

WHAT SHOULD SCHOOL STAFF DO WHEN A FOSTER YOUTH ARRIVES AT SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME?



Determine whether the child is in foster care placement. Proof of placement in foster care may be provided to schools for purposes of determining residency. [EC§48204(a)]



Some children placed with relatives are officially placed in foster care by Child Welfare Services. Do not delay enrollment because an official proof of placement document is not available.



School records for foster children must be requested from the previous school within two business days of enrollment. [EC§48853.5(d)(4)(C)]. If the records are not received by the third business day, contact the former school, their district foster care liaison or the Foster Youth Services Coordinator.



Schools must immediately enroll foster children even if the foster child is unable to produce records or clothing normally required for school enrollment [EC§48853.5(d)(4)(B)]. The word “enroll” means attending classes and fully participating in all school activities.



Foster children must attend programs operated by the local education agency unless the child has an IEP requiring a different educational placement, or the person with educational rights determines that it is in the child’s best interest to attend a different education program or to remain in the school of origin [EC§48853(a)(2-3)].



Before any decision is made to place a pupil in a juvenile court school as defined by EC§48645.1, a community school as described in Sections 1981 and 48660, or other alternative educational setting, the parent or guardian, or person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, shall first consider placement in the regular public school [EC§48853(b)].

INQUIRE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT:

- If the child has an IEP, immediately place the child in an educational setting most similar to the last school placement, pending review [EC§56043(m)(1-3)]. If the child’s new school is in a different Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) the local education agency must either adopt the previous IEP or hold a meeting with 30 days to develop a new IEP [EC§56325(a)]. If you do not have a copy of the child’s current IEP, you must still enroll the child in school immediately while you obtain the records.
- 504 accommodation plans (must be followed by the new school).
- The previous school must post full or partial credits to the transcript. You (the new school) must post these credits to the student’s transcript if the previous school was a public school, juvenile court school, or nonpublic, nonsectarian school [EC§58645.5].
- Ask the caretaker to provide you with any educational information he/she may have.
- Ask the caretaker to provide the social worker’s name and phone number on the emergency card.
- Ask the caretaker to provide you with name and contact information for the person with education rights for your new student.
- Contact the Foster Youth Services Coordinator for assistance. The Coordinator may have access to a data system that contains important information about your new student.