

Policy 6173.1: Education For Foster Youth

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 06/14/2017 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 04/23/2026

The Governing Board recognizes that foster youth may face significant barriers to achieving academic success due to their family circumstances, disruption to their educational program, and their emotional, social, and other health needs that may be addressed with the provision of a safe, positive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and that promotes students' self-esteem and academic achievement.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide foster youth with full access to the district's educational program and implement strategies necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth. Additionally, as identified in the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP), the Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to build a foster youth's feeling of connectedness with school, including, but not limited to, strategies that promote positive discipline and conflict resolution, the development of resiliency and interpersonal skills, and the involvement of foster parents, group home administrators, and/or other caretakers in school programs and activities.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on the students' best interests as defined in law and as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. The Superintendent or designee shall designate a staff person as the district liaison for foster youth to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.

The Superintendent or designee and district liaison shall ensure that all appropriate staff, including, but not limited to, each principal, school registrar, and attendance clerk, receive training on the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth and other related rights.

To address the needs of foster youth and help ensure the maximum utilization of available funds, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local agencies and officials including, but not limited to, the county placing agency, social services, probation officers, and juvenile court officers. The 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 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.

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 Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 39807.5	Payment of transportation costs by parents/guardians; waiver for foster youth
Ed. Code 42238.01-42238.07	Local control funding formula
Ed. Code 42920-42926	Foster children educational services
Ed. Code 48645-48647	Juvenile court schools
Ed. Code 48850-48859	Education of foster youth and homeless students
Ed. Code 48915.5	Recommended expulsion; foster youth with disabilities
Ed. Code 48918.1	Notice of recommended expulsion
Ed. Code 49061	Definitions; directory information

State

Ed. Code 49069.5	Students in foster care; grades and credits
Ed. Code 49076	Access to student records
Ed. Code 51225.1	Exemption from district graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.2	Course credits
Ed. Code 51225.3	High school graduation requirements
Ed. Code 52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan
Ed. Code 56055	Rights of foster parents pertaining to foster youth's education
Ed. Code 56325	Unofficial transcripts for transfer students
H&S Code 120341	Foster youth; school placement and immunization records
H&S Code 1522.41	Training and certification of group home administrators
W&I Code 10553.1	Indian and tribal organizations
W&I Code 16000-16014	Foster care placement
W&I Code 300	Minors subject to jurisdiction
W&I Code 309	Investigation and release of child
W&I Code 317	Appointment of legal counsel
W&I Code 361	Limitations on parental control
W&I Code 366.27	Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements
W&I Code 602	Minors violating law; ward of court
W&I Code 726	Limitations on parental control
W&I Code 727	Order of care; ward of court

Federal

20 USC 1415	Procedural safeguards
20 USC 6311	State plan
29 USC 794	Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Section 504
42 USC 11431-11435	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
42 USC 670-679b	Federal assistance for foster care programs

Management Resources

Alliance for Children's Rights Publication	Foster Youth Education Toolkit, December 2016
California Child Welfare Council Publication	Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations
California Foster Youth Education Task Force Pub	California Foster Youth Education Law Fact Sheets, January 2021
Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership Pub.	Our Children: Emancipating Foster Youth. A Community Action Guide
CSBA Publication	Our Foster Youth: What School Boards Can Do, May 2016
CSBA Publication	Foster Youth: Supports for Success, Governance Brief, May 2016
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, Non-Regulatory Guidance, June 2016
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	Alliance for Children's Rights
Website	Foster Ed
Website	National Center for Youth Law

Management Resources

Website	California Department of Education, Foster Youth Services
Website	California Department of Social Services, Foster Youth Ombudsman Office
Website	California Foster Youth Education Task Force
Website	California Youth Connection
Website	Cities Counties and Schools Partnership
Website	CSBA
Website	California Child Welfare Council

Cross References

	Description
0200	Goals For The School District
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0415	Equity
0415	Equity
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0500	Accountability
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E PDF(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
3100	Budget
3100	Budget
3250	Transportation Fees
3250	Transportation Fees
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
3540	Transportation
3553	Free And Reduced Price Meals
3553	Free And Reduced Price Meals
4131	Staff Development
4131	Staff Development
4231	Staff Development
4331	Staff Development
5111	Admission
5111	Admission

Cross References**Description**

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
5116.2	Involuntary Student Transfers
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-E PDF(1)	Conduct - Elementary Plan
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
5141.26	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

Cross References

5145.6
5145.6-E PDF(1)
5145.6-E PDF(2)
5145.9
5147
5148.2
5148.2
5148.3
5148.3
6000
6011
6020
6020
6020-E PDF(1)
6145
6145
6145.2
6145.2
6146.1
6146.1
6146.1-E PDF(1)
6146.3
6146.3
6159
6159
6159.2
6159.2
6159.3
6159.3
6159.4
6162.51
6162.51
6164.2
6164.4
6164.4
6164.6
6164.6
6172
6172
6173

Description

[Parent/Guardian Notifications](#)
[Parent/Guardian Notifications](#)
[Parent/Guardian Notifications](#)
[Hate-Motivated Behavior](#)
[Dropout Prevention](#)
[Before/After School Programs](#)
[Before/After School Programs](#)
[Preschool/Early Childhood Education](#)
[Preschool/Early Childhood Education](#)
[Concepts And Roles](#)
[Academic Standards](#)
[Parent Involvement](#)
[Parent Involvement](#)
[Parent Involvement](#)
[Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities](#)
[Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities](#)
[Athletic Competition](#)
[Athletic Competition](#)
[High School Graduation Requirements](#)
[High School Graduation Requirements](#)
[High School Graduation Requirements](#)
[Reciprocity Of Academic Credit](#)
[Reciprocity Of Academic Credit](#)
[Individualized Education Program](#)
[Individualized Education Program](#)
[Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education](#)
[Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education](#)
[Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students](#)
[Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students](#)
[Behavioral Interventions For Special Education Students](#)
[State Academic Achievement Tests](#)
[State Academic Achievement Tests](#)
[Guidance/Counseling Services](#)
[Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education](#)
[Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education](#)
[Identification And Education Under Section 504](#)
[Identification And Education Under Section 504](#)
[Gifted And Talented Student Program](#)
[Gifted And Talented Student Program](#)
[Education For Homeless Children](#)

Cross References

6173

6173-E PDF(1)

6173.4

6174

6174

6177

6179

6184

6184

6190

9320

Description

[Education For Homeless Children](#)

[Education For Homeless Children](#)

[Education For American Indian Students](#)

[Education For English Learners](#)

[Education For English Learners](#)

[Summer Learning Programs](#)

[Supplemental Instruction](#)

[Continuation Education](#)

[Continuation Education](#)

[Evaluation Of The Instructional Program](#)

[Meetings And Notices](#)