

Excerpt from Los Angeles County's LCAP Year 2 Update Report (Entire Document can be accessed here: <https://youthlaw.org/publication/lcap-year-2-review/>)

Recommendations (Foster Youth LCAP Goals)

The Year 2 update of our review of Los Angeles County's LCAPs has shown that there continue to be large variations among districts' LCAPs in relation to specific supports for students in foster care. As LCFF moves towards its eight-year mark of becoming fully funded and implemented, we hope to see increased investments tailored for students in foster care. Strong partnerships between school districts, the County Office of Education's Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program, the County Department of Child Welfare Services, and community partners can be critical in supporting school districts in building capacity to better serve foster youth students through the following activities:

- Continuing to improve the data infrastructure necessary to more accurately identify and track foster youth, as well as share data and information among courts, child welfare, probation, and education agencies as necessary to support the educational success of students in foster care;
- Disaggregating and tracking of foster youth education outcome data, including setting baseline data and specific targets for improvement, and using foster-youth-specific outcome data to guide strategic investments tailored for students in foster care;
- Developing targeted policies and interventions to address educational challenges specific to foster youth, such as frequent school changes; gaps in attendance; lack of consistent educational support from a parent or caregiver; and the impact of trauma on learning.
- Developing and providing comprehensive training and resources for foster youth-specific staff at the school site and district level, as well as more generalized professional development opportunities for all educators and administrators on child welfare and foster care;
- Coordinating with the County Office of Education's Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program, the County Department of Child Welfare Services, the Department of Mental Health, etc., to ensure that programs and services for foster youth are complementary, and avoid redundancy and service gaps.

Resources

Several tools and resources are available to assist districts in addressing the educational needs of foster youth in their Year 3 and future LCAPs, including:

- Sample District LCAP for Foster Youth 2.0, developed by the Coalition for Educational Equity for Foster Youth and the California Foster Youth Education Task Force, available at <http://www.cfyetf.org/publications.html>.
- LCAP Sample Actions & Services from the Coalition for Educational Equity for Foster Youth, available at <http://www.cfyetf.org/publications.html>.
- A 'build your own' blueprint to assist districts in customizing LCAP provisions to the characteristics and needs of their local foster youth populations, developed by the Coalition for Educational Equity for Foster Youth, available at <http://www.cfyetf.org/publications.html>.
- A Foster Youth Education Toolkit of model district policies to implement foster youths' rights regarding enrollment, partial credits, graduation with state minimum requirements, etc. developed by the Alliance for Children's Rights, Association of California School Administrators, California Department of Education, California School Board Association, California Superintendent Educational Services Association, County Welfare Directors Association, and the Child Welfare Council, available at <http://kids-alliance.org/edtoolkit/>.
- Education Law Fact Sheets – 5th Edition, developed by the California Foster Youth Education Task Force, available at <http://www.cfyetf.org/publications.html>.

For more resources and support developing foster youth related LCAP goals please contact:

The Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program
Program Manager: Dolores Z. Daniel
(805) 964-4710 ext. 4415
ddaniel@sbceo.org