

Definitions

Foster youth, foster child, or student in foster care means any of the following: (Education Code 42238.01, 48853.5)

1. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 300, whether or not the child has been removed from the child's home by the juvenile court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 319 or 361.
2. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 602, has been removed from the child's home by the juvenile court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 727, and is in foster care as defined by Welfare and Institutions Code 727.4(d).
3. A nonminor who is under the transition jurisdiction of a juvenile court, as described in Welfare and Institutions Code 450, and satisfies the criteria specified in Education Code 42238.01.
4. A dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization who is the subject of a petition filed in the tribal court pursuant to the court's jurisdiction in accordance with the tribe's law
5. A child who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement, as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code 11400

Person holding the right to make educational decisions means a responsible adult appointed by a court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 361 or 726.

School of origin means the school that the foster youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the foster youth was last enrolled. If the school the foster youth attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which the foster youth was last enrolled, or if there is another school that the foster youth attended within the preceding 15 months and with which the foster youth is connected, the district liaison for foster youth shall determine, in the best interests of the foster youth, which school shall be deemed the school of origin. This determination shall be made in consultation with and with the agreement of the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth. (Education Code 48853.5)

Best interests of a foster youth means that, in making educational and school placement decisions for a foster youth, consideration is given to, among other factors, the proximity to the school at the time of placement, appropriateness of the educational setting, educational stability, the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress, and the foster youth's access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all district students. (Education Code 48850, 48853; 20 USC 6311)

District Liaison

The Superintendent designates the following position as the district's liaison for foster youth: (Education Code 48853.5)
Principal of Alternative Education
890 Main Street
Newman, Ca 95360
(209) 862-2309

The liaison for foster youth shall:

Ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of students in foster care (Education Code 48853.5)

1. Ensure proper transfer of credits, records, and grades when students in foster care transfer from one school to another or from one district to another (Education Code 48645.5, 48853.5)

When a student in foster care is enrolling in a district school, the liaison shall contact the school last attended by the student to obtain, within two business days, all academic and other records. When a foster youth is transferring to a new school, the liaison shall provide the student's records to the new school within two business days of receiving the new school's request. (Education Code 48853.5)

2. Notify a foster youth's attorney and the representative of the appropriate county child welfare agency, when required by law for a foster youth who is undergoing any expulsion or other disciplinary proceeding including a manifestation determination for a foster youth who is a student with a disability, prior to a change in the foster youth's placement. (Education Code 48853.5, 48911, 48915.5, 48918.1)
3. As needed, make appropriate referrals to ensure that students in foster care receive necessary special education services and services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973
4. As needed, ensure that students in foster care receive appropriate school-based services, such as counseling and health services, supplemental instruction, and after-school services
5. Develop protocols and procedures for creating awareness for district staff, including principals, school registrars, and attendance clerks, of the requirements for the proper enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth
6. Collaborate with the county office of education, county placing agency, county child welfare agency, county probation department, juvenile court, and other appropriate agencies to help coordinate instruction, counseling, tutoring, mentoring vocational training, and other related services for the district's foster youth
7. Monitor the educational progress of foster youth and provide reports to the Superintendent or designee and the Governing Board based on indicators identified in the district's local control and accountability plan

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly monitor the liaison's caseload, as well as additional duties outside of the foster youth program, to ensure that adequate time and resources are provided to meet the needs of foster youth in the district.

Enrollment

A student placed in a licensed children's institution or foster family home within the district shall attend programs operated by the district unless one of the following circumstances applies: (Education Code 48853, 48853.5)

1. The student has an individualized education program requiring placement in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency or in another local educational agency.
2. The parent/guardian or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student determines that it is in the best interests of the student to be placed in another education program and submits a written statement to the district indicating that determination and an awareness of the following:
 - a. The student has a right to attend a regular public school in the least restrictive environment.
 - b. The alternate education program is a special education program, if applicable.

