SB 940: Improving College Outcomes for Foster Youth Through Better Access to the Cal Grant

February 13, 2018
Technical Details

- Call-in number is (914) 614-3221 and access code is 249-544-054.
- To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”
- Presentation materials and audio will be posted at www.jbaforyouth.org
- Handouts can be downloaded from the control panel
• Introductions
• Academic Outcomes of Youth in Foster Care
• Cal Grant Program
• Senate Bill 940 Provisions
• How You Can Help
• Q & A
Today’s Presenters

- Debbie Raucher
  Project Director at John Burton Advocates for Youth

- Juana Hernandez
  Higher Education Manager, LA Area of Chamber of Commerce

- Xavier Mountain
  Youth Advocate at John Burton Advocates for Youth

- Estevan Ginsburg
  Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Jim Beall
Why Do Foster Youth Experience Poor Academic Outcomes?

**One in four** foster youth in California are chronically absent compared to one in ten for the general student population.

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

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. 

Percentage 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%
### Level of Education Completed

#### 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%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One or more years of graduate school</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcomes from Lack of Education

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate (%)</th>
<th>Median Usual Weekly Earnings ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate's degree</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All workers: 4.0%  
All workers: $885
Outcomes from Lack of Education

POVERTY
- At age 26, foster youth are 300% more likely to be living in poverty

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT
- At age 26, foster youth are 2 to 5 times more likely to be arrested
- At age 26, foster youth are 4 to 9 times more likely to be incarcerated
Rate of Cal Grant receipt is low among foster youth.
Why is the low receipt of Cal Grant problematic?

Parental earnings is the **#1 way** college is paid for in the US.

California foster youth who receive financial aid are more then **40% more likely to accrue 15+ credits** or more credits in one year.

Students who receive $10,000 or more in financial aid are **43% more likely** to graduate from college than those who receive $1000 or less.

**33.3% of California foster youth** cited not being able to afford college as a major barrier to returning to school.

Foster youth don't have parents to pay for college

Receipt of financial aid influences academic success

Not having enough money is a barrier to college persistence
Authorize foster youth to receive an entitlement Cal Grant if they meet other existing eligibility criteria and have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1 of the award year.

Extend the length of time a foster youth is eligible for the Cal Grant from 4 years to 8 years.

Change the deadline for the Cal Grant entitlement application from March 2nd to September 2nd for foster youth applying to attend community college.
Bill Author:
Jim Beall

- Represents the 15th District (San Jose, Cambell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga)
- Three decades of public service
- Distinguished legislative track record:
  - Extension of foster youth care from age 18 to 21
  - Affordable Housing
  - Transportation Infrastructure
  - Mental Health Services
  - Victims of Sexual Abuse
- Thank you Jim Beall!
ABOUT THE CAL GRANT

- Largest source of state funded student financial aid-$2 billion in need-based grants
- Administered by the California Student Aid Commission
- Provides grants annually for full time students (up to four years):
  - $1,672 for students attending community college
  - $7,414 for students attending California State University systems
  - $14,302 for students attending University of California campus
  - $10,756 for students enrolled at a qualifying private institution
Cal Grant Program
Eligibility for Non-Transfer Students

Cal Grant A (Entitlement)
- At Least 3.0 GPA
- For low to middle income students
Covers Tuition

Cal Grant B (Entitlement)
- At Least 2.0 GPA
- For low income students
Covers Tuition and Non-Tuition Items

Cal Grant C (Competitive)
- No Minimum GPA
- For low to middle income students
For technical and non transferring associate degrees

Need to be under set income and asset ceilings

To Apply:
- Complete a FAFSA or Dream Act Application by March 2
- Submit GPA Verification (done by High School)
- Cal Grant A & B are available as competitive grants for those who apply more than one year after high school graduation or for Community College students who apply after March 2 and before Sept 2.
Provision 1: Authorize foster youth to receive an entitlement Cal Grant if they meet other existing eligibility criteria and have not reached their 26th birthday as of July 1 of the award year.
Why age 26?

Foster youth up to age **26** are entitled by law (AB 194) to priority registration for classes prior to the general registration period.

Age qualification to participate in Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Education Support Programs (NextUp) is up to age **26**.

Medi-Cal covers low-income adults, families with children, seniors, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, children in foster care and former foster youth up to age **26** (Affordable Care Act).
Why do foster youth need a longer window?

Placement changes disrupt their education
One third of foster youth changed schools at least once during their school year, **four times the rate** of the general population.

Level of education obtained by age 26
40% of foster youth have only received a high school degree or GED by age 26 compared to 22% of the general population.

