SB 12: IMPROVING COLLEGE OUTCOMES FOR FOSTER YOUTH THROUGH BETTER ACCESS TO THE PELL GRANT

FEBRUARY 14, 2017
AGENDA

- Introductions
- Review of educational outcomes of youth in foster care
- Provisions of Senate Bill 12
- How you can help
- Q & A
WHY DO FOSTER YOUTH EXPERIENCE POOR ACADEMIC OUTCOMES?

Children and youth in foster care are **four** times more likely to change schools in a given school year than other students.

Placement changes disrupt their education

High rates of disability

Over one in five youth in foster care has a disability, **almost three times** the rate of the general population

Poor school quality

15 percent of children and youth in foster care attend the lowest performing 10 percent of schools in California, as compared to just 10 percent of the general population
TOGETHER, THESE EXPERIENCES RESULT IN SERIOUS ACADEMIC DELAYS

% of students who scored at each of five proficiency levels at the California Standards Test in English Language Arts.
PERCENTAGE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLEES WHO PERSISTED AT LEAST ONE YEAR

- General population: 62%
- Comparison population: 48%
- Foster youth: 41%
### HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED AT AGE 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Former foster youth</th>
<th>Same age comparison group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No high school diploma or GED</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma only</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GED only</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One or more years of college, but no degree</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-year college degree</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year college degree</td>
<td>3% 8%</td>
<td>24% 47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One or more years of graduate school</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDUCATION LEVEL HAS LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Median Usual Weekly Earnings</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>$1,623</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>$1,730</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
<td>$1,341</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>$1,137</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate's degree</td>
<td>$798</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>$738</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>$678</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>$493</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All workers: $860
All workers: 4.3%

A key factor in low rates of retention and degree completion is the low rate of financial aid receipt.

% of foster youth in CA community colleges who receive this form of financial aid:

- Cal Grant: 9%
- Pell Grant: 50%
- BOG Fee Waiver: 85%
WHY IS THE LOW RATE OF PELL RECEIPT AMONG FOSTER YOUTH PROBLEMATIC?

Foster youth don’t have parents to help pay for college

Pell Grant is an entitlement, unlike other sources that run out of funding

Chafee ETV funding is fixed, regardless of demand

Parental earnings and borrowing is #1 way college is paid for in the U.S.

$5,814 annually

Pell is the largest single federal grant program

Receipt of financial aid is a predictor of retention and degree completion

$1,000 in grant aid increases the probability of graduation by 2%

Pell can be used for hundreds of CTE programs
How important is the Pell Grant to foster youth who receive it?

How would not receiving the Pell Grant affect your school enrollment?

- I would reduce my course load to work more: 36.1%
- I would likely dis-enroll from school: 19.2%
- I would maintain my course load but work more: 42.1%
- It would have no effect: 2.6%

Source: January 2017
Survey of 337 Burton Book Fund Recipients
WHAT HAS IT MEANT TO YOUTH WHO DIDN’T RECEIVE THE PELL GRANT?

How has not receiving the Pell Grant affected your school enrollment?

- 47.1% I maintained my course load but worked more
- 33.3% I had to reduce my course load to work more
- 17.5% It had no effect
- 8.3% I had to dis-enroll from school

Source: January 2017 Survey of 337 Burton Book Fund Recipients
GOAL OF SB 12 (BEALL): INCREASE RATE OF PELL RECEIPT AMONG FOSTER YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

- Help foster youth apply
- Streamline verification
- Expand campus-based support
PROVISION 1: CONCERN ABOUT COLLEGE SUCCESS HAS GROWN WITH THE INCREASE IN OLDER FOSTER YOUTH

1 in 4 youth in foster care in California is aged 16 and older

1 in 7 youth in foster care in California is college-aged
Who is supposed to help me apply for college and financial aid?

My high school guidance counselor?

My educational rights holder?

My Caregiver?

My CASA?

My social worker?

The county office of education?

My attorney?

My mom or dad?

The Independent Living Skills Program?
PROVISION 1: FOSTER YOUTH REPORT THAT THEY ARE NOT GETTING ENOUGH ASSISTANCE WITH COLLEGE PLANNING

- More than enough help: 20.4%
- Enough help: 23.2%
- Some help, but not enough: 19.2%
- Only a little help: 13.7%
- No help: 13.3%
PROVISION 1: HOW WOULD SB 12 SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?

