



Local Control Funding Formula Provisions Related to Students in Foster Care

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Key Provisions



- **School Districts**
 - California is the first state to include foster youth as a subgroup in their education accountability framework.
 - School districts are required to develop and implement plans specifying how the district will improve the educational outcomes of foster youth.
- **County Offices of Education**
 - FYS is preserved as a categorical program.
- **State Agencies**
 - CDSS and CDE are required to share data and to inform school districts which of their students are in foster care.
 - CDE is required to track and report the educational outcomes for foster youth.

School Districts: Academic Performance Index



- No Child Left Behind requires states to evaluate schools and school districts based on the progress of different subgroups of children, including
 - Low income students
 - Students with disabilities
 - Students of color
 - Students who primarily speak a language other than English
- California became the first state to include foster youth as a subgroup in their accountability framework, the Academic Performance Index (API).
- Schools and school districts with 15 or more foster youth will be held accountable for their academic performance.

School Districts: Local Cont. and Account. Plan



- School districts must develop, present and adopt a local control and accountability plan (LCAP).
- The plans must:
 - Identifies *goals* for foster youth as a district subgroup
 - Describes *the specific actions* the districts will take each year to achieve these goals.
 - Contains the *budget* associated with these actions.

County Offices Of Education: FYS



- California’s Foster Youth Services (FYS) program is a national model. It provides funding to county offices of education (as well as six “core districts”) to support the educational success of students in foster care county-wide.
- The FYS program was fully preserved.
- FYS will be funded at its current level of **\$15 million per year.**



State Agencies: Data Sharing



- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) must share the following with the California Department of Education (CDE):
 - Information that is necessary for CDE to identify which students are in foster care; and
 - Information that is helpful to meet the educational needs of these students.
- CDE must share this information with school districts and county offices of education on a weekly basis.



State Agencies: Reporting



- Every even numbered year, the CDE must report on the educational outcomes of students in foster care to the Legislature and Governor.
- This report must include, but is not limited to:
 - Educational outcome data
 - Suspensions and expulsion data
 - Truancy and attendance rates
 - Dropout rates
- Data must be reported at the schoolsite level, district level, and county level, so long as there are 15 students in foster care.

Section 49085.

Critical Next Steps – Public Agencies



- **State agencies**
 - Effectively implement the new data-sharing provisions
 - Ensure school districts receive adequate technical assistance when developing and implementing their plans
- **School districts**
 - Develop and implement meaningful plans for improving the educational outcomes of foster youth
- **County offices of education**
 - Coordinate efforts between school districts and county agencies
 - Ensure students in foster care have an educational plan reflective of their strengths and needs

Critical Next Steps – COEs



AB 97 requires the LCAPs developed by County Offices of Education to answer the following **four questions**:

“How the county superintendent of schools will coordinate services for foster youth, including but, not limited to:

(A) Working with the county child welfare agency to **minimize changes in school placement**.

(B) Providing education-related information to the county child welfare agency to **assist the county child welfare agency in the delivery of services** to foster children, including, but not limited to, educational status and progress information that is required to be included in court reports.

(C) Responding to requests from the juvenile court for information and working with the juvenile court to ensure the **delivery and coordination of necessary educational services**.

(D) Establishing a mechanism for the **efficient expeditious transfer of health and education records** and the health and education passport.”

State-Level Advocacy Efforts



- Advocates for foster youth are encouraged to attend and participate in one or more of the regional meetings being held by the CDE and SBE on LCFF implementation. Bring youth with you!
www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/pn/lcffsessions.asp
- Advocates for foster youth are encouraged to attend provide public comment at the State Board of Education meetings in Sacramento. Bring youth with you! The SBE meeting schedule can be found at:
www.cde.ca.gov/be/mt/st/