

# Who are Foster Children & Youth?

Foster children and youth are removed from their home for their own protection, because the child has been abandoned, abused, or neglected or because the child has violated the law. Placement may include a licensed children institution or foster family home.

Placement changes and frequent transitions make it difficult for foster children to receive the same rigorous curriculum, services, and opportunities offered to other children in public school.



## Educational Rights

- California law provides specific rights to foster children and youth
- The right to continue to attend the “school of origin” for the remainder of the school year following change in the foster family home or licensed children institution placement. “School of origin” is defined as: (a) the school in which the student was enrolled when permanently housed; (b) the school in which the student was last enrolled; or (c) if “a” and “b” are different, the school attended within the preceding 15 months.
- The right to transfer to a school other than the school of origin if the district liaison, parent/guardian, or other person holding educational rights determine the best interest of the youth would be served by this transfer.
- The right to receive a detailed written explanation before considering whether to waive the right to stay enrolled in the school of origin.
- The right to be enrolled immediately if transferred from the school of origin even if the specialized clothing or records normally required for enrollment are not available.
- The right to have all student records transferred to the new school within two business days.
- The right to have all educational decisions made in the foster youth’s best interest.
- The right to participate fully in all special programs and school activities for which the student is eligible.
- The right to not have his/her grades lowered if the student was absent from school due to court-ordered activities or decisions involving the student’s placement.
- The right to remain in the school of origin until any dispute over school placement is resolved.

# District Liaison: Foster Children & Youth

The District's liaison for foster children and youth has the following duties related to foster children and youth:

To help identify which students receive the rights and protections of state law.

To help ensure the proper educational placement, enrollment in and check out from school.

To help ensure students receive a full and equal opportunity to be successful in school.

To assist students, when transferring from one school to another or from one district to another, in receiving proper transfer of credits, records and grades, checking that records reflect full or partial credit for courses taken.

To consult with and advise the student and person holding educational rights when a change from the student's school of origin may be appropriate.

To contact the school last attended by the student to obtain all academic and other records, ensuring all records are provided within two days when receiving a request from the new school.



BAKERSFIELD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Student Services Department

*McKinney-Vento Program*

1300 Baker Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93305

**Our McKinney-Vento Team can be  
reached at: (661) 631-4910**

Suzanne Guest, District Liaison at Ext. 13022

Karen Luque, Clerk at Ext. 13020

Stephanie Saucedo  
Family and Community Engagement Liaison  
at Ext. 13021 / Cell. (661) 319-8162

Idulia Torres (Julie)  
Family and Community Engagement Liaison  
at Ext. 13023 / Cell. (661) 205-2799

Amy Burdick, Coordinator  
Student Services

Dr. Tim Fulenwider, Director  
Instructional Support Services

The Bakersfield City School District (BCSD) is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education and in employment. BCSD prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis and/or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics of age, race or ethnicity, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status, ethnic group identifications, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, homelessness, foster status, military veteran status, political affiliation or any other basis prohibited by California state and federal nondiscrimination laws consistent with Education Code 200, 220 and 234.1, Penal Code 422.55, Government Code 11135, and Title IX. Not all bases of discrimination will apply to both education services and employment. If you believe you, or your student, have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying you should contact your school site principal and/or the District's Chief Compliance and Title IX Officer, Erin Johnston, by phone at (661) 631-4663, by email at [johnstone@bcasd.com](mailto:johnstone@bcasd.com), or in person at 1300 Baker Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305. Copies of BCSD's Uniform Complaint policy, Sexual Harassment policy, and Nondiscrimination policies are available upon request.

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*McKinney-Vento*



FOSTER  
CHILDREN  
& YOUTH  
ASSISTANCE