- c. The decision to unilaterally remove the student from the district school and to place the student in an alternate education program may not be financed by the district.
 - d. Any attempt to seek reimbursement for the alternate education program may be at the expense of the parent/guardian or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student.
3. At the initial placement or any subsequent change in placement, the student exercises the right to continue in the school of origin, as defined above. In any such circumstance, the following shall apply:
 - a. The student may continue in the school of origin for the duration of the court's jurisdiction.
 - b. If the court's jurisdiction over a grade K-8 student is terminated prior to the end of a school year, the student may continue in the school of origin for the remainder of the school year.
 - c. If the court's jurisdiction is terminated while the student is in high school, the student may continue in the school of origin through graduation.
 - d. If the student is transitioning between school grade levels, the student shall be allowed to continue in the district in the same attendance area to provide the student the benefit of matriculating with the student's peers in accordance with the established feeder patterns of school in the district. A student who is transitioning to a middle school or high school shall be allowed to enroll in the school designated for matriculation in another school district.

The role of the liaison shall be advisory with respect to placement decisions and determination of the school of origin. (Education Code 48853.5)

The district liaison may, in consultation with and with the agreement of the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, recommend that the foster youth's right to attend the school of origin be waived and the foster youth be enrolled in any school that students living in the attendance area in which the foster youth resides are eligible to attend. All decisions shall be made in accordance with the foster youth's best interests. (Education Code 48853.5)

Prior to making any recommendation to move a foster youth from the school of origin, the liaison shall provide the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the youth with a written explanation of the basis for the recommendation and how the recommendation serves the youth's best interests. (Education Code 48853.5)

If the liaison, in consultation with the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, agrees that the best interests of the foster youth would be served by a transfer to a school other than the school of origin, the principal or designee of the new school shall immediately enroll the foster youth, regardless of whether the foster youth: (Education Code 48853.5)

1. Has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or monies due to the school last attended
2. Does not have clothing normally required by the school, such as school uniforms
3. Is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, proof of residency, and medical records, including, but not limited to, immunization records or other documentation

If the foster youth or a person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth disagrees with the liaison's enrollment recommendation, an appeal may be filed with the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall make a determination within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. Within 30 calendar days of receipt of the Superintendent's decision, the foster youth or the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth may appeal that decision to the Board. The Board shall consider the issue at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Board's decision shall be final.

If any dispute arises regarding the request of a foster youth to remain in the school of origin, the foster youth has the right to remain in the school of origin pending resolution of the dispute. (Education Code 48853.5)

Transportation

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the local child welfare agency to determine how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded in a cost-effective manner to enable a foster youth to remain in the school of origin, for the duration of the time spent in foster care, when it is in the foster youth's best interest to do so. Such transportation costs may be paid by either the child welfare agency or the district, or shared by both. (20 USC 6312)

Effect of Absences on Grades

The grades of a student in foster care shall not be lowered for any absence from school that is due to either of the following circumstances: (Education Code 49069.5)

1. A decision by a court or placement agency to change the student's placement, in which case the grades shall be calculated as of the date the student left school
2. A verified court appearance or related court-ordered activity

Transfer of Coursework and Credits

When a foster youth transfers into a district school, the district shall accept and issue full credit for any coursework that the foster youth has satisfactorily completed while attending another public school, a juvenile court school, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency and shall not require the foster youth to retake the course. (Education Code 51225.2)

If the entire course was not completed at the previous school, the foster youth shall be issued partial credit for the coursework completed and shall be required to take the uncompleted portion of the course. However, the district may require the foster youth to retake the portion of the course completed if, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the foster youth, the district finds that the foster youth is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. Whenever partial credit is issued to a foster youth in any particular course, the foster youth shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, to enable the completion of the entire course. (Education Code 51225.2)

Partial credits shall be awarded on the basis of 0.5 credits for every seven class periods attended per subject. If the school is on a block schedule, each block schedule class period attended shall be equal to two regular class periods per subject. Partial credits and grades earned by a student shall be included on the student's official transcript within two business days of the district's notification of the student's transfer, as required under Education Code 49069.5.

In no event shall the district prevent a foster youth from taking or retaking a course to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University or the University of California. (Education Code 51225.2)

Applicability of Graduation Requirements

To obtain a high school diploma, a foster youth shall complete all courses required by Education Code 51225.3 and fulfill any additional graduation requirements prescribed by the Board.

