

**EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

The Governing Board recognizes that foster youth may be at greater risk for poor academic performance due to their family circumstances, disruption of their educational program, and emotional, social, and other health needs. The district shall provide such students with full access to the district's educational program and other support services necessary to assist them in achieving state and district academic standards.

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.

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.

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 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board on the educational outcomes of foster youth enrolled in the district including, but not limited to, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention rates by grade level, graduation rates, and suspension/expulsion rates.

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

**EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH (continued)**

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

32228-32228.5 *Student safety and violence prevention*

42920-42925 *Foster children educational services*

48645-48646 *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/lsp/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 and Schools Partnership: <http://www.ccspartnership.org>