

## Enrolling Foster Youth

### Foster youth have the right to:

- Immediate enrollment in their local comprehensive public school if their ERH decides it is in their best interest, even if they do not have any of the required documents (e.g., transcripts, immunization records, proof of residence). Immediate enrollment rights also apply to charter schools.

**Foster youth have a right to enroll in school, even without proof of Tdap immunization. School nurses should work with the youth's prior school and/or their social worker/probation officer to gain access to records demonstrating the youth has already been immunized.**

- Enrollment in the same or equivalent classes as those they took at their old school, even if they are transferring mid-semester. Youth cannot be enrolled in all or a majority of elective classes. Youth cannot be forced to re-take a class they have already passed unless their education rights holder agrees, in writing, that it is in their best interest.
- Equal participation in extra-curricular activities regardless of try-outs or sign-up deadlines (e.g., sports, tutoring).

- Not be forced to attend a continuation school, adult school, or independent study program, even if they are not on track for high school graduation, have failing grades, or have behavior problems.

Limited Exceptions: If they have an Individualized Education Program ("IEP") requiring a different placement or have been expelled or transferred to an alternative school after a formal hearing and school board decision.

**Foster youth can only be placed in emergency shelter schools for short periods of time for either: (1) health and safety emergencies; OR (2) when awaiting an ERH decision regarding whether or not to utilize school of origin ("SOO") if: (a) a SOO decision cannot be made quickly; AND (b) it is not practical to transport the youth to the SOO in the meantime; AND (c) the youth would otherwise not receive educational services; AND (d) temporary, special, and supplementary services are available to meet the youth's unique needs.**