

# Preparing Foster Youth for College

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# THE NUMBERS SHOW...

- Only 15% of youth in foster care are likely to be enrolled in college prep courses during high school compared to 32% of all students.
- Only about 20% of former foster youth go on to college compared to about 60% of all high school seniors.
- Only 3% will eventually graduate from college as compared to about 27% of the general adult population.
- **Over 70% of youth in foster care report that they desire to go to college.**

# THE BARRIERS

- Children's experiences prior to placement in foster care contribute substantially to their educational delays.
- The longer youth are in foster care, the greater the number of home placements they receive.
- Youth in foster care change schools more frequently, have lower GPAs, earn fewer credits toward graduation, have lower scores on state testing, and are more likely to be in special education programs.



# College Completion Rates 6 Years Post Enrollment

Overall – all students 52%

Low socio-economic status 44%

Hispanic students 40%

First generation college students 43%

African American students 38%

GED completers 27%

*'Independent'* students 22%

**From foster care 20%**

# WHAT BARRIERS LOOK LIKE

- Multiple placements means incomplete or inaccurate school records due to multiple school changes. The student will often lack the minimum requirements for admission to CSU.
- Caretakers may focus on health and safety concerns but ignore important developmental needs such as youth involvement in sports and clubs, as participation typically requires permission from social worker. Youth also typically lack family and community support.



# CSU Foster Youth Support Programs

EDUCATION CODE Section 89340-89347 cited as the Higher Education Outreach and Assistance Act for Emancipated Foster Youth (Excerpts)

- Outreach services to foster youth to encourage their enrollment in a state university or a community college.
- Technical assistance to foster youth to assist those prospective students in completing admission applications and financial aid applications.
- Provide technical assistance and advice to campuses on ways in which to improve the delivery of services to emancipated foster youth.

# CSU FOSTER YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAMS

## ESTABLISHED

- CSU Fullerton - Guardian Scholars
- Cal Poly Pomona - Renaissance Scholars
- CSU East Bay - Renaissance Scholars
- CSU San Bernardino - EOP Foster Youth Program
- SJSU (CME) - Connect Motivate Educate Society
- SFSU - Guardian Scholars
- SDSU - Guardian Scholars

## IN DEVELOPMENT

- CSU Sacramento- Guardian Scholars
- CSU Stanislaus - Promise Scholars
- CSU Chico - Renaissance Scholars
- CSU's Fresno, Northridge, Monterey Bay, San Marcos

# SUPPORT SERVICES MAY INCLUDE

- Admissions assistance
- Financial assistance
- On-campus housing assistance
- Orientation to college life (i.e. EOP Summer Bridge)
- Academic advising and monitoring
- Counseling and support
- Peer mentoring
- Life skills workshops
- Employment opportunities
- Social and quarterly celebrations
- Post-graduation career planning and assistance
- Student Drop-In Center



