

FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATING PROGRAM

The Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program is fully funded by a grant from the California Department of Education. The purpose of this grant is to build the capacity of our 23 districts and assist them in increasing educational outcomes for foster youth in Riverside County.

We can support districts in increasing educational outcomes for foster youth by:

DATA

We can assist with identifying foster youth, tracking student transitions, and supporting school stability.

LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) DEVELOPMENT

We can partner on the development of goals and actions specific to unique needs of foster youth.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Deliver training and staff development on a variety of topics tailored to the specific needs of the district or agency related to defining, interpreting, and applying legislation as well as trauma-informed practices. Provide technical assistance and support related to the policies and practices.

FOSTER YOUTH LEGISLATION

Review district policies and procedures to ensure compliance with foster youth laws.



COLLEGE CONNECTION PROGRAM

The Riverside Community College (RCC) and the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) College Connection program is designed to provide individualized educational and transitional support services to foster, neglected, and at-risk youth who attend RCOE's community schools, detention facility programs, and reside in foster and short-term residential therapeutic programs throughout Riverside County. The RCC Student Resource Specialist (SRS) engages youth ages 12–21, and identifies appropriate pathways for students to obtain their high school diploma or California High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) by the age of 19. The RCC SRS also provides an appropriate post-secondary transition plan that includes academic resources, linkage to community colleges, career mapping with identified career and technical training, and job placement. The RCC SRS's periodic follow-up is to ensure student success in obtaining program objectives.

FOSTER YOUTH FAFSA CHALLENGE

Riverside County Office of Education participates in the California Foster Youth Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Challenge. The California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge, led by John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) in partnership with the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), is a statewide campaign to increase the number of foster youth who are prepared for success as they matriculate from high school into college by ensuring that foster youth are accessing financial aid. The Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program works closely with all 23 Riverside County districts to provide them with up to date student lists, completion status reports, guidance and support needed for the district to successfully submit FAFSAs for all youth in foster care.



Division of Student Programs and Services
Alternative Education
Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program

FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATING PROGRAM



MISSION: To maximize educational success of students in foster care by partnering with districts to build their capacity in an effort to increase educational outcomes, ensure equity, and equal access for all Riverside County foster youth.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATIONAL LIAISON PROGRAM (ELP)

This project is a joint effort between the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Riverside County Office of Education, Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program. DPSS and RCOE have collaborated together to provide educational advocacy services through the use of the Educational Liaison model.

The ELP is a comprehensive interagency program designed to:

- Support social workers and school districts in identifying and obtaining appropriate educational services for children in the foster care system.
- Address the educational needs of foster youth, assure foster youth get the support needed in order to be successful in school, and facilitate the proper enrollment into appropriate educational programs in Riverside County.
- Provide services to local school districts, group homes, and parents on a referral basis. The educational liaison can assist with all educational issues because they are cross-trained in education and child welfare laws and procedures.
- Assist with educational placements, enrollment, and checkout from school.
- Attend meetings related to the student's educational program (For example: Child/Family Team Meetings, Team Decision Meetings, SST, IEP, 504, suspension, expulsion, etc.).
- Educational consultation, case management, and recommendations.
- Agency and district training.



SERVICES PROVIDED by the Riverside County Office of Education, Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program

- Assistance with reviewing CALPADS 5.7 reports for foster youth.
- Assistance in mediation between group homes, school districts, and/or placing agencies.
- Verification of foster youth status (CWS/CMS).
- Collaboration with county departments and agencies, including local colleges and Independent Living Programs.
- Training for all stakeholders on critical issues, including educational rights, legal mandates, and other school related topics.
- Guidance to districts on meeting the requirements of the ESSA Transportation requirements for foster youth.
- Facilitate disputes that arise among agencies financially responsible for ESSA transportation.

DIFFERENTIATED ASSISTANCE

RCOE's Division of Educational Services and Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program, work together to provide support as collaborative partners to districts who qualify for differentiated assistance based on the foster youth student group performance level indicators on the California School Dashboard.



TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

- AB 490 (School stability/school of origin)
- AB 216 (Minimum state graduation requirements)
- Laws and regulations related to the education and welfare of foster youth
- Understanding the needs of foster youth
- Understanding the child welfare system
- College transition of foster youth (California Chafee Grant, Guardian Scholars, College Application Process, and FAFSA)
- Trauma informed practices
- Sharing of best practices (Districts and other county offices)
- Building a district-wide foster youth mentoring team

HELPFUL LINKS

THRIVE

www.oakgrovecenter.org/causes/thrive

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE PATHWAYS

www.cacollegepathways.org

JOHN BURTON ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

www.jbaforyouth.org

CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION (CYC)

www.calyouthconn.org

IFOSTER

www.ifoster.org

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

www.kids-alliance.org

VOICES FOR CHILDREN (CASA)

www.speakupnow.org/riverside-county-initiative