



# Brief Overview: Education of Foster Youth and Homeless Youth

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Presented by  
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# What do we know about Foster Youth?

- Many have had multiple home and school placements 24% have had at least two placements
- Some struggle with trust and school engagement as a result
- Often a skills or academic credit gap
- Behavior issues- by history or observation
- Substance Abuse
- Special Education or special learning needs
- Medical Issues
- Trauma history



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# What do we know about Foster Youth? (cont'd)

- A population served by multiple systems (often simultaneously):
  - California Department of Social Services
  - Child Welfare
  - Administrative Office of the Courts
  - Mental Health
  - County Probation
  - Community Based Organizations
  - Health Care system
  - Education Community



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# Foster Youth Recent Legislation

- AB 97 School Finance Reform
  - Adds EC Section 42238-42251
    - EC 42238.01
      - Defines Foster Youth for purposes of serving students with LCFF funding
      - Expands the existing definition of foster youth currently defined under EC 42920-42925
      - Shifts funding, planning and accountability decision making for foster youth to school districts.



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# Recent Legislation aligning with LCFF

- AB 854 (Chaptered 10/11/15)
  - Expands the definition of Foster Youth
  - Adopts the LCFF definition of foster youth.
  - Aligns the work of the COE Foster Youth Program with LCFF
  - Net increase of eligible youth from 40,000 to almost 60,000



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# Role of County Offices of Education

- Shift away from solely direct service provider to including capacity building with school communities
- Focus on collaborative practices with partners
- Leveraging resources
- Executive Advisory Council
- Shared focus on Improved Educational outcomes



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# Funding

- An additional 10 million augmentation for 2015-16
- Department of Finance approved an allocation formula for all 58 counties:
  - 50% based on number of eligible foster youth
  - 50% based on the number of districts in each county.



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# Funding Cont'd

- Adjusted to Minimum funding level of \$150,000
- Adjusted to Hold Harmless levels for 2015-16
- 1 year Hold Harmless
- Formula pending for 2016-17 and 2017-18





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# Homeless Facts and Figures

- The number of homeless children and youth enrolled in the 2013–14 school year (SY):

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of Homeless Children and Youth Enrolled</b>
Nationwide	1.5 million
Statewide	310,002
Marin County	1,174



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# Homeless Definition

- Homelessness is defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
  - A **fixed** residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.



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# Homeless Definition (Cont.)

- A **regular** residence is one that is used on a normal, standard, and consistent basis.
- An **adequate** residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.



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# Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act

- Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Act:
  - Was originally authorized in 1987.
  - Provides stability, access, and support for academic success for homeless children and youth, including preschool-aged children.



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# Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

- All local educational agencies (LEAs) must designate a homeless liaison.
- A list of homeless liaisons can be found on the CDE Homeless Children and Youth Education Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/>.



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# Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

- Homeless liaisons must:
  - Ensure that homeless children and youth are identified.
  - Ensure that access is provided and barriers to enrollment and retention are removed.



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# Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

- Disseminate public notice of educational rights in areas where homeless families are found.
- Inform parents or guardians of educational opportunities.



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# Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

- Ensure that homeless families, children, and youth receive educational services.
- Assist children and youth who do not have immunizations.
- Coordinate and collaborate services for homeless children, youth, and their families.





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# Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

- Collaborate with the state coordinator, community agencies, and school personnel.
- Refer parents or guardians to other public agencies, community service organizations, nonprofit agencies, and faith-based organizations for needed services.



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# Funding for Homelessness

- Regardless of funding, LEAs are required to implement the provisions of this Act.
- LEAs can use other federal, state, and local funds to implement.



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# Funding for Homelessness (Cont.)

- If an LEA does received Title I, Part A funds, then the LEA is required to reserve such funds to provide comparable services to homeless children and youth.
- Homeless children and youth fall under the Socio-economically Disadvantaged subgroup under LCFF.



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