

Foster Youth Transfers to Alternative Education Programs

The Governing Board recognizes that students in foster care often experience educational disruption and that maintaining school stability is critical to supporting their academic success and well-being. The Board is committed to ensuring that foster youth receive equal access to educational opportunities and that any decision affecting school placement prioritizes the student's educational stability and best interests.

The District shall comply with all state and federal laws governing the educational rights of foster youth, including protections related to school stability, enrollment, and educational decision-making as outlined in Education Code Section 48853 and 48853.5.

Foster youth shall remain in their school of origin unless a determination is made that remaining in that school is not in the student's best educational interest.

The Board further recognizes that alternative education programs may provide appropriate educational opportunities for some students when the placement is designed to support the student's academic progress and social-emotional needs. However, foster youth shall not be transferred to an alternative education placement unless the District determines that such placement is in the student's best interest and consistent with applicable law.

Any voluntary or involuntary transfer of a foster youth to an alternative education program shall:

- Prioritize the student's educational stability
- Include meaningful input from the student and the student's Educational Rights Holder
- Be based on documented educational considerations
- Not be based solely on attendance, academic performance, or placement instability
- Not occur for administrative convenience or as a substitute for disciplinary procedures

Transfers to continuation education programs shall comply with the requirements outlined in Education Code Section 48645.5 and 48929.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish administrative regulations outlining procedures for voluntary and involuntary transfers of foster youth to alternative education placements, including documentation requirements, best interest determinations, and an appeal process.

The District shall designate a Foster Youth Liaison to ensure compliance with state law, assist with coordination between schools and child welfare agencies, and support the educational stability of students in foster care.

The District shall ensure that decisions regarding school placement or transfer comply with nondiscrimination protections under Education Code Section 220.

Legal References

- California Education Code Section 220
- California Education Code Section 48853
- California Education Code Section 48853.5
- California Education Code Section 48645.5
- California Education Code Section 48929