

What Students Need to Know About Their Education



HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Foster Youth Services Program

**Take responsibility for your
future through education!**

Introduction

This booklet is written to help students in foster care understand important laws related to their education, high school requirements and information about post-secondary opportunities.

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Acknowledgement:

This booklet was adopted with permission from San Diego County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Program

Rights & Regulations

Know the Law

AB 490

Foster Youth are allowed to enroll in school immediately, without education transcripts or health records

- Foster Youth can earn Partial Credits when transferring between schools mid semester
- Foster Youth can remain in their school of origin
- All school districts must have a Foster Youth Liaison
- School grades cannot be lowered due to participation in court related activities

AB 1858

- Foster youth may not be mandated to attend a Non Public School as a condition of placement in a group home.

AB 167

Exempts foster youth who transfer schools or school districts in eleventh or twelfth grade from local graduation requirements if they would not be able to reasonably meet these extra requirements.

**TO RECEIVE A FULL OUTLINE OF YOUR
EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS UNDER CALIFORNIA STATE LAW AB
490, CONTACT HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM AT (707) 445-5238.**

You can also view the websites listed below:

<http://www.humboldt.k12.ca.us>

<http://humboldt.k12.ca.us/sps/fyhs>

<http://fosteredconnect.org>

Responsibilities

Information about credits

- Credits toward graduation are accumulated from 9th-12th grade
- In most districts each class is worth 5 credits per semester totaling 230 credits to graduate
- You need to complete classes with a passing grade of “D-” or better
- In some districts community service hours are required for graduation
- CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) and Algebra 1 are two additional requirements to graduate

Take responsibility for your education ask your High School Counselor questions

- What are the graduation requirements?
- What coursework is required?
 - Core classes
 - Senior Project
 - Community Service
- What is the credit system?
- What dates will the CAHSEE be given?
- Go to the Humboldt County Office Education’s website <http://www.humboldt.k12.ca.us> to find useful resources and links to your school district. Click on: Humboldt County Schools and Districts to locate your district

Keep your High School Counselor Informed

- Tell them when you know you are changing school placements
- Tell them when you need additional help and resources
- Tell them what you plan to do after high school

Keep track of your transcript:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| • Credit accumulation | • Test records |
| • School history | • Shot records |
| • Classes taken | |

Definitions for types of high school exit awards

Diploma

Awarded to:

- Students who have met all general education requirements for graduating
- Completed all required coursework
- Passed the CAHSEE (Please see section on CAHSEE below for more information)
- Completed Algebra 1
- Students who have an IEP and have completed all required coursework, but did not pass one or both sections of the CAHSEE.

Certificate of Completion

Awarded to students who have completed all required coursework and graduation requirements but have not passed one or both sections of the CAHSEE.

What is the CAHSEE?

California High School Exit Exam

- Purpose of the CAHSEE is to improve student achievement and ensure students graduate with ability to utilize skills in reading, writing, and mathematics.
- The CAHSEE is divided into two parts:
 - English Language
 - Math
 - A Score of 350 is required in each section for passing

Students can take the CAHSEE:

- 10th grade 1 time
- 11th grade up to 2 times
- 12th grade up to 3 times

This may include taking the test after all graduation requirements have been met but a portion of the test has not been passed

- For more information about the CAHSEE, checkout the California Department of Education's website
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs>

Graduation Options

What are the Other Options?

California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE)

- This test is a legal equivalent of a California High School Diploma
- The test is given 3 times a year
- You must be:
 - 16 years of age or older
 - Enrolled in 10th grade for one academic year or longer
- Minors under 18 are required to attend school after passing the exam unless given written consent by a parent or legal guardian
- The test consists of two sections:
 - Language Arts
 - Math
- This document is acceptable for employment throughout California, but may not be recognized in other states
- Military acceptance varies
- There is a registration fee for the test
- Please check ***www.chspe.net*** for more information

General Education Development - (GED)

- The GED test and preparation classes are free and offered at most adult education schools
- You must be 17 years and 10 months to take the test
- The GED is designed to measure skills associated with four years of regular high school instruction
- GED test consists of four sections:
 - Language Arts
 - Social Studies
 - Science
 - Math
- The GED is nationally recognized for the purpose of employment
- There is a registration fee for the test
- For more information go to: ***www.redwoods.edu/eureka/asc/gedtesting.asp***
- The National Foster Parent Association will help pay for the cost of the GED

National Foster Parent Association

7512 Stanich Lane, #6

Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Telephone: (253) 853-4000 or (800) 557-5238

Fax: (253) 853-4001 Website: ***http://www.nfpainc.org***

Financial Aid

What are the types of Financial Aid?

