



FOSTER YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

**GRADUATION EXEMPTION FOR FOSTER YOUTH
ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 167/216**

AB 167/216 REQUIRES:

- A school district to exempt a student in foster care who transfers between schools any time after the completion of the student's 2nd year of high school from all coursework and other graduation requirements required by the school district that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements, unless the school district makes a related finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the school's graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of his/her fourth year of high school.
- The school district to notify, within 30 calendar days of the transfer, a pupil in foster care who may qualify for the exemption, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and the student's social worker, of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for the exemption.
- A school district that determines that a foster student is reasonably able to complete the school district's graduation requirements within the student's 5th year of high school to take specified actions, including permitting the student to stay in school for a 5th year to complete the graduation requirements.
- The school district to notify the student and the holder of education rights of the effect that the waived requirements will have on the student's ability to gain admission to four year colleges and be informed of transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

AB 167/216 PROHIBITS:

- A school or school district from requiring or requesting that the student graduate before the end of his or her 4th year of high school if a pupil is exempted and completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of his or her 4th year in high school and the student is otherwise entitled to remain in attendance at the school.
- A student in foster care, the school or school district, the person holding the educational rights for the student, the student's social worker, or the student's probation officer from requesting a transfer solely to qualify the student for an exemption.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT AB 167/216:

- The bill also specifies that an eligible student shall not be required to accept the exemption or be denied enrollment in or the ability to complete courses for which he or she is otherwise eligible.
- After the student has already qualified for the exemption, and their case is closed with Department of Child and Family Services and/or Department of Probation, they still qualify for the exemption.
- Students that choose to deny the AB 216 exemption should be advised that they may accept the exemption at any time.