



**PROOF**



### MISSION

To improve educational outcomes for students residing in foster homes through a multidisciplinary team approach.

### PROGRAM GOALS

- Enroll foster youth not attending school
- Assist students who are not making academic progress
- Advocate for youth with special education needs
- Support students who are succeeding academically or who are on the verge of succeeding

FYS ensures continuity and availability of academic records for foster youth—promoting appropriate class placements and eliminating gaps in schooling.

### WHAT IS FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES (FYS)?

FYS is an innovative state-funded program serving the educational needs of youth living in foster care.

FYS links foster youth with specially trained counselors who act as their education advocates. These highly specialized guidance counselors:

- Connect youth to community resources
- Act as educational liaison with the child's social worker
- Connect teachers and caregivers
- Troubleshoot school-related issues
- Ensure continuity and availability of academic records

### ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING IS AVAILABLE AT GROUP HOME RESIDENCES:

#### ACADEMIC COUNSELING

- 4-Year High School Plans
- College Advising
- CAHSEE, GED, SAT, ACT Test Prep
- Study Skills Sessions
- Transition Counseling
- Special Education Services

#### PERSONAL COUNSELING/EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE SERVICES

- Personal Development Counseling
- Appropriate Educational Placement
- Appropriate Academic Services
- Student Educational Records
- Resource and Referral Services

#### CAREER COUNSELING

- School to Career Counseling
- Vocational Exploration
- Job Skills/Interest Counseling

### FYS Partners in Los Angeles County:

Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Department of Children and Family Services  
Commission for Children and Families  
Probation Department  
Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc.  
Department of Mental Health  
The Community College Foundation  
Education Coordinating Council  
Department of Health Services  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Long Beach Unified School District  
Children's Law Center Los Angeles  
Superior Court  
Casey Family Programs  
California State Foster Parents Association  
California Youth Connection  
Association of Community Human Service Agencies  
CSULA, Charter College of Education  
Rio Hondo College



**Los Angeles County  
Office of Education**

Leading Educators • Supporting Students • Serving Communities

Darline P. Robles, Ph.D., Superintendent

### Your Local Foster Youth Counselor Is:



Imagine being told you could never go home again.

That's the reality for the 35,000 children in Los Angeles County's foster care system who have been abused, neglected or abandoned by their parents.

Foster children face many different challenges on the road to success in adulthood. But those who "make it" have one thing in common: someone on their side who made a difference.

The education advocates at Foster Youth Services can make that difference.

# PROOF

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Almost half of California's 80,000 foster children reside in Los Angeles County. Of these:
  - 50% stay with relatives
  - 40% live in foster homes
  - 10% live in group homes
- 50% are at least two grade levels behind in school
- Foster youth typically move more than once a year, and attend 9 to 10 different schools before they turn 18.
- Many students qualify for special education, but their high mobility interferes with timely and appropriate placement.

**FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES**  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
9300 Imperial Highway  
Downey, CA 90242



"I wish I could just stay in one place and go to one school with the same kids. But it never seems to work out that way."

**HELPING FOSTER CHILDREN  
ACHIEVE SCHOOL SUCCESS**



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