

Instruction

Education for Foster Youth

The Governing Board 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. To enable such students to achieve state and district academic standards, the Superintendent or designee shall provide them with full access to the district's educational program and implement strategies identified as necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth in the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on the students' best interests as defined in law and administrative regulation. To that end, he/she shall designate a staff person as the 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 rights.

The Board desires to provide foster youth with 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 develop strategies to build a foster youth's feeling of connectedness with his/her 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 school programs and activities.

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.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32228-32228.5 Student safety and violence prevention

42238.01-42238.07 Local control funding formula

42920-42925 Foster children educational services

48645-48646 Juvenile court schools

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

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

48918.1 Notice of expulsion hearing for foster youth

49061 Student records

49069.5 Foster care students, transfer of records

49076 Access to student records

51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements

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

51225.3 High school graduation

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan
56055 Rights of foster parents in special education
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
1522.41 Training and certification of group home administrators
1529.2 Training of licensed foster parents
120341 Foster youth: school placement: immunization records
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE
300 Children subject to jurisdiction
309 Investigation and release of child
317 Appointment of legal counsel
361 Limitations on parental or guardian control
366.27 Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements
602 Minors violating law; ward of court
726 Limitations on parental or guardian control
727 Order of care, ward of court
16000-16014 Foster care placement
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1415 Procedural safeguards; placement in alternative educational setting
6311 State plan
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29
794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
670-679b Federal assistance for foster care programs
11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Management Resources:
CSBA PUBLICATIONS
Foster Youth: Supports for Success, Governance Brief, May 2016
Our Foster Youth: What School Boards Can Do, May 2016
ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS
Foster Youth Education Toolkit, December 2016
CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL
Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations
CITIES, COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS
Our Children: Emancipating Foster Youth, A Community Action Guide
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, Non-Regulatory Guidance, June 2016
WEB SITES
CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
Alliance for Children's Rights: <http://www.kids-alliance.org>
California Child Welfare Council: <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CAChildWelfareCouncil.aspx>
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: <http://www.ccspartnership.org>
Foster Ed: <http://foster-ed.org>
National Center for Youth Law: <https://youthlaw.org>
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