

# ON-LINE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

## General Information

**National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues: Education Issues** - helpful websites and documents on information sharing and other issues, including examples of MOUs and interagency agreements between education and social services agencies.

<http://www.abanet.org/child/rcjji/education>

**National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: Education Checklist**

<http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/572/432>

## Information Sharing

**Mythbusting: Breaking Down Confidentiality and Decision-Making Barriers to Meet the Education Needs of Children in Foster Care**, by: Kathleen

McNaught, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law through support from Casey Family Programs (February 2006) -- Ever struggle to gain access to education records? Are you ever unsure what education information can be shared, and with whom, when a child is in foster care? Ever tried to determine who in a child's life is responsible for making education decisions? This publication answers common questions by individuals involved with the child welfare system, including judges, children's attorneys, parents, foster parents, youth, caseworkers, and court appointed special advocates (CASAs).

<http://www.abanet.org/child/rcjji/education/caseyeducationproject.pdf>

## Educational Rights of Foster Youth in California (AB 490)

**Ensuring Educational Rights and Stability for Foster Youth: Assembly Bill 490 Training and Implementation Materials**

[http://www.ylc.org/old\\_site/AB490materials.htm](http://www.ylc.org/old_site/AB490materials.htm)

**Foster Youth Education Fact Sheets (California)**

<http://www.youthlaw.org/downloads/EducationFactSheets.pdf>

**California Youth Connection** - The educational rights page details some of the important educational rights foster youth have after AB 490. The CYC website is also a good all-around resource for foster youth.

<http://www.cal youthconn.org/site/cyc/content.php?type=1&id=90>

**Foster Care Ombudsman Program - California** - responds to complaints from foster youth on a variety of issues, including violations of educational rights.  
<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov>

### **California Department of Education:**

**DATAQUEST:** a great source for finding data about individual schools and school districts, including enrollment, demographics, test scores, school staffing, dropouts, CAHSEE: subject area/courses, student misconduct and interventions.  
<http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

**Foster Youth Services** - includes general information regarding Foster Youth Services, including contact lists for all Foster Youth Services Program Coordinators and AB 490 Educational Liaisons and links to foster care/education-related publications.  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy/>

**No Child Left Behind** - includes general information and various links concerning California schools that have not made “adequate yearly progress” under No Child Left Behind and have been designated for “program improvement.” Depending on the number of years in “program improvement” status, schools may be obligated to provide “supplemental service” to eligible students.  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ti/programimprov.asp>

## **Ensuring Successful High School Graduation and Access to Higher Education**

**EdSource Online** - excellent website for information on California Education Policy, News, and Data. Here are a few of things you can find on EdSource,  
<http://www.edsource.org>

**High School and Beyond Overview** – explaining some of the issues youth face in achieving higher education and vocational training in California, [http://www.edsource.org/edu\\_hig.cfm](http://www.edsource.org/edu_hig.cfm).

**Questions and Answers about California Colleges and Universities** – resources to help students decide whether Community College, California State University, or University of California is right for them.  
[http://www.edsource.org/pub\\_qa\\_college05.cfm](http://www.edsource.org/pub_qa_college05.cfm)

**A Guide to UC Admissions Policies** – details courses and tests youth need to be admitted to a UC School. <http://www.edsource.org/pdf/UCs.pdf>

**A Guide to CSU Admissions Policies** - details courses and tests youth need to be admitted to a CSU School.

<http://www.edsource.org/pdf/CSUs.pdf>

**A Guide to California's Community Colleges**- details what community colleges are like and how to apply.

<http://www.edsource.org/pdf/GuidetoColleges.pdf>

**California's New Merit Based Scholarships** – explains the new Governor's Scholars Program that awards merit scholarships based on math and science standardized test scores.

[http://www.edsource.org/pdf/guide\\_merit.pdf](http://www.edsource.org/pdf/guide_merit.pdf)

**High School Exit Exam** - Information about the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE).

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs>.

**Free SAT Preparation** – sample tests and study guides available at these websites:

<http://www.number2.com/>

[http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep\\_one/prep\\_one.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/prep_one.html)

## **Financial Aid for College and Vocational Training**

**California Community Colleges** - financial assistance for Community College

<http://www.icanaffordcollege.com>

**National Foster Parent Association Youth Scholarships** - scholarships for foster youth who wish to further their education beyond high school, including college or university studies, vocational and job training, and correspondence courses, including the GED.

<http://www.nfpainc.org/awards/youthScholarships.cfm?page=6>

**National Child Welfare Resource Center** - website has a map of the US that allows you to click on individual states to obtain information about the state's Chafee plan and related information.

[http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/state\\_pages.shtml](http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/state_pages.shtml)

**United Friends of the Children** website provides information on scholarships and financial aid resources for current and former foster youth.

[http://www.unitedfriends.org/youthaccess/youth\\_res\\_scholarships.html](http://www.unitedfriends.org/youthaccess/youth_res_scholarships.html)

**Orphan Foundation of America** administers a number of scholarships for current and former foster youth.

<http://www.orphan.org>

**California Student Aid Commission** Programs list – this web page contains links on how to apply for different kinds of financial aid in California, including Chafee funds and Cal Grants.

<http://www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=33>

**Orphan Foundation** - State-specific information on how to apply for the Chafee Education and Training Vouchers for foster youth.

<https://www.statevoucher.org>

### **Special Programs for Foster Youth at California Colleges and Vocational Schools (Guardian Scholars)**

**Orangewood Children's Foundation** website provides a list of all the schools with Guardian Scholars programs and a description of the Guardian Scholars model.

<http://www.orangewoodfoundation.org/programs/GScholars.asp>

**California State Fullerton's Guardian Scholars** program recruits and supports foster youth who meet the eligibility requirements for Cal State Fullerton. The program includes year-round housing, financial aid assistance, peer and faculty mentoring, etc.

[http://www.fullerton.edu/guardianscholars/about\\_us.htm#program](http://www.fullerton.edu/guardianscholars/about_us.htm#program)

**UC Santa Cruz Renaissance Scholars Program** (based on the Guardian Scholars model) identifies and recruits prospective college-bound foster youth in high school, community college, and university. The program provides a variety of educational support services to help foster youth apply to UC Santa Cruz, find housing and financial aid, and achieve their academic goals.

<http://stars.ucsc.edu/renaissancescholars/>

**Guardian Scholars program at San Francisco State University.**

<http://www.sfsu.edu/~news/2005/fall/146.htm>

**Cal Poly Pomona** also has a **Renaissance Scholars** program similar to the Guardian scholars programs at other California colleges.

<http://www.dsa.csupomona.edu/studentervices/CSUFYC.asp>

### **Higher Education Policy Issues**

**Institute for Higher Education Policy's** publication, Higher Education Opportunities for Foster Youth: A Primer for Policy Makers

<http://www.ihep.org/Pubs/PDF/fosteryouth.pdf>