



March 16, 2023

Dear LCAP Administrators and District/COE Staff Serving Students in Foster Care:

We are reaching out to offer our partnership and resources for developing your 2023-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and implementing specific actions and services that are designed to meet the unique needs of students in foster care. Data at the state level continues to demonstrate persistent equity gaps in the performance of youth in foster care, even when compared to other at-risk student groups. For example, on the 2020-21 state testing, only 21% of youth in foster care met or exceeded state standards in English/Language Arts, compared to 47% of all students. In the area of Math, only 10% of youth in foster care met or exceeded the state standards, compared to 33% of all students. If we as a state want to close these gaps, simply applying the same goals and services applied to other students is not enough. Students in foster care need targeted services and supports to help them overcome educational barriers and thrive in school.

Instructions in the 2023-24 LCAP template encourage local educational agencies (LEAs), including school districts, county offices of education (COEs), and charter schools, to **highlight the specific services and supports they provide to meet the unique educational needs of youth in foster care.** Specifically, the instructions state: “*Actions for Foster Youth: School districts, COEs, and charter schools that have a numerically significant Foster Youth student subgroup are encouraged to include specific actions in the LCAP designed to meet needs specific to Foster Youth students*” (p. 11 of LCAP Instructions in “Adopted LCAP Template,” available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lc/>).

Enclosed are the following resources:

1. **Sample LCAP 2023 for Youth in Foster Care** outlines recommended goals, outcomes, and actions, along with additional activities and services, for LEAs to incorporate into their LCAPs to work towards improved educational outcomes for youth in foster care.
2. **Checklist for District Leadership: Reviewing Data and Policies Supporting Foster Youth** is designed for LEA leadership to help guide conversations about data and monitor progress for youth in foster care.
3. **Best Practices Guide for Developing a District System to Improve Education Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care**, found at <https://allianceforchildrensrights.org/resources/best-practices-guide/>.

If you are interested in learning more about how to use the Sample LCAP for Youth in Foster Care, please join us for a free webinar on March 22, 2023, from 10-11am. Register here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8364708860676766302>

If you have any questions or would like assistance as you develop your LCAP, please contact Danielle Wondra at dwondra@childrennow.org.

Sincerely,

Danielle Wondra
Senior Policy & Outreach Associate, Child Welfare
Children Now

Alaina Moonves-Leb
Assistant Director, Education Program
Alliance for Children's Rights

Margaret Olmos
Director, FosterEd California
National Center for Youth Law

Luciana Svidler
Director of Policy and Training
Children's Law Center of California