

**INSTRUCTION**

**Education for Foster Youth**

The Governing Board recognizes that foster youth may be at greater risk for poor academic performance due to their family circumstances, disruption of their educational program, and emotional, social, and other health needs. El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) programs shall provide students with full access to EDCOE educational programs and other support services necessary to assist them in achieving state and EDCOE academic standards.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on the student's best interests as defined in law and administrative regulation. To that end, he/she shall designate a staff person as an EDCOE Liaison for Foster Youth to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.

The Board desires to provide foster youth with a safe, positive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and promotes students' self-esteem and academic achievement. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to build students' feelings of connectedness with the school, including, but not limited to, strategies that promote positive discipline and conflict resolution, the development of students' resiliency and interpersonal skills, and the involvement of foster parents, group home administrators, and/or other caretakers in school programs and activities.

To address the needs of foster youth and help ensure the maximum utilization of available funds, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local agencies including, but not limited to, the county placing agency, social services, probation officers, juvenile court officers, nonprofit organizations, and advocates. 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.

Legal References on Next Page

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32228-32228.5 Student safety and violence prevention

42920-42925 Foster children educational services

48645.1 Juvenile court schools

48645-48646 Juvenile court schools

48850-48859 Educational placement of students residing in licensed children's institutions

49061 Student records

49069.5 Foster care students transfer of records

49076 Access to student records

51225.3 High School graduation

56055 Rights of foster parents in special education

60851 High school exit examination

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1522.41 Training and certification of group home administrators

1529.2 Training of licensed foster parents

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

300 Children subject to jurisdiction

309 Investigation and release of child

361 Limitations on parental or guardian control

366.27 Educational decision by relative providing living arrangements

602 Minors violating law; ward of court

726 Limitations on parental or guardian control

727 Order of care, ward of court

16000-16014 Foster care placement

UNITED STATE 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

First Reading: January 3, 2012

Second Reading:

Adopted:

Supercedes: New Policy