
Ed. Code 48915.5	Recommended expulsion; homeless student with disabilities

Ed. Code 48918.1	Notice of recommended expulsion
Ed. Code 49061	Student records; definitions
Ed. Code 49069.5	Students in foster care, grades and credits
Ed. Code 49076	Access to student records
Ed. Code 51225.1	Exemption from district graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.2	Former juvenile court school student defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course
Ed. Code 51225.3	High school graduation requirements
Ed. Code 52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan
Ed. Code 56055	Rights of foster parents pertaining to foster child's education
H&S Code 120341	Foster youth: school placement: immunization records
H&S Code 1522.41	Training and certification of group home administrators
H&S Code 1529.2	Training of licensed foster parents
W&I Code 16000-16014	Foster care placement
W&I Code 300	Minors subject to jurisdiction
W&I Code 309	Investigation and release of child
W&I Code 317	Appointment of legal counsel
W&I Code 361	Limitations on parental control
W&I Code 366.27	Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements
W&I Code 602	Minors violating law; ward of court
W&I Code 726	Limitations on parental control
W&I Code 727	Order of care, ward of court

APPROVED BY COUNTY BOARD: December 11, 2020
 REVISED: February 8, 2024