

Frequently Asked Questions- Foster Youth

Enrollment and Records

1. How do I know where to enroll my student who is in foster care?

Contact the Office of Enrollment, Permits and Student Records at 626-396-3639 or click on School Locator on the District's Home Page <https://www.pusd.us>

2. Are there any restrictions on enrolling students in foster care in specific schools?

No, but check with Office of Enrollment, Permits and Student Records at 626-396-3639.

3. What if a student in foster care wants to attend a school other than his/her school of residence?

Students who wish to attend a school other than the school of residence can apply during the annual Open Enrollment-School of Choice process. For more information, contact the Office of Enrollment, Permits and Students Records at 626-396-3639 or visit <http://2017openenrollment.info> for information on Open Enrollment, important dates and how to find your school of residence.

4. Is it possible to enroll my student in foster care at the same school as other children in my family?

Yes. For more information, contact the Office of Enrollment, Permits and Student Records at 626-396-3639.

5. Do I need my student in foster care's immunization record and birth certificate to enroll him/her?

No

6. If the new school does not have a copy of my student in foster care's Individual Education Plan (IEP), do I have to wait for the IEP meeting to enroll him/her?

No, but required documents should be provided within two business days before a student can be placed in a Special Education Program. For further information, please contact the Office of Child Welfare, Attendance and Safety at 626-396-3600 Extension 88230.

7. Who is responsible for transferring my student in foster care's records to PUSD?

The educational rights holder or the child's social worker.

8. Do I have the right to see the school records of my student in foster care?

Yes.

9. Can a school district refuse to forward my student in foster care's school records to a new school because the student has an outstanding debt (such as a library fine)?

No.

Transportation

1. Does the District provide transportation to school for students in foster care?

Yes, if it is specified in their IEPs. For further information, please contact the Office of Child Welfare, Attendance and Safety at 626-396-3600 Extension 88230.

2. Does the District provide transportation for students in foster care for after school activities such as sports and choir?

Yes, if it is specified in their IEP. For more information contact the Office of Child Welfare, Attendance and Safety at 626-396-3600 Extension 88230.

3. Does the District provide transportation to summer school for students in foster when extended school activities are specified in the students' IEP'?

Yes. For more information contact the Office of Child Welfare, Attendance and Safety at 626-396-3600 Extension 88230.

4. Does the District provide transportation to the school of origin for students in foster care?

Yes, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the student. Contact your social workers or the Office of Child Welfare, Attendance and Safety at 626-396-3600 Extension 88230.

Charter Schools:

Charters are public schools and as such are mandated to provide the same services as any other public school and cannot discriminate.

1. Do I have the right to enroll my student in foster care in a charter school?

Yes

2. If a charter school has capacity, does it have the right to refuse to accept my student in foster care?

No

3. Is the charter school required to provide all of the same the services to my student in foster care that the district is required to provide?

Yes

4. What if my student in foster care has an IEP? _Is the charter school required to provide all the services included in the IEP?

Yes

Student placement

1. What do I do if I do not receive a Health and Education Passport for my student in foster care at the time he or she is placed in my home?

Contact the child's social worker.

2. What do I do if the information in the child's Health and Education Passport is inaccurate or incomplete?

Contact the child's social worker or the social worker's supervisor. If you are not sure how to contact the social worker's supervisor, contact the appropriate Office of the Department of Children and Family Services at the link below_ and ask for their contact information: <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/contactus/locations.html>

3. Who do I contact for my information about my student in foster care's placement at school?

It depends on the student's grade. If the child is in elementary or middle school, you should meet with his/her teacher. If the child is in high school, you should meet with his/her counselor.

4. How can I know if my student in foster care has been placed in the appropriate classes at school?

It depends on the student's grade level. If the child is in elementary or middle school, you should meet with his/her teacher. If the child is in high school, you should meet with his/her counselor.

5. What if after meeting with the teacher or counselor, I still do not believe my child has been placed in the appropriate classes?

Meet with the school's principal. If your concern is still not resolved, you can contact the Foster Care Liaison in the Office of Child Welfare Attendance and Safety at 626-396-3600 x 88230.

6. How can I know if my high school student in foster care has received credit for work done in other Districts?

Meet with the student's counselor to review his/her transcripts.

Educational Rights Holder

1. What is an Education Rights Holder?

- All students have Education Rights Holders.
- Educational Rights Holders are individuals with the legal authority to make educational decisions for students and to access the student's educational records.

2. Am I, as the foster parent, the Educational Right Holder for my student in foster care?

- No. Biological parents retain educational rights for their children unless the court limits or terminates their rights.

- When the education rights of the biological parents are terminated, the court appoints a new Educational Rights Holder.
- A foster parent, relative caregiver, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), or community member who has a relationship with the youth can be appointed as the Educational Right Holder.
- Youth hold their own education rights when they turn 18.

3. How are Educational Rights Holder selected?

- At each court hearing the judge must assess whether the student currently has an Educational Rights Holder. If so, the court must also determine whether the person is an appropriate Education Rights Holder. The Court may consider:
 1. If the biological parents whereabouts are unknown or if they are unreachable, unwilling or unable to serve as the educational rights holder
 2. If the biological parents are deceased or incarcerated
 3. If the current Educational Rights Holder is a previous foster parent who no longer wishes to be involved in the child's life/education.
- The youth's social worker, probation officer or legal representative can help in having an Educational Rights Holder appointed. In some counties, an attorney, guardian, or CASA representative can be appointed as the student's Education Rights Holder.
- If an appropriate Education Rights Holder cannot be identified, the court must locate and appoint someone as the Educational Rights holder or make educational decisions itself.
- If the student has been referred for special education assessment, the school district can appoint a surrogate Education Rights Holder for the student.