

## VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**BOARD POLICY NO. 6173.1**

**ADOPTED: 03/19/07**

**CLASSIFICATION: Instruction**

**REVISED: 03/15/21  
08/28/23**

**SUBJECT: Education for Foster Youth**

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The Ventura County Board of Education and County Superintendent recognize 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 that may be addressed with the provision of a safe, positive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and that promotes students' self-esteem and academic achievement.

The County Superintendent or designee shall provide foster youth with full access to the educational program of the Ventura County Office Education (VCOE) and implement strategies necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth as identified in the VCOE's local control and accountability plan (LCAP). The County Superintendent or designee shall also develop strategies to build a foster youth's feeling of connectedness with 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.

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on the students' best interests as defined in law and as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation. To that end, the County Superintendent or designee shall designate a staff person as the County liaison for foster youth to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.

The County Superintendent or designee and County 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.

To address the needs of foster youth and help ensure the maximum utilization of available funds, the County 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.

At least annually and in accordance with the established timelines, the County Superintendent or designee shall report to the County 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 rates. As necessary, evaluation data shall be used to determine and recommend revisions to the LCAP for improving or increasing services for foster youth.

Annually, the County Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of foster youth graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from VCOE-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

39807.5	Payment of transportation costs by parents/guardians; waiver for foster youth
42238.01- 42238.07	Local control funding formula
42920-42926	Foster children educational services
48645-48647	Juvenile court schools
48850-48859	Education of foster youth and homeless students
48915.5	Recommended expulsion; foster youth with disabilities
48918.1	Notice of recommended expulsion
49061	Definitions; directory information
49069.5	Students in foster care; grades and credits
49076	Access to student records
51225.1	Exemption from district graduation requirements
51225.2	Course credits
51225.3	High school graduation requirements
52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan
56055	Rights of foster parents pertaining to foster youth's education

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1522.41	Training and certification of group home administrators
120341	Foster youth; school placement and immunization records

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300	Minors subject to jurisdiction
309	Investigation and release of child
317	Appointment of legal counsel
361	Limitations on parental control
366.27	Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements
602	Minors violating law; ward of court
726	Limitations on parental control

727 Order of care; ward of court  
16000-16014 Foster care placement

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedure

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1415 Procedural safeguards

6311 State plan

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