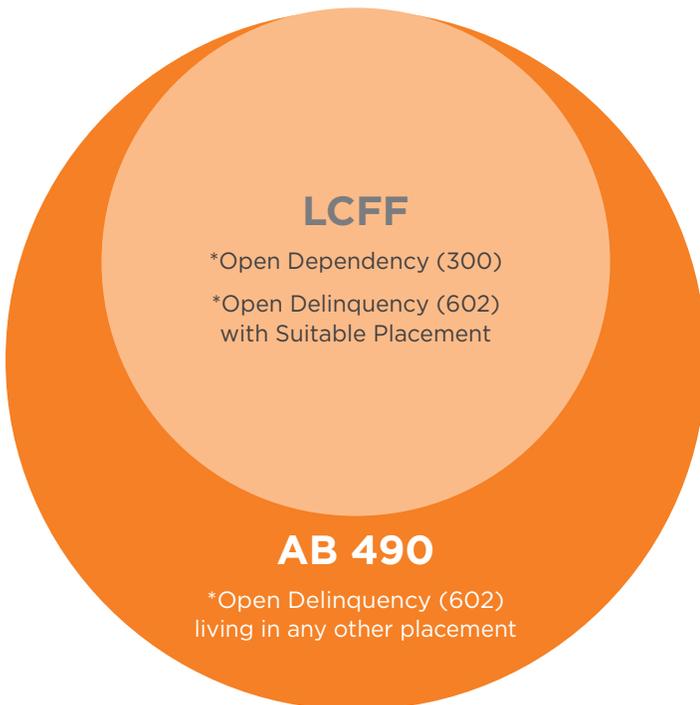


Who is a Foster Youth?

Schools should be aware of two important definitions of “foster youth.” The LCFF definition identifies which youth will be counted for purposes of LCFF funding and LCAP goal tracking. The broader definition under Assembly Bill (“AB”) 490 and related laws identifies youth who are entitled to all the foster youth education rights described in this toolkit including immediate enrollment, school of origin, partial credits, etc.

Under LCFF, the term foster youth includes:	Under AB 490 and related laws, foster youth includes:
Any child who is the subject of a juvenile dependency court petition (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 300), whether or not the child has been removed from his or her home.	Any child who is the subject of a juvenile dependency court petition (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 300), whether or not the child has been removed from his or her home.
Any child who is the subject of a juvenile delinquency court petition (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 602) and who has been removed from his or her home by the court and placed into foster care under a “suitable placement” order. This includes youth who have been placed in a foster home, relative home, or group home. It does not include youth who have been placed in a juvenile detention facility, such as a juvenile hall or camp.	Any child who is the subject of a juvenile delinquency court petition (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 602), regardless of where the youth lives.
Any youth age 18 to 21 who is under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court (i.e., is in extended foster care). See SB 859 (2014), Cal. Educ. Code § 42238.01.	Any youth age 18 to 21 who is under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court (i.e., is in extended foster care). See SB 859 (2014), Cal. Educ. Code § 42238.01.



Key Points:

- Any youth who falls within the narrower LCFF definition also falls within the broader definition entitling them to the protections described in this toolkit.
- The difference between the two definitions is that the LCFF definition excludes some probation youth who are protected under AB 490 and related rights.
- Any youth who falls within the broad definition under AB 490 and related laws should be served by a district’s foster youth programs, regardless of whether they “count” for LCFF.

This toolkit uses the term “foster youth” to apply to foster and probation youth of any age and the term “foster child” to apply to children ages 0 to 5. For purposes of this toolkit, “foster youth” also includes homeless youth for purposes of immediate enrollment, school of origin, partial credits, and AB 167/216 graduation, although homeless youth have different transportation rights than foster and probation youth.