



Educational Rights of Foster Youth

Do I have educational rights as a foster youth?

Yes. You have the right to receive an equal education and participate in the same extracurricular activities as other students your age. Remember that all educational and school placement decisions must be made with your best interests in mind.

How can I be sure that the school and my placement have all my educational information?

Your social worker should provide the placement and school with your educational information as soon as possible.

- Your case plan should have: school records; Individual Education Plans; health information; grade level and academic performance; the number of school transfers you have experienced; graduation credits you have earned so far; and other information about your education.

Can I keep going to the same school even though my placement changed in the middle of the year?

Yes. The school you are enrolled in when your placement is changed must allow you to continue attending school there for the rest of the academic year if possible, and placement changes should be made with your education in mind. If there is a disagreement about which school you should be attending, you have the right to stay at your current school until the issue is solved.

Can my new school refuse to let me enroll because I don't have the right paperwork or clothes?

No. The new school must let you enroll right away. This is true even if: (1) you still have fees, fines, textbooks, or other items due at your last school; (2) are unable to show them your records; or (3) don't have the school uniform required to enroll.

Can my teacher give me a bad grade because I missed class because I changed placement or had go to a court hearing?

No. Your grades may not be lowered because you were absent from school due to a change in placement, going to a court hearing or any other court-related activity. You must be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during these absences and must be given full credit for your work.

Graduation Requirements

Have you have transferred between schools during your junior or senior year of high school?

If so, you **MAY** only need to complete California's minimum graduation requirements.

- Many school districts have more graduation requirements than the state minimum. These added graduation requirements are different from district to district. It is hard, and sometimes impossible, for foster youth who change placements during their junior or senior year to fulfil the additional graduation requirements at their new school.
- If you transferred between schools during your junior or senior year of high school, you may only be required to meet the school district's additional graduation requirements if the school district believes that you are reasonably able to complete the additional graduation requirements by the end of your fourth year of high school.
- Also, if the school district determines that you can reasonably complete the additional graduation requirements by your 5th year of high school, the district may give you the option to do so.