

## **Foster Youth**

Education Code section 48850(a)(1) states that it is the intent of the Legislature to ensure all students in foster care, have a meaningful opportunity to meet the challenging state academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Section 48850 states that in fulfilling their responsibilities to foster care children, educators, county placing agencies (e.g., probation and social services departments), care providers, advocates and the juvenile court shall work together to maintain stable school placements and to ensure that each student is placed in the least restrictive educational program and has access to the academic resources, services and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all students.

The Palmdale School District Board understands that when it comes to succeeding in school, foster children face unique challenges and obstacles beyond those faced by even their most economically disadvantaged non-foster peers. Palmdale School District strives to help our students face their unique challenges and obstacles in the school setting.

### **Who is a foster youth?**

- Any child who is subject to juvenile court, whether or not they have been removed from his/her home
- Any child who is subject to juvenile court and has been placed in foster care under “suitable placement order”.

### **Resources and services available to our students:**

A review of the Palmdale School District data obtained over the course of seven years continues to place our district with the second highest foster youth enrollment in the Los Angeles County annually. In accordance to AB 490, PSD offers resources and services to assist our students who are currently in the foster care system. Below you will find a list of the programs and/or services offered to our foster youth.

- Tutoring
- Transportation (if eligible under school of origin and ESSA, following BID process)
- Field Trips
- Backpacks and school supplies
- Spirit wear
- School based mental health
- Assessments

In addition, Social Emotional Learning Specialists (licensed clinical social workers and/or licensed marriage and family therapists) and school counselors provide on-going support to our foster youth enrolled at middle schools.

- Weekly support groups for students
- Linkage to school based mental health services
- Foster parent support (including, parent support groups)
- Linkage to extracurricular activities
- Case management
- Educational counseling

- Collaboration with outside agencies

**Foster youth have rights:**

Every foster youth under the age of 18 must have an educational rights holder, who is required to make education decision in the youth's best interest. It is important to know your student's educational rights holder. If you need information about your student's educational rights holder, you can contact your social worker or attorney.

Foster youth also have the right to:

- Remain in school of origin
- Immediate enrollment in school
- School discipline rights

**For questions or concerns regarding a foster youth, contact:**

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