

Vision

*To provide comprehensive services to improve attendance, educational achievement
and social-emotional
well being for all youth in foster care.*



Los Angeles Unified School District

FYAP Program Goals

LAUSD has worked closely with community stakeholders on program development, formulating program goals and expected outcomes.

The goals of the Foster Youth Achievement Program are to:

- Provide support services to all foster youth attending LAUSD schools
- Conduct comprehensive academic assessments
- Promote school stability
- Facilitate timely enrollment
- Improve caregiver participation in the academic process
- Provide continuous training and education on legislation and policy related to foster youth

Support Services Provided



11 Foster Youth Lead Counselors are assigned to support each Local district, Beaudry Headquarters office, and Foster Youth Counselors. Their responsibilities include:

- Developing and implementing trainings for District personnel
- Collaborating with outside agencies to provide caregiver engagement workshops
- Provide consultation and guidance to school based Foster Youth Counselors
- Provide consultation and support services to school site staff

Support Services Provided

There are 72 School Based Foster Youth Counselors assigned to schools heavily impacted with foster youth.

- Conduct comprehensive academic assessments
- Provide on-going intensive case management services
- Individual and group counseling
- Collaborate with school site personnel by participating in multi-disciplinary case conferences (i.e. IEP, SST)

Support Services Provided (continued)



- Advocate for the educational rights of foster youth
- Monitor and increase the attendance and graduation rates of foster youth
- Provide dropout prevention and recovery services
- Provide transition counseling by encouraging foster youth to participate in the Pathways to College Program
- Collaborate with District and community partners to coordinate services for foster youth

Accomplishments 2014-2015

- **Summer Camp** – FYAP provided three cost-free week long summer camps with 240 foster youth attending.
- **Caregiver Engagement** – Eight caregiver workshop sessions were conducted over the past year in each of the 4 geographic ESCs. Over 4,000 caregivers were invited each quarter. Workshop topics included navigating Special Education in LAUSD, accessing LAUSD and SHHS programs and services, developmental milestones, Trauma-Informed Care, and Restorative Justice.
- **Youth Council** – Launched on 3/10/15 with eighteen students selected and transported to Beaudry Headquarters. The purpose of the Council is to have a youth led program that empowers foster youth by giving them a voice. The premise behind the idea is that foster youth networking together will promote change to the negative stereotypes associated with foster care, ultimately improving attendance, graduation rates and overall adult outcomes.

Accomplishments 2014-15 (continued)

- College Pathways – An end of the year celebration was held for foster youth attending college in the Fall. Scholarships and gifts were provided. Board member Steve Zimmer and other dignitaries attended and approximately 91 foster youth were celebrated.
- Collaborated with the following community partners:
 - DCFS
 - Probation
 - LACOE
 - Alliance for Children's Rights
 - Public Council
 - First Star

What's New?

- Appointment of a Foster Care Counselor for dependency court
- Refined Definition of who we serve:
 - LAUSD Foster youth (and students with a voluntary case) are now supported by three programs.
 - Foster Youth Achievement Program
 - Group Home Scholars
 - Family Source

Foster Care Counselor, Dependency Court

Collaborate with stakeholders to facilitate school stability and educational advocacy for foster youth

- Courts
- DCFS
- Children's Law Center
- LAUSD
- Parents/ caregivers



Foster Care Counselor, Dependency Court

- Provide consultation on matters relating to children's educational needs
- Work with district support staff to promote school stability/ immediate enrollment
- Link students to appropriate school and community resources
- Provide linkages to school based FYAP Counselors and ensure follow-up services
- Collaborate to ensure all foster youth have an appropriate ERH

Who We Serve



Refined Definition of Who We Serve

- **Foster Youth Achievement Program – Open Court Cases.** The court has taken jurisdiction over a child and declared the child to be a dependent of the court due to the presence or risk of abuse or neglect. This includes both children who are living at home, while a dependent of the court, as well as children who the court has ordered to be removed into the care, custody and control of a social worker for placement outside the home.
- **The following programs serve foster youth in Group Homes and students that have DCFS involvement:**
- **Group Home Scholars** – Foster Youth residing in Group Homes
- **Family Source Center** – Voluntary DCFS Cases*

Refined Definition of Who We Serve Cont.

