

**Assembly Bill (AB) 167 / 1806: Exemption from Graduation Requirements
Foster / Homeless Youth**

The California State Governor approved AB 167 on October 11, 2009, exempting foster youth from specified district graduation requirements. AB 1806 was signed into law on September 29, 2014, extending the same graduation requirement protections issued to foster youth, to homeless youth as well. Below are some important highlights of this law.

Exemption for Graduation Requirements
Exempts foster and homeless students who transfers schools any time after the completion of the student's 2 nd year of high school, from coursework/requirements that are <i>in addition</i> to statewide requirements (unless the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements by the end of their 4 th year of high school).
To determine eligibility for this exemption, for students in their 3 rd or 4 th year of high school, the district may use <i>either</i> the number of credits the student has earned by the date they transferred high schools, <i>or</i> the length of time the student has been enrolled in high school.
Within 30 days of the date that the student may qualify for this exemption, the student (and parent/guardian/educational rights holder, if the student is under 18) shall be notified, along with the district foster/ homeless liaison.
If a foster or homeless student is exempt from district graduation requirements before the end of his/her 4 th year in high school, and the student would otherwise be entitled to remain in school, the district cannot <i>require or request</i> that the student graduate before the end of 4 th year of high school.
If the student graduates with reduced requirements, the district shall inform the student of how this will affect the admission to postsecondary schools.
The district shall take specific actions if the student is reasonable able to complete the district's graduation requirements within the student's 5 th year of high school. These actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notifying the student of their option to remain in school for a 5th year. • How staying the 5th year will affect postsecondary school admission. • Informing the student of transfer opportunities through the CA Community Colleges.
Students who are eligible for the exemption <i>shall not be required</i> to accept the exemption or be denied enrollment.
If a student previously declined exemption, the student can request the exemption at a <i>later time</i> .
Once accepted, the exemption cannot be revoked.
Districts cannot require a foster or homeless student to transfer high schools in order to qualify for the exemption.
Students and/or parent/guardians/educational rights holders cannot request to transfer high schools in order to qualify for the exemption.

AB 490 / 1806: Partial Credit

In September 2013, the Child Welfare Council adopted a statewide model policy to provide guidance to school districts, county offices of education, and child welfare agencies on how to implement AB 490's partial credit mandate. In September 2014, AB 1806 was signed into law extending the same partial credit mandates issued to foster youth, to homeless youth as well. Below are some important highlights of this law.

Partial Credit Issuance
If a foster or homeless student moves during the middle of the semester, the student shall be issued partial credit for coursework completed.
When partial credit is issued for a specific course, the student shall be enrolled in the same/equivalent course, so they may continue and complete the entire course.
Prohibits requiring students to retake a course in order to meet CSU or UC eligibility requirements.
However, foster or homeless students cannot be <i>prevented</i> from retaking a course in order to meet CSU or UC eligibility requirements.
Prohibits requiring student to retake the portion of the course that they already completed, unless the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school.