

William S. Hart UHS District

Board Policy

Instruction

Education for Foster Youth

BP 6173.1

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. 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. 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. The District has designated a social worker to serve in the role of District foster liaison. The District liaison for foster youth will 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.

(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 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.

(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 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.

(cf. 1400 – Relations between Other Governmental Agencies and the School)

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.

(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 – State Academic Achievement tests)

Legal references: see next page

Legal References:

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*
51225.2 *Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course*
51225.3 *High school graduation*
52060-52077 *Local control and accountability plan*
56055 *Rights of foster parents in special education*

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:

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, Non-Regulatory Guidance, June 2016

Legal references: continued

WEB SITES

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

Alliance for Children's Rights: <Http://www.kids-alliance.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 Foster Youth Education Task Force: <http://www.cfyetf.org>

California Youth Connection: <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc>

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

Foster Ed: <http://foster-ed.org>

National Center for Youth Law: <https://youthlaw.org>

Policy
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WILLIAM S. HART UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Santa Clarita, California