- Require a person to be identified in the case plan to assist the foster youth in the college and financial aid application process.
- SB 12 doesn’t expect all social workers to become experts on financial aid, but rather:
  - Identify the person to assist the youth.
  - Ensure youth receives the help they require.
PROVISION 2: STREAMLINE THE FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

FAFASA completed → Financial aid award packaged → Financial aid award letter sent → Verification requested & provided → Financial aid issued

At most colleges foster youth must submit proof of their dependency status, to verify that they are independent students and not required to report their parents’ income.

Foster youth frequently lose access to the Pell at this stage in the process.
What if I can’t get this paper by the time classes starts?

Who was my attorney?

What was my attorney’s number?

Does my foster mom have this paper?

I asked for it, but I still haven’t received it. What do I do now?

They told me I should call the foster care ombudsman’s office.

What’s that?

Who was my last social worker?

Will getting this verification cost me money?

What is my social worker’s number?

Should I contact ILP about this?
AB 592 (Stone) authorized Foster Care Ombudsman’s Office to provide foster youth with verification of their dependency or wardship status.

Since February 2016, 422 foster youth have been provided this verification.
PROVISION 2: SB 12 WOULD AUTOMATE THE VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

CDSS provides data to CSAC

CSAC conducts verification and uploads to grant delivery system

Financial aid officials access verification in data portal

This process has been used successfully for the Chafee Education and Training Voucher
PROVISION 3: EXPAND ACCESS TO CAFYES

- Established through Senate Bill 1023 (Liu) in 2014; funded in 2015-16 budget
- Community College Chancellor’s Office issued funding to 10 districts through a competitive process in 2015
- Established campus support programs on 26 campuses for foster youth within EOPS programs
- $15 million annual appropriation
CURRENT CAFYES CAMPUSES

San Francisco Bay Area
• Laney College
• Merritt College
• Berkeley City College
• College of Alameda

Santa Barbara County
• Allan Hancock College

Los Angeles Area
• Pasadena College
• Los Angeles Valley College
• Los Angeles Mission College
• Los Angeles Pierce College
• Los Angeles Trade Tech
• Los Angeles City College
• Los Angeles Southwest College
• Los Angeles Harbor College
• East LA College
• West LA College

Northern California
• Shasta College
• Sierra College
• Santa Rosa Junior College

San Diego County
• Grossmont College
• Cuyamaca College

Fresno County
• Fresno City College
• Reedley College

Orange County
• Golden West College
• Orange Coast College
• Coastline College
CORE SERVICES OF CAFYES

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
• Matriculation and transfer counseling
• Monitoring of academic progress
• Tutoring
• Academic mentoring
• Frequent in-person contact
• Allowances for books and supplies

SPECIALIZED SERVICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH
• Counseling and mental health services
• Independent living skills
• Housing assistance
• Child care allowances
• Transportation allowances
• Career counseling
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CAFYES?

- Person whose dependency in California was established or continued by the court on or after the youth's 16th birthday and who is younger than age 26.

- Age eligibility aligns with other programs for foster youth:
  - Chafee Education and Training Voucher
  - Independent Living Skills Program
  - Priority registration
  - Guardianship benefits to age 21
  - Adoption assistance benefits to age 21.
WHY DO SO MANY PROGRAMS LINK ELIGIBILITY TO AGE 16?

- Youth in foster care at age 16 much less likely to be reunified, adopted or exited to guardianship than youth in foster care at age 13
- In California:
  - 38% less likely at age 16 than at age 13
  - 79.3% less likely at age 17 than at age 13
WHAT DOES NOT HAVING A FAMILY MEAN FOR A COLLEGE STUDENT?

- Nowhere to live
  - In 2014, 54% of college students chose to live at home to make school more affordable.
  - In 2016, living with a parent is the most common young adult living arrangement, with 32% of the 18 to 34 year-olds living with a parent.

- No one to help pay for college
  - In 2016, Parental savings and borrowing paid for 38 percent of the cost of college in the United States.
  - This is a greatest single source of funding used by students to pay for college, and exceeds all other sources, including grants, scholarships and student income and student savings.
  - Holds for low-income students and students attending 2-year colleges.

How American Pays for College (2015 & 2016)  
Richard Frey, Pew Research Center (2016)
CAFYES PROGRAMS ARE ABSENT IN AREAS WITH HIGH POPULATIONS OF FOSTER YOUTH

% of Campuses with CAFYES

- CAFYES Campus: 77%
- Non-CAFYES Campus: 23%

% of FY on a Campus with CAFYES

- Access to CAFYES: 28%
- No Access to CAFYES: 72%

- 750+ Foster youth: 2 campuses
- 500 to 749 Foster youth: 13 campuses
- 250 to 499 Foster youth: 34 campuses
HOW IS CAFYES DOING AFTER ONE YEAR?