Grants: Do not need to be repaid

Scholarships: Do not need to be repaid

Work Study: Student earns portion of school cost while working for the attending school

Loans: Borrowed money that must be repaid

What Is The FAFSA?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Important Things to Remember:

- Make sure to read all instructions carefully
- Apply early, priority deadline is always March 2nd of every year
- This is your first step in the financial aid process to determine eligibility for:
 - Pell Grant
 - Work Study Opportunities
 - Student Loans
- Make sure you check “yes” on question #53
- For more information go to: ***www.fafsa.ed.gov***

California Student Aid Commission

Provides grant funding for the State of California called Cal Grants

You apply for a CAL Grant with a GPA verification form through your school counseling office. Talk with your counselor about how to obtain this information. You must fill out a FAFSA to be considered for a CAL Grant.

All CAL Grants are based on financial need.

There are four CAL Grant awards:

- **CAL GRANT A:** 3.0 – 4.0 GPA
- **CAL GRANT B:** 2.0 – 4.0 GPA
- **CAL GRANT C:** This grant has NO minimum GPA requirement and can be used for vocational programs

For more information log onto: ***www.csac.ca.gov***

Grants & Scholarships

Board of Governors Grant Waiver

Referred to as the BOGG or the BOGW this waiver applies to income eligible community college students. This is for California community colleges only and it will cover tuition fees and costs. You can find out more at the admission and financial aid offices at any California community college.

www.cccapply.org/BOG_Waiver

Why apply for scholarships?

Scholarships are free money for college. There are several ways to qualify for scholarships:

- Academics
- Ethnicity
- Sports
- Music
- Financial need
- And much, much, more

You'll be surprised how many organizations want to help you to further your education through college and job training programs.

- Humboldt Area Foundation: <http://www.hafoundation.org>
- College of the Redwoods: www.redwoods.edu
- Humboldt State University: www.humboldt.edu

Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Websites

Free Scholarship Search Websites

Never pay money for scholarship searches. There are plenty of free places to search!

Here are a few:

www.collegeanswer.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

www.gocollege.com

Scholarships for Foster Youth

Child Abuse Prevention Foundation:

www.capfsd.org

National Foster Parent Association:

www.nfpainc.org

Orphan foundation:

www.orphan.org

Chafee Grant Program:

www.chafee.csac.ca.gov

Dollars for Scholars foster opportunities:

www.californiadollarforscholars.org

NOTES

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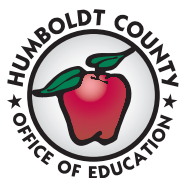
California Foster Youth Education Task Force Education Rights	California Foster Youth Education Task Force Education Rights
<p>Under CA law (AB 490), foster youth have the right to:</p> <p>SCHOOL STABILITY: remain in their original school when they enter foster care or move (if in their best interests);</p> <p>IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT: be immediately enrolled in a new school (even without health/education records);</p> <p>PARTIAL CREDIT: receive partial or full credit for work completed at other schools (all students have this right);</p> <p>FAIRNESS: not be punished for court-related absences.</p> <p>For more information, see www.abanet.org/child/rcfji/eduCAtion/ab490.html or CA Ed. Code §§ 48850-48853.5; 49076(11)</p>	<p>Under CA law, schools must:</p> <p>IMMEDIATELY ENROLL foster youth (even without uniforms, health/education records);</p> <p>TRANSFER RECORDS to a child's new school within 2 business days;</p> <p>ALLOW county placing agencies to access students' records.</p> <p>Local education agencies must: DESIGNATE an AB 490 educational liaison for every district and county office of education to help foster youth directly.</p> <p>For more information, please contact your local foster youth education liaison. You can find your local liaison's contact info at: www.cde.ca.gov/42687 or contact National Center for Youth Law: 510.835.8098</p> <p>Youth Law Center: 415.543.3379</p> <p><i>Produced with the support of Casey Family Programs.</i></p>

For More Information contact

Humboldt County Office of Education
Foster Youth Services Program

Humboldt County Office of Education
901 Myrtle Ave
Eureka, CA 95501-1219

(707) 445-7187



**Humboldt County
Office of Education**

www.humboldt.k12.ca.us

Del Norte High School	707-464-0260
McKinleyville High School	707-839-6400
Arcata High School	707-825-2400
Hoopla High School	530-625-5600
Eureka High School	707-441-2508
Ferndale High School	707-786-5900
Fortuna High School	707-725-4461
South Fork High School	707-943-3144
Humboldt County Office of Education Court/Community Schools	707-445-7108