

Downey Unified School District

STUDENTS

FOSTER YOUTH STUDENTS

BP 2515

The Board of Education recognizes that foster youth are at greater risk for poor academic performance due to their family circumstances, disruption of their educational program, and emotional, social, and other health needs. The District shall provide such students with full access to the District's educational program and other support services necessary to assist them in achieving state and District academic standards.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that placement decisions for foster youth are based on the students' best interests as defined in law and administrative regulation. To that end, he/she shall designate a staff person as a District liaison for foster youth (Director of Student Services) to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.

The Superintendent or designee and District liaison shall ensure that all appropriate staff, including, but not limited to, each principal, school registrar, and attendance clerk, receive training/information regarding the enrollment, placement, and rights of foster youth.

The Board desires to provide foster youth with a safe, positive learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and promotes students' self-esteem and academic achievement. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to build students' feelings of connectedness with the school, including, but not limited to, strategies that promote positive discipline and conflict resolution, the development of students' resiliency and interpersonal skills, and the involvement of the parents of foster youth, group home administrators, and/or other caretakers in school programs and activities. This can include support to enable the youth to participate in extra-curricular activities, leadership positions, sports, and clubs.

To address the needs of foster youth and help ensure the maximum utilization of available funds, the Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with local agencies including, but not limited to, the county placing agency, social services, probation officers, juvenile court officers, nonprofit organizations, and advocates.