Toolkit for Foster Youth Education Success

Defining Foster Youth and Working with Education Rights Holders

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You’ll learn:

1. How Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and other foster youth education laws define “foster youth.”

2. Laws governing, and best practices for working with, education rights holders.
Local Control Funding Formula

• New Paradigm: Local Control a Moment of Opportunity

• Schools specifically accountable for improved outcomes for high need student populations, including foster youth.

• First time that schools have been specifically mandated or funded to show better outcomes for foster youth.
Key Precepts of LCFF

- Improved Outcomes
- Accountability and Transparency
- Equity
- Increased Resources for Higher Need
- Local Decision-making and Stakeholder Involvement

Improved Outcomes
So, who are foster youth?
Who are “foster youth”?

- Jose was placed in a group home by the delinquency court. His delinquency case is still open.
  - LCFF “foster youth”? – YES
  - AB 490 “foster youth”? – YES
Who are “foster youth”?

• Brianna is living with her biological parents in a “family maintenance” arrangement. A WIC § 300 case is open.
  
  – LCFF “foster youth”? 
  – YES 
  
  – AB 490 “foster youth”? 
  – YES
Who are “foster youth”?

• Calvin was adopted through the dependency system three months ago.

  – LCFF “foster youth”?
  – NO

  – AB 490 “foster youth”?
  – NO
Who are “foster youth”?

- Eric’s social worker came to his home and made an informal placement with his grandmother Eleanor, but did not open a dependency/WIC § 300 case.

- LCFF “foster youth”? NO
- AB 490 “foster youth”? NO
Who are “foster youth”? 

• Melanie has a delinquency case open, and has been sent home to live with parents.

  – LCFF “foster youth”?  
  – NO

  – AB 490 “foster youth”?  
  – YES
Who are “foster youth”?

• Maritsa’s aunt Maria is her legal guardian.

  – LCFF “foster youth”?  
  – It depends

  – AB 490 “foster youth”?  
  – It depends
Bettye – Youth Perspective
• YMCA Basketball Coach

  – Lawful?
  – Yes

  – Appropriate?
  – Maybe
Education Rights Holder

• Older sibling
  – Lawful?
  – Yes
  – Appropriate?
  – Maybe
• Incarcerated biological parent
  – Lawful?
    – Yes
  – Appropriate?
    – Maybe
Education Rights Holder

• Student’s teacher
  – Lawful?
  – No
  – Appropriate?
  – No
• Group home advocate
  – Lawful?
  – No
  – Appropriate?
  – No
You can find the toolkit and other helpful materials at:

kids-alliance.org/edtoolkit