

AB 2137: Expanded educational supports for students in foster care

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 2137](#), authored by Assemblymember Quirk-Silva, was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 22, 2024, expanding educational support to students in foster care by authorizing county offices of education to use their existing state funding to provide direct services to foster youth via the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs (FYSCPs).

WHAT IS A FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATING PROGRAM (FYSCP)?

Established in 2015, each county office of education has a Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP), which includes at least one program coordinator, to facilitate educational support for students in foster care within their county. FYSCPs are required to build capacity and facilitate collaboration between county agencies, school districts and community organizations. In addition, FYSCPs provide services and educational case management, including but limited to, supporting successful transitions for students between schools or school districts. FYSCPs must also develop a plan to facilitate coordination with local postsecondary educational institutions and coordinate efforts to support the completion of financial aid applications for students in the twelfth grade.

WHAT DOES AB 2137 DO?

This bill allows FYSCPs to provide direct services to students in foster care, which include tutoring, mentoring and counseling services. The FYSCP coordinator must determine that these services are needed and that they are unable to secure these services through coordination with the student's school district and available funding provided by the student's school district.

Previously, providing direct services was prohibited unless a school district certified in writing that they could not provide the necessary services to students in foster care. This process was burdensome and challenging.

WHEN DOES THIS GO INTO EFFECT?

January 1, 2025.

DOES AB 2137 REQUIRE FYSCPS TO PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES?

No. FYSCPs may use their existing funding to provide direct services to students in foster care, but it is not required. The primary role of the FYSCPs remains the same, which is to provide technical assistance and facilitate collaboration and coordination to support the educational needs of students in foster care.

HOW ARE FOSTER YOUTH DEFINED?

Foster youth are defined using the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) definition ([Education Code 42238.01\(b\)](#)) or a foster child who is detained in a county-operated juvenile detention facility. [AB 3223](#), which goes into effect on January 1, 2025 adds to this definition a child who is the subject of a juvenile court petition and has been identified as being at imminent risk of removal and placement into foster care.

HOW CAN I GET IN TOUCH WITH A FYSCP PROGRAM?

A directory of FYSCP programs can be found on the California Department of Education website found [HERE](#).