

**Education for Foster Youth**

It is the policy of the Board of Education that foster youth be placed in the least restrictive educational programs and have access to the academic resources, services and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils.

The 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. To enable such students to achieve state and Office of Education academic standards, the Superintendent or designee shall provide them with full access to the educational program and implement strategies identified as necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth in the Office of Education's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

The Mendocino County Office of Education shall make available to agencies that place children in family foster homes and licensed children's institutions information on educational options for such children for use by the placing agencies in assisting parents and foster children to choose educational placements.

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

Students in foster care shall have access to educational opportunities and other services necessary to help such students meet the academic achievement standards to which all pupils are held. In all instances, educational and placement decisions for foster youth shall be based on the students' best interests as defined in law.

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 the liaison for foster youth. The liaison for foster youth shall facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster youth students and assist them when

## **INSTRUCTION**

## **Board Policy 6173.1(b)**

transferring from one school to another in ensuring proper transfer of credits, records and grades.

The role of the liaison shall be advisory with respect to placement decisions and determination of the school of origin.

The Superintendent or designee and liaison for foster youth 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.

The Board desires to provide foster youth with 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 develop strategies to build a foster youth's feeling of connectedness with his/her 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.

This policy does not supersede laws or policies that govern pupil expulsion or educational placement in a juvenile court school of a pupil detained in juvenile hall or committed to a juvenile ranch, camp forestry camp, or regional facility.

### *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
- 48645.1-48645.5 Juvenile court schools
- 48850-48859 Educational placement of students residing in licensed children's institutions
- 48911 Suspension or expulsion
- 48915.5 Suspension & 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 Courses of Study, Grades 7-12
- 51225.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credit, retaking of course
- 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

## **INSTRUCTION**

## **Board Policy 6173.1(c)**

### 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

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