

CA Foster Youth Education Law Highlights

1987: The McKinney-Vento Act was originally passed in 1987 (It was brought to national attention from the Coalition for the Homeless).

2004: AB490 Grants access to resources, extracurricular activities - child's best interest, least restrictive setting, and immediate enrollment – without delay for records, immunizations, fines etc.

2004: SB 578 School must calculate, issue, and accept check out grades and full or partial credits for all work satisfactorily completed before transferring schools.

2009: AB167 Allows foster youth to graduate with state requirements, vs. district requirements - student must meet criteria. Revised in 2012 renaming the Bill **AB 216** (cleaned up criteria).

2010: AB 1933 Brought school of origin to the forefront to address the transient nature of foster placement – that typically result in education-related problems, including a loss of school credits, a loss in education attainment, and a delay in earning a high school diploma. Studies show that high school students who change schools even once are less than 50 percent as likely to graduate from high school as those students who do not change schools.

2013: Uninterrupted Scholars Act allows access to school records without parental consent.

2013: AB 1909 ensures that those with authority over educational decisions are informed of serious disciplinary action.

2014: AB643 Child Welfare Agencies may share records with individuals or agencies working to address a foster youth's education needs.

2016: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): (PL 114-95) was enacted on December 10, 2016 reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and replaces No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. ESSA requires State and Local Education Agencies to collaborate with state and Local Child Welfare Agencies and envisions dual-responsibility to support foster youth educational success.

2017: SB 12 creates a plan to identify youth filing their FAFSA using an automated system. Requires case plans to identify the person who will assist the youth with their applications.

2017: AB 766 allows youth to reside in a dorm or college housing as a modified SILP.

2017: SB233 allows the caregiver to access student records, even if they do not hold education rights and the ed. rights holder information in the child case plan.