***Voluntary DCFS Cases** - Non-court limited protective services to families whose children are in potential danger of abuse or neglect. At this time it has been determined that they can safely remain in the home while receiving DCFS services. The family must be willing to accept and participate in corrective efforts to ensure that the child's protective needs are met. If the family does not comply with the corrective services, the court will take jurisdiction over the child and declare the child to be dependents of the court due to the presence of abuse or neglect.

Refined Definition of Who We Serve Cont.

- **Who is NOT considered “foster youth”**
- A child or youth who is in a “voluntary placement”
- A child or youth who is living with relatives or friends and who is not a dependent of the court
- **Kin-GAP** - Kin-GAP is a program that provides a subsidy for children who leave the dependency court system to live with a legal guardian who is related to the child (e.g., grandparent, uncle, aunt, etc.). The child once had an open court case that is now closed.

Foster Youth Achievement Program

FOCUS AREAS



AB 216 Updates

- An FYAP Lead Counselor is providing District-wide training on AB 167/216 for all secondary counselors
- A New Reference Guide for AB 167/216 has been created
 - Incorporates step by step directions for secondary counselors on identification of eligible youth, notification process, and documentation
 - Also includes AB 1806 for homeless youth
 - Draft completed by Pupil Services and submitted to Office of Curriculum, Instruction and School Support (OCISS) for approval
 - Projected completion: November 2015

Caregiver & Community Engagement

- FOCUS AREA THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:
 - Caregiver trainings in collaboration with Foster & Kinship Care Education with the local Community colleges
 - Responsible for coordination of resource fairs
 - FYAP newsletter that will be produced 2x a year
 - Collaborative Meetings with community agencies
 - Reproduction of FYAP promotional materials
 - Coordination of FYAP integration with SHHS

Caregiver & Community Engagement

- UPDATE:
 - Participated in 9 Foster & Kinship Care Caregiver trainings to date with positive results
 - Increased numbers of Caregivers reached
 - Staff booths at 5 resource fairs by November
 - Beginning to work on FYAP integration with SMH and other SHHS units

Youth Engagement

Foster Youth Outdoor Educational Camp

GOALS:

- Give foster youth an opportunity they may not otherwise experience; nature, wildlife
- Outdoor educational & recreational program

SERVED:

- Last Year: 3 camps, 240 foster youth

UPCOMING:


- Upcoming Winter Camp: December 4, 5, 6, 2015
- Upcoming Spring Camp: Dates TBD

Los Angeles Unified School District | Student Health and Human Services | Pupil Services | Foster Youth Achievement Program


Who wants to go to camp?

Have FUN while you LEARN!

FREE for Foster Youth Achievement Program Students



Clear Creek Outdoor Education Center
Angeles National Forest



3 Day Overnight Trip
December 4, 5, 6
2015-2016
4th, 5th and 6th graders

Questions?

Counselor Name: _____ Phone: _____

213-241-3552

Youth Engagement Fostering Education Youth Council



Due to the positive feedback surrounding the launching of the Fostering Education Youth Council, and to reach more students, the decision was made to move the councils to the schools.

Youth Councils will now be provided in high schools that are highly impacted with foster youth and will be supported by school based Foster Youth Counselors.

The curriculum will include:

- College Timelines and Resources, Senior Package
- ILP, Rights of foster youth (AB216, 490, 12), Educational Rights Holder
- Attorneys and CSWs (Who they are, and service they provide)
- Transition/Aging out of Foster Care,
- Housing, Extension of Foster Care to age 21

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Questions and Answers



FOSTER YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

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