

Policy 6173.1: Education For Foster Youth

Original Adopted Date: 2/14/2024

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 as identified in the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP). The Superintendent or designee shall also 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. To that end, 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.

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of foster youth graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from district-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 39807.5	<u>Payment of transportation costs by parents/guardians; waiver for foster youth</u>
Ed. Code 42238.01-42238.07	<u>Local control funding formula</u>
Ed. Code 42920-42926	<u>Foster children educational services</u>
Ed. Code 48645-48647	<u>Juvenile court schools</u>
Ed. Code 48850-48859	<u>Education of foster youth and homeless students</u>
Ed. Code 48915.5	<u>Recommended expulsion; foster youth with disabilities</u>
Ed. Code 48918.1	<u>Notice of recommended expulsion</u>
Ed. Code 49061	<u>Definitions; directory information</u>
Ed. Code 49069.5	<u>Students in foster care; grades and credits</u>
Ed. Code 49076	<u>Access to student records</u>
Ed. Code 51225.1	<u>Exemption from district graduation requirements</u>
Ed. Code 51225.2	<u>Course credits</u>
Ed. Code 51225.3	<u>High school graduation requirements</u>
Ed. Code 52060-52077	<u>Local control and accountability plan</u>
Ed. Code 56055	<u>Rights of foster parents pertaining to foster youth's education</u>
H&S Code 120341	<u>Foster youth; school placement and immunization records</u>
H&S Code 1522.41	<u>Training and certification of group home administrators</u>
W&I Code 16000-16014	<u>Foster care placement</u>
W&I Code 300	<u>Minors subject to jurisdiction</u>
W&I Code 309	<u>Investigation and release of child</u>
W&I Code 317	<u>Appointment of legal counsel</u>
W&I Code 361	<u>Limitations on parental control</u>
W&I Code 366.27	<u>Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements</u>
W&I Code 602	<u>Minors violating law; ward of court</u>
W&I Code 726	<u>Limitations on parental control</u>
W&I Code 727	<u>Order of care; ward of court</u>
Federal	Description
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	Description
Alliance for Children's Rights Publication	Foster Youth Education Toolkit, December 2016
California Child Welfare Council Publication	Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations, September 2013
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

Cross References

Code	Description
0200	Goals For The School District
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0415	Equity
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan

0460	<u>Local Control And Accountability Plan</u>
0460	<u>Local Control And Accountability Plan</u>
0470	<u>COVID-19 Mitigation Plan</u>
0500	<u>Accountability</u>
1312.3	<u>Uniform Complaint Procedures</u>
1312.3	<u>Uniform Complaint Procedures</u>
1312.3-E(1)	<u>Uniform Complaint Procedures</u>
1312.3-E(2)	<u>Uniform Complaint Procedures</u>
1400	<u>Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools</u>
3100	<u>Budget</u>
3100	<u>Budget</u>
3250	<u>Transportation Fees</u>
3250	<u>Transportation Fees</u>
3260	<u>Fees And Charges</u>
3260	<u>Fees And Charges</u>
3515.4	<u>Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage</u>
3515.4	<u>Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage</u>
3540	<u>Transportation</u>
3541	<u>Transportation Routes And Services</u>
3553	<u>Free And Reduced Price Meals</u>
3553	<u>Free And Reduced Price Meals</u>
4131	<u>Staff Development</u>
4231	<u>Staff Development</u>
4331	<u>Staff Development</u>
5111	<u>Admission</u>
5111	<u>Admission</u>
5111.1	<u>District Residency</u>
5111.1	<u>District Residency</u>
5113.1	<u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u>
5113.1	<u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u>
5113.11	<u>Attendance Supervision</u>
5116.1	<u>Intradistrict Open Enrollment</u>

5116.1	<u>Intradistrict Open Enrollment</u>
5116.2	<u>Involuntary Student Transfers</u>
5117	<u>Interdistrict Attendance</u>
5117	<u>Interdistrict Attendance</u>
5121	<u>Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u>
5121	<u>Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u>
5123	<u>Promotion/Acceleration/Retention</u>
5123	<u>Promotion/Acceleration/Retention</u>
5125	<u>Student Records</u>
5125	<u>Student Records</u>
5125.2	<u>Withholding Grades, Diploma Or Transcripts</u>
5131	<u>Conduct</u>
5131.2	<u>Bullying</u>
5131.2	<u>Bullying</u>
5131.6	<u>Alcohol And Other Drugs</u>
5131.6	<u>Alcohol And Other Drugs</u>
5132	<u>Dress And Grooming</u>
5132	<u>Dress And Grooming</u>
5137	<u>Positive School Climate</u>
5138	<u>Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation</u>
5141.22	<u>Infectious Diseases</u>
5141.22	<u>Infectious Diseases</u>
5141.26	<u>Tuberculosis Testing</u>
5141.31	<u>Immunizations</u>
5141.31	<u>Immunizations</u>
5141.32	<u>Health Screening For School Entry</u>
5141.6	<u>School Health Services</u>
5141.6	<u>School Health Services</u>
5144.1	<u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u>
5144.1	<u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u>
5144.2	<u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities)</u>
5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>

5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>
5145.6	<u>Parent/Guardian Notifications</u>
5145.6-E(1)	<u>Parent/Guardian Notifications</u>
5145.9	<u>Hate-Motivated Behavior</u>
5147	<u>Dropout Prevention</u>
5148.2	<u>Before/After School Programs</u>
5148.2	<u>Before/After School Programs</u>
5148.3	<u>Preschool/Early Childhood Education</u>
5148.3	<u>Preschool/Early Childhood Education</u>
6000	<u>Concepts And Roles</u>
6011	<u>Academic Standards</u>
6020	<u>Parent Involvement</u>
6020	<u>Parent Involvement</u>
6145	<u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u>
6145	<u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u>
6145.2	<u>Athletic Competition</u>
6145.2	<u>Athletic Competition</u>
6146.1	<u>High School Graduation Requirements</u>
6146.3	<u>Reciprocity Of Academic Credit</u>
6146.3	<u>Reciprocity Of Academic Credit</u>
6159	<u>Individualized Education Program</u>
6159	<u>Individualized Education Program</u>
6159.2	<u>Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education</u>
6159.2	<u>Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education</u>
6159.3	<u>Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students</u>
6159.3	<u>Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students</u>
6159.4	<u>Behavioral Interventions For Special Education Students</u>
6162.51	<u>State Academic Achievement Tests</u>
6162.51	<u>State Academic Achievement Tests</u>
6164.2	<u>Guidance/Counseling Services</u>

6164.4	<u>Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education</u>
6164.4	<u>Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education</u>
6164.6	<u>Identification And Education Under Section 504</u>
6164.6	<u>Identification And Education Under Section 504</u>
6172	<u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u>
6172	<u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u>
6173	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173-E(1)	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173-E(2)	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6174	<u>Education For English Learners</u>
6174	<u>Education For English Learners</u>
6177	<u>Summer Learning Programs</u>
6179	<u>Supplemental Instruction</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
6190	<u>Evaluation Of The Instructional Program</u>
9320	<u>Meetings And Notices</u>