

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 youth who attend RCOE's 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 16–21, 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 FYSCP school counselors work 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 complete FAFSAs for all youth in foster care. Our county goal is to reach 100% FAFSA completion for all foster youth. We appreciate the support of our districts in reaching this goal.



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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DPSS Contracted EDUCATIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT (ECM) PROGRAM

This project is a result of the partnership between the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP). DPSS has contracted with the RCOE's FYSCP to provide educational advocacy services through the use of an ECM.

Student Referral Process: As outlined in the DPSS contractual agreement, students are identified and referred for services by the DPSS staff. Services are provided to newly detained students or students experiencing a change of placement.

ECM is a comprehensive interagency program designed to create stability for newly detained and students experiencing a change of placement by:

- Being a liaison between the caregiver and the school to facilitate communication between all stakeholders involved in student's case.
- Collaborating with district staff and the caregiver to increase caregiver's involvement in school. Ensuring the caregiver has access to and knows how to utilize the district's student information system parent portal.
- Assess educational needs and support caregivers in obtaining appropriate school and community services for children in foster care to ensure academic success.
- Evaluate and increase school connectedness.
- Support, encourage, and remove barriers for students interested in participating in extracurricular activities such as clubs and sports in an effort to increase school engagement.
- Support 12th grade students in exploring and applying for post-secondary options and financial aid.
- Collaborate with district counselors to ensure that eligible students have been identified and evaluated for AB 216.



SERVICES PROVIDED

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

- Assistance with reviewing CALPADS 5.7 reports for foster youth.
- 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.
- Executive Advisory Council (EAC) Meetings designed based on district feedback featuring presentations by districts on best practices, agency news from DPSS, Probation, and Behavioral Health. Council members provide valuable feedback on the local needs of foster youth as well as determining the direction the FYSCP will take for each grant cycle.
- Guidance to districts on meeting the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (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 as collaborative partners to provide comprehensive support to districts eligible for differentiated assistance based on the foster youth student group performance level indicators on the California School Dashboard.

Differentiated assistance supports are tailored to meet the unique needs of the eligible district. The FYSCP serves as a thought partner for districts by providing support in:

- Root cause analysis
- Review of district data to determine areas of strength and opportunity for growth
- Capacity building by training staff to meet the needs specific to foster youth

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

provided by our FYSCP Counselors

- 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, FAFSA).
- Trauma informed practices.
- Sharing of best practices (districts and other county offices).
- Building a district wide foster youth mentoring team.
- Other trainings as requested by districts.

Please refer to our FYSCP website for additional trainings provided by contracted agencies.

EVENTS

The FYSCP partners with districts, SBCSS, the Department of Social Services and post-secondary institutions to provide events

- Annual Dual County Foster and Homeless Youth Summit, a partnership with SBCSS
- Expanding Horizons: The next Chapter, a partnership with SBCSS
- College and Career Events

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.calyouthissue.org

iFOSTER www.ifoster.org

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS www.kids-alliance.org

VOICES FOR CHILDREN (CASA) www.speakupnow.org/riverside-county-initiative