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The San Diego County Office of Education recognizes that students in foster care may face significant barriers to achieving academic success due to their family circumstances, disruptions to their educational program, as well as their social, emotional and other health needs.

To support students in foster care in achieving state and district academic standards, the County Superintendent or his/her designee(s) shall provide them with full access to the County's educational programs and implement strategies identified as necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth in the County's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

### **San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) Coordinating Agency**

San Diego Countywide Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) began in 1973 as a core district pilot to address the educational needs of Foster youth. Since conception, FYSCP has been developing and enhancing the foster youth services coordinating plan with the purpose of ensuring positive educational outcomes for foster youth.

SDCOE provides support services to foster children who suffer the traumatic effects of displacement from family and schools and multiple placements in foster care. FYSCP collaborates with school districts, child welfare, probation, juvenile court officers, advocates, local colleges and various other foster youth serving community agencies to establish appropriate placements and coordinate instruction, advocacy, counseling, tutoring, mentoring, vocational training, emancipation services, training for independent living, and other related services. These services are designed to improve the children's educational performance and personal achievement, directly benefiting them as well as providing long-range cost savings to the state.

The goals of FYSCP are to:

1. Identify the educational, physical, social, and emotional needs of foster youth;
2. Determine gaps in service provision and provide educational and social support services, either through direct service provision or referral to collaborative partners;

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3. Identify inadequacies in the completion and timely transfer of health and education records to facilitate appropriate and stable care and educational placements;
4. Improve student academic achievement, reduce incidence of juvenile delinquency, and reduce rates of student truancy/dropouts; and
5. Provide advocacy to promote the best interests of foster youth throughout California.

The County Superintendent or his/her designee(s) shall ensure that placement decisions for students in foster care are based on the students' best interests as defined in law and administrative regulation. In addition, placement decisions for students in foster care shall be based on, but not limited to, promoting educational stability by considering a placement's proximity to the child's "school of origin" (usually her/his current school) and attendance area, the number of previous school transfers, and the school matriculation schedule, among other factors necessary to achieve academic progress.

FYSCP shall work with school districts and agency staff to track and serve students living in foster care placements for academic success. As defined by law, each school district is required to appoint a district liaison to coordinate services for foster youth at their schools. The SDCOE FYSCP contact is the Director Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program & Homeless Education Services, Student Support Services.

### **San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS)**

The County Superintendent, or his/her designee(s), and SDCOE JCCS 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.

The County Superintendent or his/her designee shall regularly report to the County Board on the educational outcomes of students in foster care enrolled in educational programs operated by SDCOE including, but not limited to, school attendance, student achievement test results, graduation rates, and suspension rates. The SDCOE JCCS district liaison contact is the Student Support Supervisor, JCCS Administration.

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**Administrative Regulations: 6173**

**Legal Reference: Education Code**

42238.01-42238.07, 42920-42925, 48645-48646, 48850-48859, 48915.5, 48918.1, 49061, 49076, 51225.1-51225.2, 52060-52077, 56055

**Health and Safety Code**

1522.41, 1529.2, 120341

**Welfare and Institutions Code**

300, 309, 317, 361, 366.27, 602, 726-727, 16000-16014

**United States Code, Title 20**

1415, 6311

**United States Code, Title 42**

11431-11435

**Assembly Bill No. 490, Chapter 862, 2003**

**Management Resources:**

**Web Sites:**

**California Department of Education – District Liaisons:**

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy/ab490contacts.asp>

**California Department of Education – Foster Youth Services Coordinator:**

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy/contacts.asp>