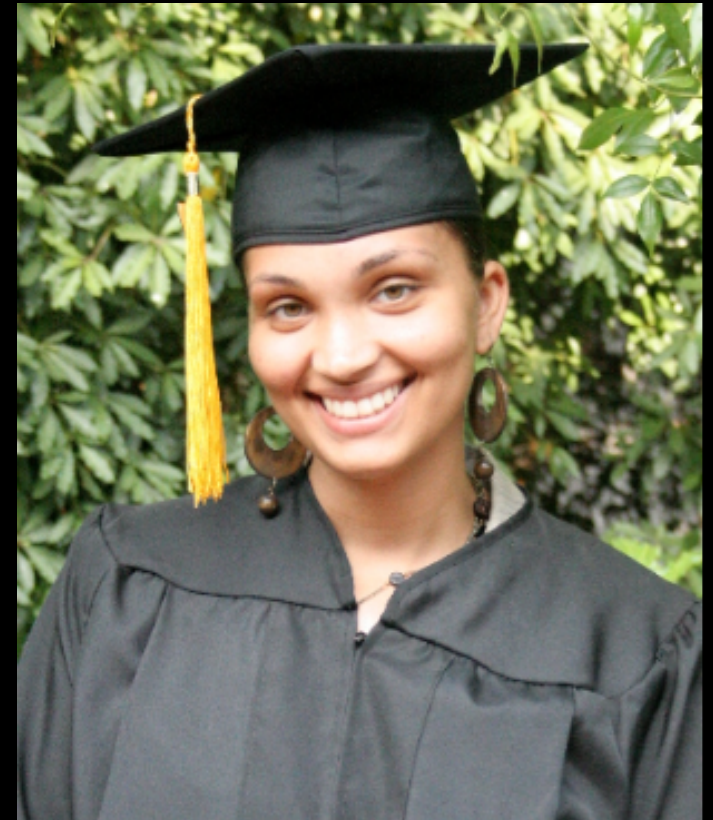
# RESOURCES



- On-campus support programs such as the Guardian Scholars Program, Renaissance Scholars, Linkage to Education and the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) can provide services.
- California Community College Foster Youth Initiative – identifies a trained and supported a trained financial aid counselor at every community college to serve students from foster care.

# FOSTER YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

- Foster A Dream
- Fostering Futures
- Orphan Foundation of America
- Orangewood Children's Foundation
- Silicon Valley Children's Fund- YES Scholars
- United Friends of the Children



# California Student Aid Commission

## California Chafee Grant Program

- This is a federally funded program administered through the California Student Aid Commission.
- Gives money to eligible former foster youth to use for career and technical training or college courses at California Community Colleges, Cal State Universities and University of California campuses, etc.

# HOW TO QUALIFY & APPLY FOR CHAFEE?

- Be eligible, or have been eligible for Independent Living Program (ILP) services.
- Not have reached 22 years of age as of July 1 of the award year.
- Be enrolled in an eligible college.
- Maintain at least half-time enrollment status.
- Attend regularly and get good grades.
- Must have a current FAFSA.
- Must apply online at [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

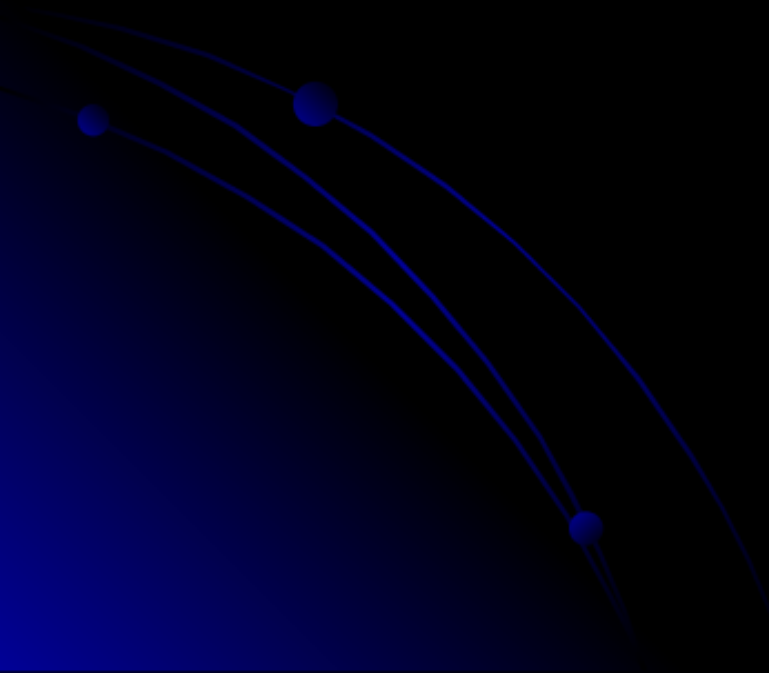
- Connect with the Foster Youth Services (FYS) liaison in your school district or the Foster Youth Success Initiative at the community colleges.
- Identify foster youth at your school and advocate for school stability (for foster youth to remain in the same school K-12)
- Prepare and encourage your students to pursue higher education and track their progress closely.
- Advise students to complete the A-G requirements and get them on the college track early.

# ON THE WEB

Visit

[www.calstate.edu](http://www.calstate.edu)

for specific programs available to foster youth at the 23 California State University campuses.



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# Q & A

