

## FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION RIGHTS:

### 1. RIGHT TO REMAIN IN THEIR SCHOOL OF ORIGIN

Foster Youth have the right to stay in the same school after they move to a new foster care placement.

Their “school of origin” can be:

- The school they attended when first entering foster care
- The school they most recently attended
- Any school they attended in the last 15 months that the youth feels connected to

### 2. RIGHT TO IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL

Foster Youth have the right to immediately enroll in their regular home school after they move placements.

### 3. RIGHT TO PARTIAL CREDITS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

If a foster youth changes schools during the school year, they have a right to partial credits in all classes that they are passing when they leave their former school.

### 4. GRADUATION RIGHTS

Foster Youth have the right to stay in high school for a fifth year to complete their school district graduation requirements, even if they are over 18.

### 5. COLLEGE RIGHTS

Foster Youth have the right to have the application fee waived when they apply to a community or state college in California.

Foster Youth have the right to receive the maximum amount of federal student aid and they may be eligible for up to \$5,000 per year from the Chafee scholarship.

### 6. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE RIGHTS

Foster Youth cannot be suspended for more than 5 school days in a row or for more than 20 days in a school year.

### 7. RIGHT TO YOUR SCHOOL RECORDS

Foster youth have the right to access school records if they are 16 years or older or have finished 10th grade.

The assigned social worker/probation officer and education rights holder can access a foster youth’s school records as well.

## MORE INFORMATION:

### SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON

For the current list of District Liaisons, please visit:

[WWW.TCOE.ORG/FOSTERYOUTH](http://WWW.TCOE.ORG/FOSTERYOUTH)

### CONTACT:

**Beth Wilshire**

bethw@tcoe.org  
(559) 730-2910 ext. 5131

**Jaime Burnitzki**

jaimeb@tcoe.org  
(559) 730-2910 ext. 5144

**Brenda Larson**

brenda.larson@tcoe.org  
(559) 730-2910 ext. 5148

**Brooke Clark-Parbst**

brookecp@tcoe.org  
(559) 730-2910 ext. 5157

**Courtney Venegas**

courtney.venegas@tcoe.org  
(559) 730-2910 ext. 5156

**Jason Haley**

jason.haley@tcoe.org  
(559) 730-2910 ext. 5145

### LOCATION:

1730 W Walnut Ave, Suite B, Visalia Ca 93277



**FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES**  
TULARE COUNTY

*IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN PLACED IN  
FOSTER CARE THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT*

**Tulare County**  
**Office of Education**

*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

## WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster care is a system by which adults care for minor children who are not able to live with their biological parents. When parents are unable, unwilling, or unfit to care for a child, the child must find a new home. In some cases, there is little or no chance a child can return to their parents' custody, so they need a new permanent home. In other situations, children only need a temporary home until their parents' situation improves. In any case, the children need somewhere to live until a permanent home is possible.

Foster care is intended to be a temporary living situation for children. The goal of foster care is to reunify with their parent or guardian or find another suitable permanent living arrangement. This may include an adoptive home, guardianship, or placement with a relative.

## WHAT IS FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES?

Foster children and youth often experience multiple changes in placement and interruptions in school. The emotional adjustments of these changes combined with the stress of falling behind in school can be overwhelming. In order to support foster children academically and emotionally, the FYS program was established to meet these needs.

### **Program Goals:**

- Improve academic achievement
- Improve school attendance
- Improve graduation rates for foster youth
- Remove obstacles preventing appropriate and timely educational placements

## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES:

- Professional development for school staff
- Training for care providers
- Assistance with school enrollment
- Transfer of education records
- Resource and referral
- Educational Case Management for Students

## LCFF DEFINITION OF FOSTER YOUTH

- Any child who is the subject of a juvenile dependency court (whether or not the child has been removed from his or her home)
- Any child who is the subject of a juvenile delinquency court petition and who has been removed from his or her home by the court and placed into foster care under a "suitable placement" order.
- This includes youth who have been placed in a foster home, relative home, or group home. It does not include youth who have been placed in a juvenile detention facility, such as a juvenile hall or camp
- Any youth age 18 to 21 who is considered a non minor dependent of the juvenile court



## PROGRAM GOALS

- Ensure timely enrollment
- Increase school attendance
- Improve academic achievement
- Improve social skills
- Insure equitable access to resources
- Advocate for appropriate school placement/connectedness
- Increase graduation rates

## DID YOU KNOW?

As of 12/31/17, there are 1138 children in out of home care in Tulare County

- 64% Live in resource homes (foster homes)
- 25% Live with relatives
- 7% Live in other types of placements such as tribal homes and supervised independent living placements (AB 12)
- 4% Live in group homes (STRTPs)