

DSS Policy and Procedure Guide

Division 03: Child Welfare

Chapter 14: Education

Item 007: **AB167-District Graduation Requirement Waiver for Foster Youth**

Suggested changes send to: [DSS Child Welfare QA](#)

Issued: **November 15, 2010**

References: AB167, California Foster Youth Education Task Force Frequently Asked Questions, Education Code 51225.3

Replaces Issue: New

Policy

Foster Youth who have moved to a new school district or another school within the same district during their 11th or 12th grade year may qualify for graduation under AB 167. They may be exempt from district graduation requirements if they would not be able to reasonably meet the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school while they remain eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law.

Purpose

To reduce the number of education-related problems incurred by pupils in foster care, and increase the graduation rate of foster youth.

Definitions

Pupil in Foster Care-one who has been removed from his/her home pursuant to WIC §309, is the subject of a petition filed under §300 or §602, or has been removed from his/her home and is the subject of a petition filed under WIC §300 or §602.

Procedure

Social Workers are to identify all pupils in foster care on his/her case load who have or will transition to a new school district or school in his/her junior or senior year of high school. (Grade determination shall be made by the school or the district)

- Social Worker shall notify the DSS Educational Liaisons of the pupil's name, DOB, school, grade and district. Email notification can be sent to [CWS Educational Liaisons](#)
- Social Worker shall also notify the school district's AB 490 District Educational Liaison of the above information. A list of District Liaisons can be found at: <http://www.fosteryouthservices.fcoe.net/>

Exception

If the school district determines the pupil in foster care is able to fulfill the district's requirements to graduate on time, the pupil must complete additional requirements.

CAHSEE

All regular education students must pass the CAHSEE. Special Education students may be eligible for the CAHSEE waiver.

Issuance of Waiver

If the student qualifies, the school district of attendance issues an AB 167 Waiver. The district must provide notice to the foster youth and educational rights' holder that the waiving of credits needed to graduate may affect the youth's ability to gain admission into post-secondary educational institutions.

State Standards

- 3 English Courses
- 2 Math Courses
- 2 Science Courses
- 3 Social Studies Courses (US History and Geography; World History, Culture, or Geography, one semester Economics; and one semester Government and Civics)
- 1 Visual or Performing Arts or Foreign Language Course
- 2 PE Courses
- A student must receive passing scores on both CAHSEE: English and math.

See California Education Code §51225.3(a) for specific requirements or go to the State website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/hsgrmin.asp>

Additional Assistance

For questions or additional assistance, you may email the [DSS Educational Liaisons](#).

For additional information, go to

http://www.clcla.org/Images/pdfs/pdfs_train_ed_law/AB_167_FAQ.pdf

for the California Foster Youth Education Task Force AB 167: Frequently Asked Questions list.

Read AB 167

http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0151-0200/ab_167_bill_20091011_chaptered.pdf