However, when a foster youth who has completed the second year of high school transfers into the district from another school district or transfers between high schools within the district, the foster youth shall be exempted from all district-

adopted coursework and other district-established graduation requirements, unless the district makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the fourth year of high school. Within 30 calendar days of the foster youth's transfer, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the foster youth, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, and the foster youth's social worker of the availability of the exemption and whether the foster youth qualifies for it. If the Superintendent or designee fails to provide this notification, the student shall be eligible for the exemption once notified, even if the notification occurs after the student is no longer a foster youth. (Education Code 51225.1)

To determine whether a foster youth is in the third or fourth year of high school, the district shall use either the number of credits the foster youth has earned as of the date of the transfer or the length of school enrollment, whichever qualifies the foster youth for the exemption. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify any foster youth who is granted an exemption and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth how any requirements that are waived will affect the foster youth's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges. (Education Code 51225.1)

The district shall not require or request a foster youth to transfer schools in order to qualify for an exemption and shall not grant any request made by a foster youth or any person acting on behalf of a foster youth for a transfer solely to qualify the foster youth for an exemption. (Education Code 51225.1)

If a foster youth is exempted from local graduation requirements, the exemption shall continue to apply after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student while still enrolled in school or if the foster youth transfers to another school or school district. (Education Code 51225.1)

Upon making a finding that a foster youth is reasonably able to complete district graduation requirements within the fifth year of high school, the Superintendent or designee shall: (Education Code 51225.1)

1. Inform the foster youth and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth of the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the district's graduation requirements and how that will affect the foster youth's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution
2. Provide information to the foster youth about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
3. Upon agreement with the foster youth or, if under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the foster youth, permit the foster youth to stay in school for a fifth year to complete the district's graduation requirements

Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities

A foster youth whose residence changes pursuant to a court order or decision of a child welfare worker shall be immediately deemed to meet all residency requirements for participation in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular activities. (Education Code 48850)

Notification and Complaints

Information regarding the educational rights of foster youth shall be included in the annual uniform complaint procedures notification distributed to students, parents/guardians, employees, and other interested parties pursuant to 5 CCR 4622. (Education Code 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2)

Any complaint alleging that the district has not complied with requirements regarding the education of foster youth may be filed in accordance with the district's procedures in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. If the district finds

merit in a complaint, the district shall provide a remedy to the affected student. A complainant not satisfied with the district's decision may appeal the decision to the California Department of Education (CDE) and shall receive a written decision regarding the appeal within 60 days of CDE's receipt of the appeal. If CDE finds merit in an appeal, the district shall provide a remedy to the affected student. (Education Code 48853, 48853.5, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2)

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

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

5 CCR 4600-4670
Ed. Code 32228-32228.5
Ed. Code 42238.01-42238.07
Ed. Code 42920-42925
Ed. Code 48645-48646
Ed. Code 48850-48859
Ed. Code 48915.5
Ed. Code 48918.1
Ed. Code 49061
Ed. Code 49069.5
Ed. Code 49076
Ed. Code 51225.1
Ed. Code 51225.2
Ed. Code 51225.3
Ed. Code 52060-52077
Ed. Code 56055
H&S Code 120341
H&S Code 1522.41
H&S Code 1529.2
W&I Code 16000-16014
W&I Code 300
W&I Code 309
W&I Code 317
W&I Code 361
W&I Code 366.27
W&I Code 602
W&I Code 726
W&I Code 727

Federal

20 USC 1415
20 USC 6311
29 USC 794
42 USC 11431-11435
42 USC 670-679b

Management Resources

Alliance for Children's Rights Publication
California Child Welfare Council Publication
Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership Pub.
CSBA Publication
CSBA Publication
U.S. Department of Education Publication

Website
Website
Website
Website
Website
Website
Website
Website
Website
Website
Website

Description

Uniform complaint procedures
Student safety and violence prevention
Local control funding formula
Foster children educational services
Juvenile court schools
Education of foster youth and homeless students
Recommended expulsion; homeless student with disabilities
Notice of recommended expulsion
Definitions, directory information
Students in foster care; grades and credits
Access to student records
Exemption from district graduation requirements
Course credits
High school graduation requirements
Local control and accountability plan
Rights of foster parents pertaining to foster child's education
Foster youth; school placement and immunization records
Training and certification of group home administrators
Training of licensed foster parents
Foster care placement
Minors subject to jurisdiction
Investigation and release of child
Appointment of legal counsel
Limitations on parental control
Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements
Minors violating law; ward of court
Limitations on parental control
Order of care; ward of court

