Education for Foster Youth

Adopted: 11/19/2002 **| Last Revised:** 03/10/2026 **| Last Reviewed**: 03/10/2026

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 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 that promote 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 specified in the accompanying Board rule. To that end, the Superintendent or designee shall designate a staff person as a district liaison for foster youth to help facilitate the 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 foster youth 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 youths 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 Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
5 CCR 4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures
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
56325 Unofficial transcripts for transfer students
HEALTH & SAFETY CODE
120341 Foster youth; school placement and immunization records
1522.41 Training and certification of group home administrators
WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE
10553.1 Indian and tribal organizations
16000-16014 Foster care placement
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

FEDERAL
UNITED STATES CODES
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
ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PUBLICATION
Foster Youth Education Toolkit, December 2016
CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL PUBLICATION
Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations
CALIFORNIA FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION TASK FORCE PUB
California Foster Youth Education Law Fact Sheets, January 2021
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
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
WEBSITES
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/
Alliance for Children's Rights http://www.kids-alliance.org/
Foster Ed http://foster-ed.org/
National Center for Youth Law https://youthlaw.org/
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.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc
Cities Counties and Schools Partnership https://www.ca-ilg.org/ccs-partnership
CSBA http://www.csba.org/
California Child Welfare Council https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/committees/california-child-welfare-council

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