

BP/SP6173.1 Education For Foster Youth
Instruction

Status: ADOPTED
February 2014

The County Superintendent of Schools and County Board recognize that foster youth may face significant barriers to achieving academic success due to family circumstances, disruption of their educational program, and emotional, social, and other health needs. To enable such students to achieve state and County Office academic standards, the County Superintendent or designee shall provide them with full access to the County Office's educational program and implement strategies identified as necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth in the County Office's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

The County 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 County Office liaison for foster youth to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.

The County Superintendent or designee and County Office liaison shall ensure that all appropriate staff, including, but not limited to, each Site Administrator / Program Director, school registrar, and attendance clerk, receive training regarding the enrollment, placement, and other related rights of foster youth.

The County Superintendent and County Board of Education desire 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 County 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 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 County Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local agencies including, but not limited to, the county placing agency, social services, probation officers, and juvenile court officers. The County 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 County 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.

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
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
11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act