

Right to remain in school of origin: If the child's residential placement changes, the school district must allow the child to remain in his/her school of origin for the duration of the school year, provided it is in the child's best interest to do so. The child's best interest is determined by the county child welfare agency representative, the school district's foster care liaison, the person who holds education rights for the child, and the child. If a dispute arises, the child has the right to remain in his or her school of origin until the dispute is resolved. (EC 48853.5)

Role of the County Placing Agency

When making out-of-home placements, the placing agency must consider both the placement's proximity to the child's present school and the impact the placement will have on the child's educational stability. (WIC 16501.1(c)).

Immediate Enrollment

A child in foster care has the right to be immediately enrolled in school without school records, immunization records, uniforms, etc. (EC 48853.5(d)(4)(b)).

Role of the School

Educational placements of foster youth must be made to ensure that youth have access to the same resources available to all students, that the educational placement is the least restrictive environment, and that the educational placement is in the youth's best interest. (WIC 361, 726, Ed Code 48853).

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Timely Transfer of Records

The timely transfer of records is the responsibility of both the placing agency and the school district. (EC 49069.5).

Foster youth must have access to the same academic resources, services, extra-curricular and enrichment activities available to all students. (Ed Code 48850(a)).

Protection for Grades and Credits /PARTIAL CREDITS

A foster child's grades cannot be lowered due to absences caused by a change in placement, attendance at a court hearing, or a court ordered activity. (EC 49069.5).

Schools must award all students (not just foster youth) with credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed at another public school, a juvenile court school, or a non-public, non-sectarian school. (EC 48645.5).

Minimum Requirements for Graduation

Under the following Assembly Bills students in transition have special rights to help them remain on track for high school graduation:

AB 216 – Foster Youth

AB 1806 – McKinney Vento Youth

AB 2306 – Juvenile Court School Pupils

Students in transition (foster youth, students in homeless situations, and those transitioning from a juvenile court school) who transfer schools after their second year of high school may be eligible to graduate by completing the minimum California state graduation requirements if they are not reasonably able to complete all Compton Unified School District graduation requirements by the end of their fourth year of high school. Completing second year of high school is defined as either a) completing two years of high school; or b) completing sufficient high school credits to be considered a high school junior or senior.

County Placing Agency

When a county child welfare social worker becomes aware of the need to transfer a student to a new school, he or she must:

- Notify the school of the student's last expected day of attendance
- Request the calculation of the student's educational information
- Request the student be transferred out. (EC 49069.5)

Case workers may access the child's school records without parental consent or court order, in order to assist with school transfer or enrollment, compile the child's health and education summary, or fulfill educational case management duties. (EC 49076).

Old School

Within two (2) business days, the old school must transfer the student out, and deliver the student's educational record to the next school. The record must include a determination of seat time, full or partial credits earned, classes, grades, immunizations and, if applicable, special education or 504 plans. (EC 49069.5)

New School

The liaison for the new school shall, within two (2) business days of the foster child's request for enrollment, contact the school last attended by the foster child to obtain all academic and other records. (EC 48853.5(d)(4)(c)).

Transportation:

In addition, we are sometimes able to provide supplementary support to remove barriers for students in foster care to enable them to attend their school of origin. Transportation services provided by TCSD are limited and can be coordinated through the child's social worker, the district's Foster Liaison and the county Foster Liaison.

Other Services:

Tulare City School District is also able to assist students in foster care with school clothing, backpacks and school supplies. To access these supports, please contact the Child Welfare & Attendance office at 559-685-7222, 600 N. Cherry, Tulare, CA 93274.

For additional questions, please contact Debbie Terry or Juana Prieto at 559-685-7222.