

Why Should We Care?

- There are over 68,000 children and youth in the state of California that are in foster care and who are at great risk for school failure. There are approximately 700 foster children and youth in out-of-home care in Ventura County.
- 83% of foster children are held back by the third grade.
- 46% do not complete high school
- 70% of emancipating teens report that they want to attend college, but fewer than 10% of those who graduate from high school enroll in college. Less than 1% graduate from college.
- Foster children as a group compared to their peers:
 - Function at a lower academic level
 - Exhibit more behavioral problems
 - Experience higher rates of mental illness
- Upon emancipation from foster care:
 - 65% of youth need immediate housing
 - 40-50% become homeless within 18 months
- 25% of former foster youth will be incarcerated within two years of emancipation.



Sources:

- <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports>
- *Honoring Emancipated Youth*: www.heysf.org

Ventura County School District Enrollment Contacts

Below is a listing of telephone numbers for each of the twenty school districts within Ventura County. Should you need information or assistance with the enrollment of a foster youth, call the district and ask to speak with the foster youth liaison.

<u>District</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Briggs Elementary	805-933-2254
Conejo Valley Unified	805-497-9511
Fillmore Unified	805-524-6034
Hueneme Elementary	805-488-3588
Mesa Union	805-485-1411
Moorpark Unified	805-378-6300
Mupu Elementary	805-525-0422
Oak Park Unified	818-735-3217
Ocean View Elementary	805-488-6421
Ojai Unified	805-640-4300
Oxnard Elementary	805-487-3918
Oxnard Union High	805-385-2801
Pleasant Valley Elementary	805-445-8675
Rio Elementary	805-485-3115
Santa Clara Elementary	805-525-4573
Santa Paula Elementary	805-933-8806
Santa Paula Union High	805-525-4406
Simi Valley Unified	805-306-4560
Somis Elementary	805-386-5711
Ventura Unified	805-641-5000

Ventura County Office of Education

805-437-1525

COUNTYWIDE FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM



Countywide Foster Youth Services Program

5189 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93012
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Ventura County Office of Education

*Stanley C. Mantooth,
County Superintendent of Schools*

Countywide Foster Youth Services Program

The Ventura County Office of Education's Student Services Branch administers the Countywide Foster Youth Services Program (FYS). This program has been receiving grant funding from the California Department of Education since 1999. FYS is designed to serve the unique educational needs of foster youth ages 4-21 years old. FYS serves as a community resource, providing referrals, school enrollment information and contacts, California foster legislation updates and trainings, and record transfers for foster children. FYS provides information and assistance to foster youth, schools, school districts, foster district liaisons, social workers, probation officers, community partners, and care providers.



The Ventura County Office of Education Countywide Foster Youth Services Program (FYS) has detailed information available regarding California Education Codes affecting the rights and privileges of foster children and youth, as well as telephone contacts in order to assist with school enrollment. If you need assistance, please feel free to call our office at **(805) 437-1525**.

The Countywide Foster Youth Services Program is designed to improve the quality of life and provide services for foster youth residing in Ventura County.

At FYS, our goals are to:

- Advocate for foster youth who are experiencing difficulty with enrollment, attendance, or academic success
- Provide or refer youth to appropriate tutoring and mentoring services.
- Consult with foster youth and their care providers about high school transcripts, career goals, and college entry requirements
- Provide workshops for foster youth and care providers regarding college planning, financial aid, and academic success strategies.
- Work with school district educational liaisons and personnel in identifying foster students and supporting their educational stability.
- Educate and sensitize our community concerning the plight of foster youth.
- Collaborate with other community-based organizations and social service agencies to provide quality services to foster youth.
- Track and improve pupil attendance, discipline, and grades in collaboration with local school districts and placing agencies.



AB490: Educational Rights and School Stability for Foster Youth

In 2004, California enacted legislation that gave new rights to foster youth pertaining to their education. This legislation stipulates that foster youth:

- Are immediately enrolled in school, even if no records are available
- Have access to the same educational resources and opportunities as all other youth
- Have a right to remain in their school of origin when they enter foster care or are moved between placements, if it is in their best interest to do so
- Receive partial credit for work completed at other schools
- Have their records transferred in a timely manner
- May remain in their school of origin pending the outcome of any school placement disputes

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Legislation

This federal legislation, reauthorized in 2002, provides education rights and protections for homeless youth similar to AB490. The definition of "homeless" includes foster youth awaiting placement in a foster or group home. Foster youth who are between stable placements will be granted school enrollment regardless of the availability of records. They may also be entitled to transportation to school.

Both laws require that each school district appoint a Liaison that will ensure foster and homeless youth are provided with the necessary supports and services to be successful in school. The Liaisons may be contacted at the numbers on the back of this brochure.