

**Providing educational  
advocacy and services  
for San Joaquin  
County foster and  
homeless youth.**



**SJCOE**  
EDUCATE • INNOVATE • INSPIRE



*Facebook*



*Website*

**2707 Transworld Drive  
Stockton, CA 95206  
(209) 468-9079**



**FOSTER &  
HOMELESS  
YOUTH  
SERVICES**



**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION**





# HOMELESS children & youth

**The term homeless children and youth means individuals who lack a fixed, regulate, and adequate residence. This includes:**

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.
- Children who may be living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, shelters, or awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used regular sleeping accommodation.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migrating children who qualify as homeless because they are children who are living in similar circumstances listed above.

## Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program

The Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program provides support and resources to San Joaquin County school districts. We strive to meet the unique educational needs of foster youth and those experiencing homelessness by working collaboratively with students, caregivers, schools, placing agencies, group home providers, and other related agencies.

We know that foster children, as a group, tend to function at a lower academic level, are less likely to graduate high school, exhibit more behavior problems, and have lower self-esteem than the general school-age population. Therefore, it is essential that they are provided with the advocacy and support needed to face these challenges.

Our goal is to act as an advocate for students and to provide the support to help foster children develop the skills and confidence necessary to become effective students and adults.



### Goals

Improve Academic Achievement  
Improve Attendance  
Reduce Discipline Problems



### Additional Services

Counseling  
Life Skills Academy  
Mentoring  
Tutoring



### Community Partners & Resources

Courts  
Group Homes  
Human Services Agency  
Probation  
School Districts



## AB490: Ensuring Educational Rights and Stability for Foster Youth

As of January 1, 2004, AB 490 Chapter 862 was created to establish new duties and rights related to the education of departments and wards in foster care.

- Access to the same educational opportunities and resources as other students.
- Increased stability of school placements.
- Immediate enrollment even if records are not available.
- Timely transfer of student records.
- Calculation of full or partial credits for coursework completed by students at prior schools attended.
- Education placement decisions that are determined by the child's best interest.

## McKinney-Vento Education Liaison

The McKinney-Vento Act was enacted in 1987 to help people experiencing homelessness. The law was reauthorized in July 2002, expanding the definition of homeless to include foster youth awaiting placement in a foster or group home. This guarantees that the foster youth who are between placements will be granted school enrollment regardless of their immunization status or the availability of school records.

Assembly Bill 490 and The McKinney-Vento Act require that every school district appoint a foster youth and homeless youth liaison to ensure that students obtain the necessary services. The Foster Youth Services staff is available to assist districts and other agencies in understanding these requirements and to provide strategies for working with the foster youth and homeless populations.

