

**EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD POLICY**

Instruction

**EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH
BP 6173.1**

Note: Education Code 48550-48559 create obligations for districts regarding the education of foster youth, including the right of foster youth to continue attending their school of origin and the requirement to ensure that foster youth have access to the same academic resources, services, and extracurricular activities that are available to all students. While the requirements of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431-11435) may apply to foster youth in certain situations (i.e., when they are living in emergency or transitional shelters and when they are awaiting foster care placement), this legislation extends services to youth at any time when in foster care.

Education Code 48850 reflects the legislative intent that foster youth have access to the same academic resources, services, and extracurricular activities available to all students, and have a meaningful opportunity to meet the state's academic achievement standards.

The Governing Board recognizes that foster youth may be at greater risk for poor academic performance due to their family circumstances, disruption of their educational program, and emotional, social, and other health needs. The district shall provide students with full access to the district's educational program and other support services necessary to assist them in achieving state and district academic standards.

*(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 student's 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 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.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

EDUCATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH (continued)

BP 6173.1

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(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, juvenile court officers, nonprofit organizations, and advocates. 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, including, but not limited to, school attendance, student achievement test results, promotion and retention rates by grade level, graduation rates, and suspension/expulsion rates and not penalize for absences due to placement.

(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 References:

EDUCATION CODE

32228-32228.5 Student safety and violence prevention
42920-42925 Foster children educational services
48645.1 Juvenile court schools
48645-48646 Juvenile court schools
48850-48859 Educational placement of students residing in licensed children's institutions
49061 Student records
49069.5 Foster care students transfer of records
49076 Access to student records
51225.3 High School graduation
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

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 Children subject to jurisdiction
309 Investigation and release of child

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 STATE 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

CITIES, COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS

Out Children: Emancipating Foster Youth, A Community Action Guide

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

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.cal-youthconn.org/site/cyc>

Cities, Counties, Schools Partnership: <http://www.ccspartnership.org>