

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1258

Introduced by Assembly Member Arambula

February 27, 2009

An act to amend Section 42921 of the Education Code, relating to foster youth services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1258, as amended, Arambula. Foster youth services.

Under existing law, 6 unified school districts and consortia operating children's services program sites that provide instruction, counseling, tutoring, and related services for foster children receive an allowance from the State School Fund. Existing law also authorizes county offices of education, or consortia of county offices of education, to apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for grant funding, to the extent funds are available, to operate an education-based foster youth services program to provide educational and support services for foster children who reside in a licensed foster home or county-operated juvenile detention facility.

This bill would delete the requirement that the education-based foster youth services program referenced above be limited to foster children who reside in a licensed foster home or county-operated juvenile detention facility.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42921 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:

3 42921. (a) In addition to the six program sites specified in
4 Section 42920, any county office of education, or consortium of
5 county offices of education, may elect to apply to the
6 Superintendent for grant funding, to the extent funds are available,
7 to operate an education-based foster youth services program to
8 provide educational and support services for foster children. The
9 provision of educational and support services to foster youth in
10 licensed foster homes shall also apply to foster youth services
11 programs in operation as of July 1, 2006, and receiving grant
12 funding.

13 (b) Each foster youth services program operated pursuant to
14 this chapter, if sufficient funds are available, shall have at least
15 one person identified as the foster youth educational services
16 coordinator. The foster youth educational services coordinator
17 shall facilitate the provision of educational services pursuant to
18 subdivision (d) to any foster child in the county who is either under
19 the jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to Section 300 of
20 the Welfare and Institutions Code or under the jurisdiction of the
21 juvenile court pursuant to Section 601 or 602 of the Welfare and
22 Institutions Code ~~who is placed in a licensed foster home or~~
23 ~~county-operated juvenile detention facility.~~ A program operated
24 pursuant to this chapter may prescribe the methodology for
25 determining which children may be served. Applicable
26 methodologies may include, but are not necessarily limited to,
27 serving specific age groups, serving children in specific geographic
28 areas with the highest concentration of foster children or serving
29 the children with the greatest academic need. It is the intent of the
30 Legislature that children with the greatest need for services be
31 identified as the first priority for foster youth services.

32 (c) The responsibilities of the foster youth educational services
33 coordinator shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to,
34 all of the following:

35 (1) Working with the child welfare agency to minimize changes
36 in school placement.

1 (2) Facilitating the prompt transfer of educational records,
2 including the health and education passport, between educational
3 institutions when placement changes are necessary.

4 (3) Providing education-related information to the child welfare
5 agency to assist the child welfare agency to deliver services to
6 foster children, including, but not necessarily limited to,
7 educational status and progress information required for inclusion
8 in court reports by Section 16010 of the Welfare and Institutions
9 Code.

10 (4) Responding to requests from the juvenile court for
11 information and working with the court to ensure the delivery or
12 coordination of necessary educational services.

13 (5) Working to obtain and identify, and link children to,
14 mentoring, tutoring, vocational training, and other services
15 designed to enhance the educational prospects of foster children.

16 (6) Facilitating communication between the foster care provider,
17 the teacher, and any other school staff or education service
18 providers for the child.

19 (7) Sharing information with the foster care provider regarding
20 available training programs that address education issues for
21 children in foster care.

22 (8) Referring caregivers of foster youth who have special
23 education needs to special education programs and services.

24 (d) Each foster youth services program operated pursuant to
25 this chapter shall include guiding principles that establish a
26 hierarchy of services, in accordance with the following order:

27 (1) Provide, or arrange for the referral to, tutoring services for
28 foster youth.

29 (2) Provide, or arrange for the referral to, services that meet
30 local needs identified through collaborative relationships and local
31 advisory groups, which may include, but shall not necessarily be
32 limited to, all of the following:

33 (A) Mentoring.

34 (B) Counseling.

35 (C) Transitioning services.

36 (D) Emancipation services.

37 (3) Facilitation of timely individualized education programs, in
38 accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
39 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.), and of all special education services.

1 (4) Establishing collaborative relationships and local advisory
2 groups.

3 (5) Establishing a mechanism for the efficient and expeditious
4 transfer of health and education records and the health and
5 education passport.

6 (e) For purposes of this section, “licensed foster home” means
7 a licensed foster family home, certified foster family agency home,
8 court-specified home, or licensed care institution (group home).