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**FOSTER & HOMELESS YOUTH
EDUCATION SERVICES**

TULARE COUNTY



The goal of Tulare County Foster & Homeless Youth Education Services is to improve educational outcomes for students placed in foster care through educational support.



Foster & Homeless Youth Education Services (FHYES) is a state-funded educational advocacy program of the Tulare County Office of Education that provides resources and support services to dependents in foster care, probation youth, and those in group homes (ages 4-21) to increase academic achievement, attendance, and positive school behaviors.

Why Foster Youth Services?

Foster youth often experience multiple changes in their living arrangements, which can lead to changes in their educational placements. High mobility can potentially disrupt or even damage their educational growth. Because of these changes, recent research shows that 75% of foster youth are working below grade level, 83% are held back by the third grade, and 46% will eventually drop out of high school.

Who is Eligible for Foster Youth Services?

Children and youth between the ages of 4 and 21 who are:

- In out-of-home placement or living at home, and under court supervision (WIC 300).
- Wards placed by the court in out-of-home care (WIC 602).
- Supervised by CWS under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).
- Under supervision of the tribal court (ICWA).

Foster Youth Education Services Benefit Foster Youth?

FHYES was established to meet the unique educational needs of foster youth by providing advocacy and other support services designed to encourage the academic and personal success of all students in foster care.

FHYES include:

- Advocacy services including assistance for students who are experiencing delays in enrollment, tutoring, counseling, mentoring, vocational training, emancipation services, and other related services;
- Assistance to all Tulare County school districts, placing agencies and care providers in meeting foster youth legal obligations and educational rights when they are placed in new school districts;
- Collaboration with county departments and agencies including Independent Living Programs;
- Protection of foster youth educational rights and assistance with immediate and appropriate, stable school placements;
- Training for all stakeholders on critical issues, including educational rights, legal mandates, best practices, and other school-related topics;
- Assistance with educational and motivational

programs and events for successful transition from foster care;

- Building awareness in schools and group homes in the understanding of laws, procedures, and needs for supporting a foster youth's education; and
- Maintaining Foster Focus, a database of foster youth students in Tulare County public schools, to ensure they receive appropriate educational supports and services as outlined in Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP).

How Does FHYES Support Districts?

- AB 490 requires that every school district appoint a foster youth liaison to protect the educational rights of wards and dependents, ensuring they are made aware of their right to remain at the school of origin; access to academic resources; timely transfer of grades and credits, and immediate enrollment into school.
- FHYES is available to assist districts and other agencies in understanding these requirements and to provide strategies for working with these students.
- FHYES also educates school site staff, care providers, service providers, and others in the community on the educational needs and rights of foster youth.