



FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

...Foster children in group homes are part of our future. We must create a seamless system to meet their educational needs.

Historical Background: Concerned about educational outcomes of youth in San Francisco, a commissioner from the Unified Family and Juvenile Court met with the Superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District in 1997. Based on this meeting, an advisory committee was established. The Advisory Committee identified inconsistencies and unmet needs related to foster youth. Their vision was to have all organizations who work with foster youth work in a collaborative manner thereby supporting and strengthening efforts targeted for foster youth.

What is the Foster Youth Services Program? The Foster Youth Services (FYSP) addresses the specific educational needs of youth placed in group homes. FYSP has been established as a collaborative effort between the San Francisco Unified Juvenile and Family Court, Juvenile Probation Department, the Department of Human Service(DHS) and the San Francisco Unified School District/School Health Programs Department. Through academic case management, database development, and advocacy, the program will improve the chances for foster children's academic success. This program is funded through the California Department of Education.

The goals and objectives of the program are the following:

- To increase student achievement
- To increase student attendance
- To reduce student discipline problems
- To expedite and improve the flow of information between the San Francisco Unified Juvenile and Family Court, Juvenile Probation Department, DHS and SFUSD
- To develop a case management plan which effectively addresses the specific educational needs of foster youth
- To develop a database which integrates information from both DHS and SFUSD
- To develop a coordinated service delivery system between the Juvenile Court, DHS, Juvenile Probation Department and SFUSD

Current Status: This program is now in its start up phase.

Services offered through the FYSP include:

- Assistance with tracking school records and other pertinent academic information
- Assistance with school placement and referral to special programs
- Intervention in regard to attendance and behavioral issues
- Identification of and referral to resources
- Provide training and workshops for school, group home and DHS personnel
- Linkage with the San Francisco Unified Juvenile and Family Court, SFUSD, DHS and Juvenile Probation
- Department regarding the coordination of services for foster youth enrolled in the SFUSD

Activities within the SFUSD and the SHPD that support FYSP:

- Research, Planning and Development
- Information Services and Technology
- District Tutoring Programs
- After School Learning Programs
- Pupil Services
- Special Education Department
- Gifted and Talented Education Office
- Dropout Prevention Center
- Student Success Team (SST)
- Student Assistance Program (SAP)
- SS/HSI

For further information contact:

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