



YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS

February 11, 2019

TO: YPI Charter Schools
Board of Directors

FROM: Yvette King-Berg
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve YPICS Board Resolution 2019-2 Foster Care Youth Graduation Requirements.

BACKGROUND

Foster Youth Face Difficult Challenges. As of July 2008, there were 68,475 children in California's foster care system. Children in our state's foster care system often experience multiple residential placements and multiple changes in educational placements. The frequent changes in the lives of foster youth can have detrimental effects on their academic achievement.

Existing law was established by AB 167 (Adams), Chapter 224, Statutes of 2009. As AB 167 was going through the legislative process, it was amended in anticipation of a change in federal and state law that allows states to receive federal funding to provide services to foster youth up to age 21, instead of age 18 (or 19 for youth pursuing specified education-related goals). That change was enacted by AB 12 (Beall), Chapter 559, Statutes of 2010. To be consistent with the extended timeline for foster youth services, AB 167 was written to allow a district to deny an exemption to a transfer foster youth pupil if it finds that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for foster care benefits, or up to age 21 under the new law. This inadvertently allows districts to delay graduation for foster transfer youth beyond the normal graduation age of 18 or 19.

According to the author, "This has raised concerns that foster youth presented with having to pursue a fifth, sixth or even seventh year to high school to achieve their diploma could have the unintended consequence of incentivizing rather than disincentivizing a foster youth to drop out of high school. It can be daunting to face the possibility of additional years to meet a district's local graduation requirements, when s/he could have met the state's graduation requirements in their fourth year and graduated with their peers."

AB 216 changes this by allowing districts to deny an exemption *only* if they find that the pupil *can reasonably complete local requirements in time to graduate by the end of his or her fourth year of high school.*

ANALYSIS

Bert Corona Charter High School (BCCHS) has not had foster youth transfer in the middle of a high school career. However, we want to ensure that there is guidance from the board in the event that a student should ever transfer to BCCHS, and that there is a YPICS resolution in place to support the academic rights of foster Youth that aligns with most recent laws.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve YPICS Board Resolution 2019-2 Foster Care Youth Graduation Requirements