

## KEY LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

<b>1973</b>	<p><b>ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM PILOT PROJECT</b> Foster Youth Services (FYS) pilot program was established in four school districts: (1) San Juan Unified; (2) Mount Diablo Unified; (3) Sacramento City Unified; and (4) Elk Grove Unified.</p>
<b>1981</b>	<p><b>CREATION OF STATUTE TO MANDATE THE FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM</b> Provided funding for services to the following school districts that had successfully operated FYS Program sites since 1973: (1) San Juan Unified; (2) Mount Diablo Unified; (3) Sacramento City Unified; and (4) Elk Grove Unified.</p>
<b>1988</b>	<p>The Legislature established uniform data collection for the four FYS Core District (CD) Programs, requiring biannual reports on their progress and effectiveness.</p>
<b>1992</b>	<p><b>EXPANSION OF THE FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE 2 OTHER SITES</b> The Legislature funded two additional FYS CD Programs, administered by the Paramount Unified School District and the Placer/Nevada Counties Consortium.</p>
<b>1996</b>	<p><b>AB2463 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR EMANCIPATED FOSTER YOUTH (CHAPTER 1129, STATUTES OF 1996)</b> Provides outreach, access, and retention services for foster youth interested in attending a CA State University or community college.</p>
<b>1998</b>	<p><b>EXPANSION OF FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES TO COUNTY PROGRAMS</b> The demonstrated success of the six Foster Youth Service (FYS) CD Programs resulted in renewed annual funding for the existing FYS CD Programs and the creation of the FYS Countywide (CW) Programs through the Budget Act of 1998 to serve students in group homes.</p>
<b>2003</b>	<p><b>AB490 ENSURING SCHOOL STABILITY AND ENHANCED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (CHAPTER 862, STATUTES OF 2003)</b> AB490 seeks to enhance educational attainment for foster youth by ensuring that foster youth receive the same educational opportunities as other students, promoting school stability, requiring immediate enrollment for foster youth when a change in schools is appropriate or necessary, and enhancing procedures for credit calculation and record transfers when a change in school results. Requires designation of a foster youth education liaison in each school district.</p>
<b>2003</b>	<p><b>ASB 464 INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVE OF A GROUP HOME TO INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM MEETINGS (CHAPTER 413, STATUTES OF 2003)</b> SB464 requires a school district, special education local plan area, or county office of education to invite to the individualized education program (IEP) team meetings a representative of the group home in those cases in which a pupil with exceptional needs has been placed in a group home by a juvenile court, as specified. To the extent local educational agencies would be required to perform additional duties; this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.</p>
<b>2004</b>	<p><b>AB 1858 QUALITY NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR FOSTER YOUTH (CHAPTER 914, STATUTES OF 2004)</b> AB 1858 sets standards and mandates enhanced oversight for nonpublic schools. This bill also ensures that placement decisions not control school assignment and requires the State Department of Education and the California School Information Services' system meet the needs of pupils in foster care and include disaggregated data on pupils in foster care.</p>
<b>2004</b>	<p><b>SB 1639 EDUCATION WORKS! CAL WORKS RECIPIENTS: EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CHAPTER 668, STATUTES OF 2004)</b> SB 1639 supports foster youths' right to access information on higher education. AB 1639 encourages the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to disseminate information to foster care agencies regarding admissions requirements and financial aid. The bill also requests the Regents of the University of California and the Trustees of the California State University to explore methods of using the admissions-by-exemption category to assist the transition of students in foster care into 4-year public institutions of higher education. SB 1639 also includes intensive English language immersion within the scope of California Community Colleges vocational curricula for CalWORKS!</p>

