

## RANCHO SANTA FE SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Board Policy No. 6036: EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

- A. In compliance with Education Code section 48850, et. seq, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that pupils in foster care within the District are provided a stable school placement, placed in the least restrictive educational programs, and have access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils.
- B. For purposes of this policy, “Foster Student” and “Foster Youth” mean the definitions set forth in Education Code sections 48853.5 and 42238.01.
- C. The Board recognizes that foster youth have educational rights set forth in the law, including but not limited to the right to attend and remain in their school of origin and their right to immediate enrollment, as defined by law. (Education Code 48853, 48853.5). “School of origin” is defined in Education Code section 48853.5(g) and can include the school the foster youth attended when he/she first entered foster case; the school the foster youth most recently attended; and/or any school the foster youth attended in the last 15 months that he/she feels connected.
- D. Foster Youth Liaison
  - a. The Board designates the Superintendent to serve as the District liaison for foster youth to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth. To ensure adequate time and resources are available to meet the needs of foster youth in the District, the Superintendent may delegate these duties to other administrators as needed.
  - b. The Superintendent shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on best interests of the students as defined by law and this policy and shall assist foster youth when transferring to another school district, ensuring proper transfer of credits, records, and grades. (Education Code section 48850, 48853; 20 USC 6311).
  - c. Determination of a foster youth’s school of origin shall comply with all applicable law, including Education Code section 48853.5.
  - d. Within two school days of a foster youth’s request for enrollment, the Superintendent shall contact the school last attended by the foster youth to obtain all academic and other records. When a foster youth is transferring to a new school or district, the Superintendent shall provide the student’s records to the new school within two business days of receiving the school’s request.

- e. When required by law, the Superintendent shall notify the foster youth's educational rights holder, attorney, and county social worker when a foster youth is undergoing any expulsion or other disciplinary proceeding, including a manifestation determination for a foster youth who is a student with a disability, prior to a change in the foster youth's placement. (Education Code 48853.5, 48911, 48915.5, 48918.1).
- f. The Superintendent shall make appropriate referrals, as needed, to ensure that students in foster care receive necessary special education services and services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- g. The Superintendent shall ensure that students in foster care receive appropriate school-based services, as needed, such as counseling and health services, supplemental instruction, and after-school services.
- h. The Superintendent shall collaborate with the county office of education, county placing agency, county child welfare agency, county probation department, juvenile court, and other appropriate agencies as needed to help coordinate services for the District's foster youth within the District.
- i. The Superintendent shall develop protocols for creating awareness for District staff, including principals and other employees whose duties involve the enrollment of pupils, of the requirements of this policy and for the proper enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.
- j. The Superintendent shall monitor the educational progress of foster youth and provide reports to the Governing Board based on indicators identified in the District's local control and accountability plan.
- k. The Superintendent shall collaborate with the local child welfare agency to determine how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded in a cost-effective manner to enable foster youth to remain in their school of origin, for the duration of their time in foster care, when it is in their best interest to do so. Such transportation costs may be paid by either the child welfare agency or the District or shared by both.

E. Grades and Transfers of Coursework

- a. If a foster youth is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of a student made by a court or placing agency, the grades and credits of the student will be calculated as of the date the student left school and no lowering of grades will occur as a result of the absence of the student under these circumstances. (Education Code section 49069.5).
- b. When a foster youth transfers into the District, the District must accept, full or partial credit for all full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed by a pupil

in foster care while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a charter school, a school in a country other than the United States, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school in accordance with Education Code section 51225.2.

- c. When a foster youth transfers outside the District, partial credits and grades earned by a student shall be included on the student's official transcript within two business days of the District's notification of the student's transfer, as required under Education Code 49069.5.
  
- F. A foster youth whose residence changes to the District pursuant to a court order or decision of a child welfare worker shall be immediately deemed to meet all residency requirements for participation in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular activities.
  
- G. Any complaint alleging that the District has not complied with requirements regarding the education of foster youth may be filed in accordance with the District's procedures in Board Policy 6006 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

42920-42925 Foster children educational services

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

48915.5, 48918.1 Suspension and expulsion; students with disabilities, including foster youth

49069.5 Foster care students, transfer of records

51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements

51225.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of

course 52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

56055 Rights of foster parents in special education

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 Children subject to jurisdiction

726 Educational Rights Holder

16000-16014 Foster care

placement

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42 670-679b Federal assistance for foster care programs

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Date Policy Adopted By The Board: August 3, 2023