



Joint Liaison Meeting

2026-05-12

Key Outcomes

Final meeting of the 2025-26 school year covered critical updates for both homeless education and foster youth services programs. **Major CALPADS policy change** requires all homeless program records to have end dates starting this year, necessitating closure and re-entry of all students for the next school year. **Transportation funding exhausted** for foster youth through the end of June; new funding begins July 1st. **Best Interest Determination (BID) process soft launch** initiated to improve school stability rates for foster youth, which lag significantly behind homeless students and general population in San Diego County.

Decisions Made

- **Recording protocol:** Meeting will be recorded with transcription enabled for note-taking purposes
- **BID implementation:** FYSCP adopting Child & Family Well-Being (CFWB) Best Interest Decision-Making (BID) worksheet as a guide for school placement decisions
- **Suggested district protocol:** Districts should pause student withdrawals, confirm if BID occurred, initiate BID if needed, coordinate education team, document outcomes, and implement plan including transportation
- **SPA liaison coverage:** Michelle Bailow and Charisma De Los Reyes will cover educational liaison duties for students at San Pasqual Academy (SPA).

Program Updates

Homeless Education Services (HES)

- **Stuff the Bus survey:** Active survey for districts to request backpacks and school supplies for students experiencing homelessness; partnership with San Diego County Credit Union
- **Trauma-informed training:** Additional "Creating Hopeful and Engaging Schools" session scheduled May 28th (virtual)



- **CALPADS changes:** All homeless program records (191 identifier) must have end dates by year-end; students must be re-entered with new start dates for next year to ensure accurate Census Day data and LCFF funding
- **Housing questionnaires:** Still required despite CALPADS changes; no change to identification practices
- **Dispute resolution:** Significant increase in McKinney-Vento disputes countywide; new NCHE checklist tool and dispute resolution brief available in handout folder
- **Summer meals:** Information shared for USDA Summer Nutrition Programs including meal locations, SunMeals to Go, and new \$120 SunBucks grocery benefit per eligible child
- **Liaison Academy:** Four-session series completed in April for liaisons with 2 years or less experience; 30 participants

Shelter Outreach

- **South County Lighthouse:** Ongoing. Visits are on the first Thursday of the month at 1 pm. Liaisons are welcome to attend with prior notice for a tour and meet and greet with staff.
- **Father Joseph Village:** Monthly visits take place on the third Wednesday of the month at 3:30 PM. This is a collaboration with San Diego Unified.
- **Operation Hope:** Vista Unified School District meet-and-greet scheduled for Monday, 5/18 at Noon. Other districts are welcome to attend. Training on McKinney-Vento has been provided for staff and residents in the past few months.

Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program

- **Tutor Connection:** Completed school year supporting 208 foster youth total (137 fall, 71 spring); majority of tutors staying through end of school year
- **Probation collaboration:** Increased engagement from probation officers and placement teams; educational rights awareness gap identified which is the BID
- **Transportation crisis:** All funds exhausted through June 30th; no new students or placement changes can receive transportation until July 1st funding renewal
- **Alternative transportation options:** Districts encouraged to use their own transportation services, McKinney-Vento supports, IEP-based transportation, or general fund; coordinate with ERH and caregivers



School Stability & Best Interest Determinations

Performance Gap

San Diego County foster youth school stability rate: **56.6%** compared to state average of 67%; significantly lower than homeless students and general population. Multiple educational outcome indicators show foster youth performing worse than homeless students and the general population statewide and locally.

BID Process Framework

Required participants: Education Rights Holder (ERH), student (if available), district liaison

Optional participants: Social worker, probation officer, special education representative, SELPA staff, CASAs, minors' attorneys, caregivers, etc.

Topics covered: Academic performance, social-emotional needs, extracurricular activities, attendance, special education services, transportation logistics, student preferences

Documentation: FYSCP liaisons will upload the BID Outcome form to Foster Focus under the Documents tab for reference

Transportation implications: School of origin transportation continues if student stays; new district responsible for transportation if student changes schools (FYSCP funds only cover school of origin)

Best practice: BIDs should occur **before** school changes; currently most happen after, but goal is proactive coordination with placing agencies

Workgroups & Collaboration

- **FYSCP High school workgroup:** Active group for high school district liaisons to address specific needs, develop solutions, and potentially include policy analyst from child welfare to bridge communication
- **FYSCP TK-8 workgroup:** Available upon request for elementary/middle school liaisons; contact Charisma to establish
- **FYSCP IAA development:** Interagency Agreement work ongoing to outline roles and responsibilities for all agencies supporting foster youth education
- **HES/FYSCP Regional meetings:** Concluded final sessions in North, East, and South regions; positive feedback on collaboration space



Pending Confirmation

- **PowerSchool automation:** Kristy/Kirsten identified bulk automation process for CALPADS homeless record closure and reopening; details to be shared
- **September summit:** FYSCP In-person local education team summit planned for September 2026; details forthcoming

Resources & Announcements

- **May is Foster Care Awareness Month:** Virtual backgrounds, email signatures, social media posts available via link
- **Connecting the Dots handout:** Education and WIC code crosswalk with QR codes linking directly to statutes; useful reference for roles and responsibilities
- **Trauma-Responsive Schools webinar:** May 22nd (Thursday) co-facilitated by Mindy Corliss and Butte County; live registration link available
- **Foster Youth Ed Summit 2027:** April 12-13, 2027, at Hyatt Regency Orange County; registration details forthcoming
- **Updated contact list:** FYSCP team contact information updated as of May 2025 in handout folder
- **Bridges and Belonging Foundation:** Kristy Drake launching nonprofit Friday 5-8 PM at Hess Brewery North Park; \$20 includes drink and food; supports groceries, rental assistance, college fees, dorm setups for homeless and immigrant students

Action Items

- **HES All liaisons:** Complete Stuff the Bus survey if not already done; email with links in handout folder
- **Districts with homeless students:** Download current homeless student lists before closing CALPADS records; prepare for re-entry by Census Day
- **Districts with large homeless populations:** Contact CALPADS person about automation options for bulk record management
- **HES All liaisons:** Share summer meal program information with eligible families before end of year
- **Districts in DA for homeless population:** Include homeless liaison on Differentiated Assistance team if not already involved
- **Oscar (Escondido Union High):** Schedule meeting with Charisma and Michelle regarding San Pasqual Academy students and Rites of Passage coordination



- **School District Foster Youth Liaisons (SDFYL):** Review BID process handout in folder; implement suggested district protocol for school changes
- **All attendees:** Access handout folder via chat link; navigate to 2025 > May meeting for current materials

Liaison Changes

Districts anticipating liaison changes over summer should email Kimberly, Susie, or Charisma with updated contact information to ensure proper communication continuity.

Next Meeting

Last meeting of 2025-26 school year; next Joint Liaison meeting will be scheduled for 2026-27 school year.