

STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!



DEFINITION

In the State of California a "foster youth" is defined as a youth who is currently the subject of a petition filed in the dependency court and is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Youth who are declared dependents or "wards" of the dependency court have an "open court case" and are supervised by child welfare agencies. A foster youth may be living in a foster home, group home, with biological parents or relatives, or under court supervision. This may also include dependents of the court of a tribal organization as well as youth with DCFS to voluntary placement agreements.

IDENTIFICATION

To help identify and support our students in foster care, a student's information on if they have an "open court case", may be shared between child welfare agencies (such as Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and LAUSD).

SCHOOL OF ORIGIN

Students have the right to remain at the last school enrolled, the school attended when their court case opened, any school attended in the last 15 months, or their school of residence. They also have the right to remain in the school and District as long as their court case is open (for elementary/middle school, the right extends until the end of the school year in which the case closes; and for high school, it extends until high school graduation).

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation assistance can be provided by a caregiver or foster parent and financial assistance may be provided through DCFS. Be sure to ask an SSS counselor about options for using an LAUSD school bus route, or TAP cards for public transportation.

ENROLLMENT

Students have a right to immediate enrollment in school even if they are unable to produce records normally required for enrollment such as transcripts, other education records, medical records including immunizations, or proof of residency. The youth also have a right to attend school even if they do not have uniforms or other supplies required by the school.

CREDITS/GRADES

Partial credits must be accepted by a school based on "weeks of enrollment", regardless of whether or not a student completed the semester at their previous school. A student may maintain grades and credits earned from a previous school placement, even if they transferred mid-semester.

GRADUATION

Graduation exemptions are available if the student meets specific criteria. The student must have an "open court case" during a school change, is after the second year of high school, and not on track to graduate with District graduation requirements.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION/UCP

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment of a student in the foster care system, the student must be immediately enrolled, pending the resolution of the dispute and the [District Foster Youth Liaison](#) must be contacted. The District's [Uniform Complaint Procedures](#) (UCP) may be used to report noncompliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations and/or to appeal District decisions regarding such complaints. UCP brochures and complaint forms are available at all school sites and on the District's website at <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/3655>

ASSEMBLY BILL: 1806, 167, 216, 490; WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE: 300; EDUCATION CODE SECTIONS: 42238.01(B), 48204, 48645.5, 48647, 48853.5, 49085, 49069.5, 51225.1, 51225.2, 51225.3; EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)



**MORE
INFO**

<https://lausd.org/student-support-programs>

Student and Family Wellness Hotline

213-241-3840 (M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)