

**EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

Education Code 48850-48859 (the AB 490 Educational Rights and Stability Act of 2003) create additional obligations for districts regarding the education of foster youth, including the right of foster youth to continue attending their school of origin and the requirement to ensure that foster youth have access to the same academic resources, services, and extracurricular activities that are available to all students. See the accompanying administrative regulation.

While the requirements of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431-11435) may apply to foster youth in certain situations, such as when they are living in emergency or transitional shelters or when they are awaiting foster care placement (see BP/AR 6173 - Education for Homeless Children), Education Code 48850-48859 extend services to youth at any time when in foster care. The following policy may be revised to reflect district practice.

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).

*(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)*  
*(cf. 3100 - Budget)*  
*(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)*  
*(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*  
*(cf. 6011- Academic Standards)*  
*(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)*  
*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*  
*(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)*  
*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)*  
*(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)*

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.

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*

**EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH** (continued)

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.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*  
*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*  
*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*  
*(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)*  
*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*  
*(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)*  
*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*  
*(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)*  
*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*

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.

*(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*

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.

*(cf. 0500 - Accountability)*  
*(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)*  
*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*  
*(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))*  
*(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)*  
*(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*

**EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH (continued)**

*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  
60851 High school exit examination  
60851.5 Suspension of high school exit examination

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

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1415 Procedural safeguards; placement in alternative educational setting

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

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Educating Foster Youth: Best Practices and Board Considerations, Policy Brief, March 2008*

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

*Mythbusting: Breaking Down Confidentiality and Decision-Making Barriers to Meet the Education Needs of Children in Foster Care, 2005*

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

*Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations*

*Management Resources (continued on next page)*

**EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH** (continued)

CITIES, COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS

*Our Children: Emancipating Foster Youth, A Community Action Guide*

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

American Bar Association: <http://www.americanbar.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 Youth Connection: <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc>

Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership: <http://www.ccspartnership.org>

Policy  
adopted: June 7, 2005  
Revised: February 7, 2017  
GAMUT Update: December 2015

**SAUGUS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Santa Clarita, California