

Instruction

BP 6173.1 (a)

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 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. Additionally, as identified in the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP), the Superintendent or designee shall 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 the 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 as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. The Superintendent or designee 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.

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.

State

Ed. Code 49069.5: Students in foster care; grades and credits

Ed. Code 49076: Access to student records

Ed. Code 51225.1: Exemption from district graduation requirements

Ed. Code 51225.2: Course credits

Ed. Code 51225.3: High school graduation requirements

Instruction

BP 6173.1 (b)

EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Ed. Code 52060-52077: Local control and accountability plan
Ed. Code 56055: Rights of foster parents pertaining to foster youth's education
Ed. Code 56325: Unofficial transcripts for transfer students
H&S Code 120341: Foster youth; school placement and immunization records
H&S Code 1522.41: Training and certification of group home administrators
W&I Code 10553.1: Indian and tribal organizations
W&I Code 16000-16014: Foster care placement
W&I Code 300: Minors subject to jurisdiction
W&I Code 309: Investigation and release of child
W&I Code 317: Appointment of legal counsel
W&I Code 361: Limitations on parental control
W&I Code 366.27: Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements
W&I Code 602: Minors violating law; ward of court
W&I Code 726: Limitations on parental control
W&I Code 727: Order of care; ward of court

Federal

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
CSBA Publication 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
Website: CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website: Alliance for Children's Rights
Website: Foster Ed
Website: National Center for Youth Law
Website: California Department of Education, Foster Youth Services
Website: California Department of Social Services, Foster Youth Ombudsman Office
Website: California Foster Youth Education Task Force
Website: California Youth Connection
Website: Cities Counties and Schools Partnership
Website: CSBA
Website: California Child Welfare Council

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ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Orcutt, California