

Foster Youth Legislation



AB 490: Immediate Enrollment

- Allows foster youth to be **immediately enrolled** in school even if all required school records, immunizations or school uniforms are not available.
- Requires school districts to **calculate and accept credit** for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed by the student.
- Authorizes the **release of educational records** of foster youth to the county placing agency for the purpose of compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 16010, case management responsibilities required by Juvenile Court or law, or to assist with transfer of enrollment of a pupil.
- Requires an LEA to deliver pupil's **education information and records** to the next educational placement **within 2 days** of receiving a request from previous school.
- Ensures that foster youth will **not be penalized for absences** due to placement changes, court appearances, or related court activities.
- Allows foster youth to remain in **their school or origin**.



AB 1933: School of Origin

- Allows foster youth to remain in his/her **school origin** for as long as the child is in foster care, if it is in the child's best interests.
- What is the **definition of "school of origin"**?- the school that the foster child attended when he/she was **permanently housed** or in which the foster child **was last enrolled** while in foster care. If there is another school that the foster child is **connected to and attended in the last 15 months**, that may also be deemed the school origin. *Cal. Ed Code 48853.5 (e)*.



AB 643: Access to Student Records

- Allows records of foster youth to be **released to child welfare agencies** (DCFS, Probation, etc.) for the purposes of addressing the youth's educational needs without the consent of his/her education rights holder.
- Amends Section *49076 of the Education Code*, relating to public schools.

AB 216: Reduced Course Graduation

- Foster youth who transfer high schools after their second year may graduate by **completing minimum state graduation requirements** if, at the time of transfer, they cannot reasonably complete additional local school district requirements within four years of high school. *Cal. Educ. Code 51225.1*.
- If the youth is not able to graduate within 4 years he/she is allowed to remain for a **fifth year of high school** to complete local graduation requirements. The school district **must inform the youth** of their right to remain in high school and make arrangements to allow for continued enrollment in the local comprehensive school of residence, if the education rights holder (ERH) determines that it is in the **youth's best interest**. The **ERH or youth over age 18** is the only person who can determine if graduating under AB 216 is in the youth's best interest.
- Applies to **foster and probation youth** who have been removed from their home or are subject to a petition under WIC Sections 300, 309 or 602.
- Once a foster youth enrolls into a new school he/she must meet with a school counselor or district foster youth liaison within the **first 30 days** to determine if he/she is eligible for graduation under AB 216.
- Once a youth is found eligible for graduation under AB 216 it **cannot be revoked**. If a youth is found ineligible at the time he/she meets with a counselor to review eligibility, he/she can request to be **reconsidered for eligibility at a later time**.



Example Student Transcript			
Course	Credit Hours	Grade	Grade Points
Biology	3	A	12
Biology Lab	1	B	3
English 101	3	C	6
Mathematics	3	F	0
10 Total Credit Hours Attempted		21 Total Grade Points	

SB 578: Accept Partial Credits for Foster Youth

- Requires districts or COEs to **accept coursework satisfactorily completed** by a student in foster care while attending another school and to **award full or partial credit** for such coursework as specified.
- Prohibits a school district or COE from **requiring a student in foster care to retake a course** if the student has satisfactorily completed the entire course in a public school, juvenile court school or NPS.
- Requires the credits accepted to **be applied to the same or equivalent course**, if applicable, as the coursework completed in the student's previous public school, juvenile court school or NPS.
- Prohibits, if a student does not complete an entire course, a school district or COE from **requiring a student to retake the portions** of the course completed, unless the school district or COE in consultation with the ERH for the student, find that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school.
- Specifies that when partial credit is awarded in a particular course, a student in foster care **shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent coursework**, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course.



AB 1909: Student Discipline

- Requires a district's educational liaison to **notify** a foster youth's appropriate county child welfare representative (social worker, probation officer, etc.) of pending expulsion proceedings, a suspension extension until an expulsion decision is rendered, and pending manifestation determination for foster youth with an IEP.
- Must be notified within **10 days** of expulsion hearing.
- The bill authorizes the foster youth's caregiver or other **ERH to provide the contact information** of the youth's attorney to the school district when he/she has been **placed outside of the county of jurisdiction**.



AB 81: Residency Requirements for Sports

- Requires CIF to allow foster youth to **maintain residential eligibility** to participate in school sports when his/her residential placement changes in the following ways: (1) A transfer pursuant to a court order; (2) A transfer pursuant to the determination of a social worker that changes are needed in that student's home setting.

AB 12: Extended Foster Care Benefits

- Allows services for eligible foster youth to **extend beyond age 18 up until 21**. These youth are designated as "non-minor dependents" (NMDs)
- The decision to remain in foster care beyond age 18 is **voluntary**.
- To become eligible, at the **six month hearing** prior to a foster youth turning 18, the social worker/probation officer **must have a plan** to ensure the youth meet at least ONE of the following participation criteria:
 - Working toward completion of high school or equivalent program (e.g. GED); OR
 - Enrolled in college, community college or a vocational education program; OR
 - Employed at least 80 hours a month; OR
 - Participating in a program designed to assist in gaining employment; OR
 - Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a medical condition.

