

## **EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

### **Definitions**

Foster youth means a child who has been removed from his/her home pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 309, is the subject of a petition filed under Welfare and Institutions Code 300 or 602, or has been removed from his/her home and is the subject of a petition filed under Welfare and Institutions Code 300 or 602 or is a non-minor 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. (Education Code 42238.01, 48853.5)

Person holding the right to make educational decisions means a responsible adult appointed by a court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code [361](#) or [727](#).

School of origin means the school that the foster youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled. If the school the foster youth attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which he/she was last enrolled, or if there is some other school that the foster youth attended within the preceding 15 months and with which the youth is connected, the District liaison for foster youth shall determine which school is 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 youth, determine, in the best interest of the foster youth. (Education Code [48853.5](#))

Best interests 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 or designee designates the following position as the District liaison for foster youth: (Education Code [48853.5](#))

Director of Special Education  
431 West Alisal Street  
831-796-7000

(cf. [6173](#) - Education for Homeless Children)

## EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

The District's liaison for foster youth shall: (Education Code [48853.5](#))

1. Ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of students in foster care
2. 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 [48853.5](#), [48645.5](#))

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, within two business days of receiving the request. 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)

(cf. [6146.3](#) - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

(cf. [5125](#) - Student Records)

3. When required by law, notify the foster youth's attorney and the representative of the appropriate county child welfare agency when the foster youth is undergoing any expulsion or other disciplinary proceeding, including a manifestation determination prior to a change in the foster youth's placement, when he/she is a student with a disability. (Education Code 48853.5, 48911, 48915.5, 48918.1)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

(cf. 6159.4 - Behavioral Interventions for Special Education Students)

4. 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

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

5. As needed, ensure that students in foster care receive appropriate school-based services, such as supplemental instruction, counseling, or after-school programs

(cf. 5141.6 - Student Health and Social Services)

(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

## EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

(cf. 6177- Summer School)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

6. Develop protocols and procedures for creating awareness for District staff, including principals, school registrars, and attendance clerks, are aware of the requirements for the proper enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

7. Collaborate with the county office of education, county placing agency, social services, probation officers, juvenile court officers, nonprofit organizations, and advocates to help coordinate services for the District's foster youth

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

8. Monitor the educational progress of foster youth and provide reports to the Superintendent or designee and the Board of Trustees based on indicators identified in District's Local Control and Accountability Plan

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly monitor the caseload of the District liaison, as well as his/her additional duties outside of the foster youth program, to determine whether adequate time and resources are available to meet the needs of foster youth in the District.

(cf. [4115](#) - Evaluation/Supervision)

(cf. [4315](#) - Evaluation/Supervision)

### Enrollment

A foster youth 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](#))

1. The student has an individualized education program requiring placement in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency or in another local educational agency.

(cf. [6159](#) - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. [6159.2](#) - Nonpublic Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education)

## EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

2. The parent/guardian or other person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student determines that it is in the best interest of the student to be placed in another educational program and submits a written statement to the District indicating that determination and that he/she is aware of the following:

- a. The student has a right to attend a regular public school in the least restrictive environment.
- b. The alternate educational program is a special education program, if applicable.
- c. The decision to unilaterally remove the student from the District school and to place him/her 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.

(cf. 5116.1 — Intra-District Open Enrollment)

(cf. 5117 — Inter-District Attendance)

(cf. 6159.3 - Appointment of Surrogate Parent for Special Education Students)

3. At the initial placement or any subsequent change in placement, the student exercises his/her right to continue in his/her school of origin, as defined above

- 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 his/her 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 his/her school of origin until he/she graduates.
- d. If the student is transitioning between school grade levels, he/she shall be allowed to continue in the District of origin in the same attendance area to provide him/her the benefit of matriculating with his/her peers in accordance with the established feeder patterns of school Districts. 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 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 youth, recommend that the youth's right to attend the school of origin be waived and he/she 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 interest. (Education Code [48853.5](#))

## EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Prior to making any recommendation to move a foster youth from his/her school of origin, the liaison shall provide the 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 this recommendation serves the youth's best interests. (Education Code [48853.5](#))

The role of the liaison shall be advisory with respect to placement decisions and determination of the school of origin. (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, agree that the best interests of the youth would be served by his/her transfer to a school other than the school of origin, the principal or designee of the new school shall immediately enroll the foster youth. The youth shall be immediately enrolled even if he/she: (Education Code [48853.5](#))

1. Has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or monies due to the school last attended

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

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

(cf. 5111.1 - District Residency)

(cf. 5141.26 - Tuberculosis Testing)

(cf. 5141.31 - Immunizations)

(cf. 5141.32 - Health Screening for School Entry)

(cf. [5125.2](#) - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

(cf. [5132](#) - Dress and Grooming)

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

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

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

## **EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

(cf. [1312.3](#) - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

### **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 foster youth to remain in their school of origin, for the duration of their time in foster care, when it is in their 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)

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

(cf. 3541 - Transportation Routes and Services)

### **Transfer of Coursework Applicability of Graduation Requirements**

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 foster youth did not complete the entire course, he/she shall be issued partial credit for the coursework completed and shall be required to take the portion of the course that he/she did not complete at his/her previous school. 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, he/she shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that he/she may continue and complete 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)

## **EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

### **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 requirement prescribed by the Board.

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

However, when a foster youth who has completed his/her second year of high school transfers into the District from another school District or transfers between high schools within the District, he/she 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 his/her 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 him/her, 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 his/her 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 his/her school enrollment, whichever qualifies him/her for the exemption. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify any foster youth who is granted an exemption and, as appropriate, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student if any of the requirements that are waived will affect the student'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 [51225.3](#))

The District shall not require or request a foster youth to transfer schools in order to qualify for an exemption and no request for a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption shall be made by a foster youth or any person acting on behalf of a foster youth. (Education Code 51225.1)

## **EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

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 he/she is still enrolled in school or if he/she 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 his/her 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 him/her of the foster youth's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the District's graduation requirements and how that will affect his/her 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 he/she is under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for him/her, 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 who changes residences 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](#))

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

### **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)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

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

# Salinas Union High School District

Instruction

Regulation #6173.1

---

## **EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

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 the 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)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Issued: March 10, 2009

Issued: December 13, 2011

Issued: April 8, 2014