2005	<p><b>AB 1261 IMPROVING FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION OUTCOMES (CHAPTER 639, STATUTES OF 2005)</b>          AB 1261, which makes corrections to AB 490, requires an organized process for school placements and requires that local educational agencies provide explanations regarding placements if they are disputed.</p>
2006	<p><b>STATE BUDGET ACT OF 2006-07</b>  <b>CHAFEE HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS</b> - The state Budget Act of 2006-07 augmented the Chafee scholarships by \$5.7 million General Fund for total funding of \$14.1 million. The California Chafee Foster Youth Grant program provides scholarships to former foster youth. This allocation also included language to address the three month gap before federal funding occurs.</p> <p><b>FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES (FYS)</b> – The state Budget Act of 2006-07 provided \$18.3 million for FYS programs. This amount includes an augmentation of \$8.2 million to expand services to foster youth beyond those residing in licensed children’s institutions of group homes, including those in juvenile detention facilities. Foster Youth Services was established in 1981 to address the many barriers foster youth face such as multiple transfers between school, loss of school and medical records, difficulty adjusting and loss of contact with other people who care about them. Until this augmentation, this program was only available to youth in group homes.</p>
2008	<p><b>FEDERAL FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND ADOPTIONS ACT (PUBLIC LAW 110-351)</b>          PL 110-351 amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to require that case plans for children and youth in foster care include specified assurances for educational placement stability. In addition, PL 110-351 provides for the cost of reasonable travel for the child to remain in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement as an allowable foster care maintenance cost.</p> <p><b>STATE BUDGET ACT OF 2008</b>          Mid-year reductions in the state budget, due to the CA budget crisis, negatively impacted the Foster Youth Services Program and other programs implemented by the CA Department of Social Services. Several categorical education programs, including Foster Youth Services, received a 15% mid-year budget reduction that was increased to a 20% budget reduction in the following budget years.</p>
2009	<p><b>AB 1393 PRIORITIZATION OF HOUSING FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS</b>          Requires the University of California, the California State University and California Community Colleges to give priority for on-campus housing to emancipated foster youth.</p> <p><b>AB 167 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS OF STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE WHO TRANSFER IN THE 11<sup>TH</sup> OR 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE</b>          Exempts a foster youth who transfer from a new school during the eleventh or twelfth grade from completing locally-imposed course requirements that exceed minimum state standards, if those local requirements would prevent the student from graduating while he or she remains eligible for foster care.</p> <p><b>AB 669 POSTSECONDARY RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS</b>          Exempts current or former foster youth, age 19 years or under, from California State University, University of California and California Community Colleges in-state residency requirements for tuition and fees.</p> <p><b>SB 597 (Chapter 339, Statutes of 2009)</b>          Added conforming language for Public Law 110-351 regarding case plan assurances, which includes educational case plan assurances, to the Welfare and Institutions Code.</p>
2010	<p><b>AB12 FOSTERING CONNECTIONS ACT</b>          Conformed California law to federal law in order to maximize federal financial participation by opting in to kinship guardianship assistance payments provisions and extends transitional foster care services, including support of education, for eligible youth between 18 and 21 years of age pursuant to the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.</p> <p><b>AB 1933 INCREASING SCHOOL STABILITY FOR STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE</b>          Requires a local educational agency (LEA) to allow a child in foster care to remain in his or her school and district of origin for the duration of the court’s jurisdiction. In the event that the court’s jurisdiction over a student is terminated prior to the end of the school year, the student will be entitled to remain in their school through the end of the school year.</p> <p><b>SB 1353 SCHOOL STABILITY FOR STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE</b>          Further defines "best interests of the child" for purposes of educational school placement. In addition, if out-of-home placement is used to attain case plan goals, new law requires the decision regarding choice of placement to be based upon a setting that is available in close proximity to the parent's home and promotes educational stability.</p>

2011

**SB 368 DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES: DECISIONMAKING**

This bill would allow a Court to limit a parent's right to make decisions regarding developmental services with respect to a dependent child. The Court would then have the authority to appoint an authorized representative or, if none is available, could make decisions with the input of interested parties.

**AB 194 PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: PRIORITY ENROLLMENT: FOSTER YOUTH.**

Requires California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC), to give priority enrollment in classes to foster youth or former foster youth up to 24 years of age.

**AB 709 FOSTER CHILDREN: SCHOOL PLACEMENT: IMMUNIZATIIONS**

Currently, a foster child is to be enrolled in a school even if they cannot produce clothing or medical records normally required for admission. This bill would clarify that medical records include immunization records and would expand the bill to include enrollment in a child care or other private educational institution.

**SB 578- SCHOOLS: PUPILS IN FOSTER CARE: COURSE CREDIT**

Among other things, this bill would require a school district and county office of education to accept the coursework satisfactorily completed by a pupil in foster care while attending another school district, a juvenile court school, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency even if the pupil did not complete the entire course and to award that pupil full or partial credit for the coursework completed. The bill would prohibit a pupil in foster care from being required to retake a course or portions of a course for which the school district has provided full or partial credit unless the school district of County Office of Education finds that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from High School while the pupil still remains eligible for Foster Care. This fixes the problem of credit for core classes being used as credit for elective curriculum.

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