Lack of adult support or information regarding higher education
About 1 in 2 foster youth reported receiving no help to not enough help on college planning.
Provision 2: Extend the length of time a foster youth is eligible for the Cal Grant from 4 years to 8 years.

Currently:

Cal Grant Award Renewal (time is equivalent to full-time status)

SB 940:

8 years
Foster youth are placed in remediation courses more often.
Foster youth succeed in courses at a lower rate than their counterparts.

Course success is defined as achieving a grade of A, B, C or P.
Foster youth are more likely to begin at community college...which takes more time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of College in First Enrolled in</th>
<th>Attend 2 year college</th>
<th>Attend 4 year college</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Foster Youth</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Population</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elapsed Time to Complete Bachelor’s Degree

- Attend a 4 year college: 5.1 years
- Attend 2 year college first: 7.9 years
Provision 3: Change the deadline for the Cal Grant entitlement application from March 2nd to September 2nd for foster youth applying to attend community college

**Currently:**
- If you submit by: Guaranteed awards
- Entitlement Deadline: March 2nd
- Competitive Deadline: Sept 2nd

**SB 940:**
- If you submit by: Guaranteed awards
- Entitlement
- Competitive Deadline: Sept 2nd
Foster youth fall through the cracks in college planning.

- 40% of foster youth submit a FAFSA after March 2 but before Sept 2.
- 7828 students who identified as foster youth in 2016/2017 missed the March 2 deadline.
### Why does the deadline change apply to community colleges only?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Attending CSU or UC</th>
<th>Attending a CC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application deadlines</strong></td>
<td>Application deadlines are 8 months before first day of class</td>
<td>Open enrollment – college applications often submitted well after March 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exclusion</strong></td>
<td>A later deadline could exclude foster youth from other sources of funding such as institutional grants</td>
<td>Greater flexibility in timing to process aid applications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What do foster youth have to say about this bill?

- Importance of financial aid access
- Experience with Cal Grant
- How provisions will help foster youth

Xavier Mountain, former foster youth and current graduate student at the University of Southern California.
SB 940 Faces Considerable Challenges

- Instability at the federal level creates uncertainty at the state level
- Governor’s budget cites looming recession
- SB 940 will require a budget allocation
- Worthy, competing priorities
- Recent successes, including Pell and Chafee
Legislative Timeline for SB 940

- Jan 29: SB 940 introduced
- June 1: Last Day for Senate to pass bills
- August 31: Last Day for Assembly to pass bills
- October 15: Last Day for Governor to sign or veto
- Senate Education Committee (Mar 14 or 28)
- Senate Appropriations Committee
- Assembly Higher Education Committee
- Assembly Appropriations Committee
- Bill goes to Governor
- If not vetoed, bill becomes law effective January 1, 2019
Parallel budget process

- Governor's budget proposal released 1/10/18
- Senate and Assembly hold budget hearings
- Governor releases revised budget proposal (May)
- Legislative budget bill finalized by June 15
- Budget signed by Governor
How can you help make SB 940 a reality?

1. Send in an SB 940 support letter (www.jbaforyouth.org/support-legislation-2/) to carolyn@jbay.org
2. AND sign on to support the accompanying budget request
3. Spread the word on social media; use the hashtags #CalGrantsforFosterYouth and #SB940
4. Attend and testify at March Senate Education Committee and budget subcommittee hearings
   - March 14 or 28 – Senate Education
   - March 20 – Assembly budget hearing
5. Meet with legislators in your district
6. Encourage foster youth to get involved
7. Stay tuned for more work over the spring and summer
To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”

or contact:

Debbie Raucher, John Burton Advocates for Youth
Debbie@jbaforyouth.org
Sources

Slide 5:
- Courtney, Mark et al. (2016). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Youth at Age 19*
- Frerer, Kristine et al. (2013). *Foster Youth Transitions.*

Slide 6:
- Frerer, Kristine et al. (2013). *At Greater Risk: California Foster Youth and the Path from High School to College*

Slide 7:
- Frerer, Kristine et al. (2013). *At Greater Risk: California Foster Youth and the Path from High School to College*

Slide 8:

Slide 9:

Slide 10:

Slide 11:
- California College Pathways (2015). *Charting the Course: Using Data to Support Foster Youth College Success.*

Slide 13:
- Barrat, V. X., & Berliner, B. (2013). *The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part 1: Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care in California's Public Schools*
- Courtney, Mark et al. (2016). *Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Youth at Age 19*

Slide 21:
- Datamart: datamart.cccco.edu/Outcomes/Course_Ret_Success_SP.aspx

Slide 23:
- Okpych, Nathanael et al. (2017). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Predictors of High School Completion and College Entry at Ages 19/20*

Slide 25: Data provided by California Student Aid Commission