

**EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

The Governing Board recognizes that foster youth may face significant barriers to achieving academic success due to their family circumstances, disruption of their educational program, and emotional, social, and other health needs. To enable such students to achieve state and district academic standards, the Superintendent or designee shall provide them with full access to the district's educational program and implement strategies identified as necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth in the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

*(cf. 0460 – Local Control and Accountability Plan)*  
*(cf. 3100 – Budget)*  
*(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)*  
*(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*  
*(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)*  
*(cf. 6011- Academic Standards)*  
*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*  
*(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)*  
*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)*  
*(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)*  
*(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)*

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on the students' best interests as defined in law and administrative regulation. To that end, he/she shall designate a staff person as a 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 regarding the enrollment, placement, and rights of foster youth.

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*  
*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*

The Board desires to provide foster youth with a safe, positive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and promotes students' self-esteem and academic achievement. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to build students' feelings of connectedness with the school, including, but not limited to, strategies that promote positive discipline and conflict resolution, the development of students' resiliency and interpersonal skills, and the involvement of foster parents, group home administrators, and/or other caretakers in school programs and activities.

## **EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH (Continued)**

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*

*(cf. 5131.2 – Bullying)*

*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*

*(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)*

*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

*(cf. 5145.9 - Hate-Motivated Behavior)*

*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*

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 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.

*(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board on the educational outcomes of foster youth enrolled in the district regarding the annual 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.

*(cf. 0500 - Accountability)*

*(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)*

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

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

*(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)*

*(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

*32228-32228.5 Student safety and violence prevention*

*42238.01-42238.07 Local control funding formula*

*42920-42925 Foster children educational services*

*48645-48646 Juvenile court schools*

*48850-48859 Educational placement of students residing in licensed children's institutions*

*48915.5 Suspension and expulsion; students with disabilities, including foster youth*

*48918.1 Notice of expulsion hearing for foster youth*

*49061 Student records*

*49069.5 Foster care students, transfer of records*

*49076 Access to student records*

*51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements*

*51125.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course*

**EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH (Continued)**

51225.3 High school graduation  
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan  
56055 Rights of foster parents in special education  
60851 High school exit examination  
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE  
1522.41 Training and certification of group home administrators  
1529.2 Training of licensed foster parents  
120341 Foster youth: school placement: immunization records  
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE  
300 Children subject to jurisdiction  
309 Investigation and release of child  
317 Appointment of legal counsel  
361 Limitations on parental or guardian control  
366.27 Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements  
602 Minors violating law; ward of court  
726 Limitations on parental or guardian control  
727 Order of care, ward of court  
16000-16014 Foster care placement  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20  
1415 Procedural safeguards; placement in alternative educational setting  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29  
794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42  
670-679b Federal assistance for foster care programs  
11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS  
Educating Foster Youth: Best Practices and Board Considerations, Policy Brief, March 2008  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS  
Mythbusting: Breaking Down Confidentiality and Decision-Making Barriers to Meet the Education Needs of Children in Foster Care, 2005  
CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL  
Partial Credit Model Policy and Practice Recommendations  
CITIES, COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS  
Our Children: Emancipating Foster Youth, A Community Action Guide  
WEB SITES  
CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

American Bar Association: <http://www.americanbar.org>  
California Child Welfare Council: <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Pages/CACildWelfareCouncil.aspx>  
California Department of Education, Foster Youth Services: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy>  
California Department of Social Services, Foster Youth Ombudsman Office:  
<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov>  
California Youth Connection: <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc>  
Cities, Counties and Schools Partnership: <http://www.ccspartnership.org>

Policy

**VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Adopted: September 1, 2005

Vacaville, California

Revised: May 22, 2008; February 11, 2010, May 7, 2015;  
November 19, 2020