Description

Procedural safeguards
State plan
Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Section 504
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Federal assistance for foster care programs

Description

Foster Youth Education Toolkit, December 2016
Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations
Our Children: Emancipating Foster Youth, A Community Action Guide
Our Foster Youth: What School Boards Can Do, May 2016
Foster Youth: Supports for Success, Governance Brief, May 2016
Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, Non-Regulatory Guidance, June 2016

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

[Alliance for Children's Rights](#)

[Foster Ed](#)

[National Center for Youth Law](#)

[California Department of Education, Foster Youth Services](#)

[California Department of Social Services, Foster Youth Ombudsman Office](#)

[California Foster Youth Education Task Force](#)

[California Youth Connection](#)

[Cities Counties and Schools Partnership](#)

[CSBA](#)

[California Child Welfare Council](#)

Cross References

Code

0200

Description

[Goals For The School District](#)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 0410 | Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities |
| 0415 | Equity |
| 0450 | Comprehensive Safety Plan |
| 0450 | Comprehensive Safety Plan |
| 0460 | Local Control And Accountability Plan |
| 0460 | Local Control And Accountability Plan |
| 0470 | COVID-19 Mitigation Plan |
| 0500 | Accountability |
| 1312.3 | Uniform Complaint Procedures |
| 1312.3 | Uniform Complaint Procedures |
| 1312.3-E(1) | Uniform Complaint Procedures |
| 1312.3-E(2) | Uniform Complaint Procedures |
| 1400 | Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools |
| 3100 | Budget |
| 3100 | Budget |
| 3260 | Fees And Charges |
| 3260 | Fees And Charges |
| 3515.4 | Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage |
| 3515.4 | Recovery For Property Loss Or Damage |
| 3540 | Transportation |
| 3541 | Transportation Routes And Services |
| 3553 | Free And Reduced Price Meals |
| 3553 | Free And Reduced Price Meals |
| 4131 | Staff Development |
| 4231 | Staff Development |
| 4331 | Staff Development |
| 5111 | Admission |
| 5111 | Admission |
| 5111.1 | District Residency |
| 5111.1 | District Residency |
| 5113.1 | Chronic Absence And Truancy |
| 5113.1 | Chronic Absence And Truancy |
| 5113.11 | Attendance Supervision |
| 5116.1 | Intradistrict Open Enrollment |
| 5116.1 | Intradistrict Open Enrollment |
| 5117 | Interdistrict Attendance |
| 5117 | Interdistrict Attendance |
| 5121 | Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement |
| 5121 | Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement |
| 5123 | Promotion/Acceleration/Retention |
| 5123 | Promotion/Acceleration/Retention |
| 5125 | Student Records |
| 5125 | Student Records |
| 5125.2 | Withholding Grades, Diploma Or Transcripts |
| 5131 | Conduct |
| 5131.2 | Bullying |
| 5131.2 | Bullying |
| 5131.6 | Alcohol And Other Drugs |
| 5131.6 | Alcohol And Other Drugs |
| 5132 | Dress And Grooming |
| 5132 | Dress And Grooming |
| 5137 | Positive School Climate |
| 5138 | Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation |
| 5141.22 | Infectious Diseases |
| 5141.22 | Infectious Diseases |
| 5141.26 | Tuberculosis Testing |
| 5141.31 | Immunizations |
| 5141.31 | Immunizations |
| 5141.32 | Health Screening For School Entry |
| 5141.6 | School Health Services |
| 5141.6 | School Health Services |
| 5144.1 | Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process |
| 5144.1 | Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process |
| 5144.2 | Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process (Students With Disabilities) |
| 5145.3 | Nondiscrimination/Harassment |
| 5145.3 | Nondiscrimination/Harassment |
| 5145.6 | Parent/Guardian Notifications |
| 5145.6-E(1) | Parent/Guardian Notifications |
| 5145.9 | Hate-Motivated Behavior |
| 5147 | Dropout Prevention |
| 5148.2 | Before/After School Programs |

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| 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> |
| 6190 | <u>Evaluation Of The Instructional Program</u> |
| 9320 | <u>Meetings And Notices</u> |

Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District
Policy Adopted: 12/12/22