



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR FOSTER AND PROBATION YOUTH

Have you heard this before?

If you are missing credits, have bad grades, or are pregnant or parenting, you must go to an independent study program or continuation school, not your local school.

You can't enroll in school without providing all of your records to your new school.

You can't take the same classes you were in at your last school because those classes are too full at our school.

What are my rights as a foster or probation youth?

- ✓ You have a right to attend your local school, unless you (1) have an IEP that requires you to attend a different type of school; (2) have been expelled after a formal hearing; or (3) are currently in juvenile hall or camp (youth returning from hall/camp have a right to attend their local school).
- ✓ You cannot be forced to attend a continuation school, adult school, independent study program, or school for pregnant/parenting teens, even if you are not on track for high school graduation, have failing grades, or have behavior problems at school.
- ✓ You have a right to attend your 'school of origin': (1) the school you attended when you were first removed from your parents; (2) the last school you attended; or (3) any school you attended in the last 15 months where you felt a connection.
- ✓ You have a right to be *immediately* enrolled in and attend school, even if you do not have any of the required documents (transcripts, immunization records, proof of residence).
- ✓ You have a right to be enrolled in the same classes you were taking at your old school if you transfer mid-semester.

Education Code §§ 48853, 48853.5

What can you do to protect your rights?

- ✓ Ask your caregiver, education rights holder (if you are under 18), social worker or probation officer for help.
- ✓ Work with your education rights holder to figure out what school would be best for you. Go and enroll.
 - Bring a copy of your transcript; a document, such as a gas bill, that shows your current address; and any other school records you have. Remember, you have a right to immediate enrollment even if you do not have any of these documents.
- ✓ If any school refuses to enroll you, contact the Alliance for Children's Rights for help: 213.368.6010.
- ✓ Meet with a school counselor to set up your class schedule. You must be enrolled in the same classes you were taking at your last school. They cannot make you take all elective classes.
- ✓ Ask your school counselor to request your records from your old school, including an official transcript with all partial credits and check out grades.

If you believe that you are not enrolled in the correct school or that you were not given partial credits, speak with your education rights holder and social worker. You can also contact the Alliance for Children's Rights for assistance.