

Toolkit for Foster Youth Education Success

School of Origin

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Foster Youth Education Toolkit



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Why are you here?

You'll Learn:

1. School of origin rights of foster youth.
2. Best practices for implementing school of origin.

NOTE: When we refer to foster youth, that includes both foster youth with open dependency court cases and probation youth with open delinquency court cases.

Bettye – Youth Perspective



School of Origin



School Of Origin

Joey moved homes 18 months ago and his current caregiver would like him to return to his previous school, Franklin Elementary School.

- Is Franklin a SOO for Joey?
 - Yes
- Can Joey's CG make the decision about returning him to his SOO?
 - No
- Does she have a right to transportation reimbursement?
 - Yes
- If so, from who and how much?
 - Contact CSW to seek reimbursement
 - Amount depends on mileage

School Of Origin

Maria would like to go to school with the same neighborhood friends she had when she last lived with her parents in 5th grade, when she attended Washington Elementary School. Four years have past and all of those kids now attend Lincoln High School in the 9th grade.

- Does Maria have a right to go to Lincoln High School?
 - Yes

School Of Origin

Michael wants to return to Hoover High School, which he attended 13 months ago. Michael expressed feeling a connection there, to his football team and coach. His education rights holder is not exactly thrilled by this suggestion because Michael didn't pass all his classes while he was there.

- Is Hoover legally a SOO for Michael?
 - Yes

School Of Origin

Samantha just moved home with her parents but would like to return to her prior school, Madison Middle School.

- Can she?
 - Yes
- Would her parents have a right to transportation reimbursement assistance from the county child welfare agency?
 - No

School Of Origin

DeAndre has an IEP which requires that he be transported to Ford Elementary School since that is the only school in his district which has the SDC class he needs. He recently moved out of the district, to a neighboring district just 5 miles away. His education rights holder has looked at the SDC offered in the new district and doesn't like it as much as Ford.

- Can his education rights holder assert DeAndre's right to attend Ford as his SOO?
 - Yes
- Who pays for transportation?
 - The district where Ford is located is responsible for providing transportation, as required by the IEP, although Ford can work with the new district of residence to share costs.

Foster Youth Services

SACRAMENTO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



Sacramento County Office of Education

- Students in County: approximately 241,000
- Foster Youth (LCFF): approximately 1500
- Manages two multi-county databases that support foster youth education:
 - **Foster Focus** foster youth education database (used by 27 counties)
 - **School Connect** geographic foster placement and school site locator (used by 3 CPS agencies)

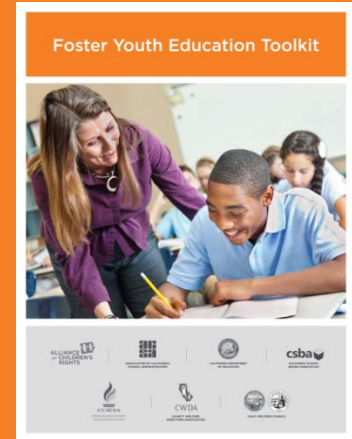
SOO Challenges

- No centralized data source for finding available placements near SOO
- How to create a data system considering
 - ✓ Bureaucracy
 - ✓ Time
 - ✓ Money
- Many stakeholders: CPS/Probation, districts, FFAs, group homes

SOO Strategies

- Leverage existing Foster Focus data system to pilot School Connect
- Leverage existing data sharing practices/partnerships in the county
- Involve stakeholders in the design of the system
- Create new fields needed to meaningfully describe placements and enable better matching
- Use geocoding technology/maps to search near schools
- Recognize that there are many ways to use data: Sacramento, Fresno, and Placer counties all use the system in different ways
- Embrace the importance of maintaining current, accurate data

Questions? Contact us



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