- All 26 campuses have implemented CAFYES
- 1,157 foster youth served in Fall 2016
- CAFYES participants are 46% more likely to receive the Pell Grant
CAYFYES STUDENT SURVEY: FEBRUARY 2017

- Survey Respondents: 196
- # of CAFYES programs: 14

### Racial/Ethnical Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial/Ethnical Background</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American or Black</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Custodial Parent

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Custodial Parent</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Enrollment Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment Status</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 units</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 8.99 Units</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 to 11.99 Units</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 and over</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT CAFYES SERVICES ARE STUDENTS USING?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial support to purchase text books</td>
<td>90.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic advising</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct financial assistance</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial aid counseling</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life skills workshops or classes</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutoring</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to computer lab</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food pantry</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career guidance or help finding a job</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer counseling</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer mentoring</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals to community services</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to one-on-one mental health support</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

February 2017 Survey of 209 CAFYES participants
WHAT DO STUDENTS REPORT THESE SERVICES ARE HELPING THEM ACHIEVE?

- Find employment to help me to pay for school: 23.1%
- Find or keep housing: 28.9%
- Better navigate the campus administration: 42.3%
- Access services in the community, such as mental health support, health care, or food: 46.2%
- Experience less stress because I have emotional support: 55.8%
- Better understand the transfer process: 55.8%
- Access priority registration: 82.7%
- Get the financial aid I am eligible to receive: 82.7%
- Enroll in the correct classes: 88.0%
- Remain enrolled full-time: 70.7%
- Pass courses: 65.9%

February 2017 Survey of 209 CAFYES participants
OVERALL, HOW HELPFUL DO STUDENTS FIND CAFYES?

- Extremely helpful: 1.9%
- Helpful: 11.1%
- Somewhat helpful: 0.5%
- Not Helpful: 86.5%

February 2017 Survey of 209 CAFYES participants
PROVISION 3: INCREASE NUMBER OF CAFYES-FUNDED DISTRICTS FROM 10 TO 20

- 26 campuses will spend an estimated $9 million in 2017-18
- Expansion would be funded with the remaining $6 million
- Campuses would likely be selected through a competitive process
SB 12 WILL BRING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO CALIFORNIA’S FOSTER YOUTH IN COLLEGE….

- Current rate of Pell Receipt: 50%
- CAFYES rate of Pell Receipt: 73%
- 15,523 foster youth
- $64.2 million
- 22,613 foster youth
- $93.8 million
- 7,090 additional youth getting the Pell Grant
- $29.5 million in additional federal funding
...AND HELP FOSTER YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR COLLEGE DREAMS

Likelihood of foster youth getting AA or higher

Likelihood of foster youth getting AA or higher with Pell

Pell could increase foster youth graduation rate to 19%
LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE FOR SB 12

- Senate Education Committee
- Senate Appropriations Committee
- Assembly Education Committee
- Assembly Appropriations Committee

Vote of the full Senate

June 2 deadline

Senate HS Committee

Assembly HS Committee

Vote of the full Assembly

Sept 15 deadline
HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE SB 12 A REALITY

- Send in a support letter; sample letter on website
- Email it to luz@jbaforyouth.org
- Attend and testify at March Senate Education Committee
- Meet with legislators in the district
- Encourage foster youth to get involved!
- Stay tuned for more work over the spring and summer
SOURCES


- Slide 4: *At Greater Risk: California Foster Youth and the Path from High School to College, March 2013*.

- Slide 5: *At Greater Risk: California Foster Youth and the Path from High School to College, March 2013*.


- Slide 8: *Charting the Course: Using Data to Support Foster Youth College Success* (2015)


- Slide 10: *January 2017 Survey of 337 Burton Book Fund Recipients*

- Slide 11: *January 2017 Survey of 337 Burton Book Fund Recipients*

- Slide 13: University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project *website*

- Slide 15: Courtney et al., *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study: Conditions at Age 19* (2016).


- Slide 19: January 2017 personal communication with the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman
Slide 25: University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website


QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”

or contact

Amy Lemley, John Burton Advocates for Youth
Debbie Raucher, John Burton Advocates for Youth