

EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

The Board of Education recognizes the District's obligation to ensure that foster youth have the opportunity to achieve state and District academic standards. The District shall provide such students with access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all District students.

(cf. 5131.6 – Alcohol and Other Drugs)
(cf. 5147 – Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 5149 – At-Risk Students)
(cf. 6011- Academic Standards)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
(cf. 6145.2 – Athletic Competition)
(cf. 6164.2 – Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(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 a 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 regarding the enrollment, placement, and rights of foster youth.

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

The Board desires to provide foster youth with a safe, positive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and promotes students' self-esteem and academic achievement. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to build students' feelings of connectedness with the school, including, but not limited to, strategies that promote positive discipline and conflict resolution, the development of students' 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. 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 help ensure the maximum utilization of available funds and to support the educational needs of foster youth, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local agencies including, but not limited to, the county placing agency, social services, probation officers, juvenile court officers, nonprofit organizations, and advocates. 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.

EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH (continued)

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1400 - Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32228-32228.5 Student safety and violence prevention

42920-42925 Foster children educational services

48645.1 Juvenile court schools

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

49061 Student records

49069.5 Foster care students transfer of records

49076 Access to student records

51225.3 High school graduation

56055 Rights of foster parents in special education

60851 High school exit examination

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1522.41 Training and certification of group home administrators

1529.2 Training of licensed foster parents

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 Children subject to jurisdiction

309 Investigation and release of child

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 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

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

CITIES, COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS

Our Children: Emancipating Foster Youth, A Community Action Guide

WEB SITES

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

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.cal-youthconn.org/site/cyc>

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