SB 150: INCREASING CHAFEE GRANT ACCESS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

February 7, 2019
INFORMATION TO PARTICIPATE

- Today’s PowerPoint can be downloaded from the ”handouts” section of your control panel
- To submit questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “send”
- Presentation materials and audio will also be posted at www.jbaforyouth.org
Agenda

- Introductions
- Experiences & Challenges to Academic Success that Foster Youth Face
- Chafee Education and Training Vouchers
- Senate Bill 150 Provisions
- How You Can Help
- Q & A
Today’s Presenters

- **Debbie Raucher**
  Project Director, John Burton Advocates for Youth

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

- **Xavier Mountain**
  Youth Advocate, John Burton Advocates for Youth

- **Estevan Ginsburg**
  Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Jim Beall
Overview of Child Welfare

Children 0-17 enter foster care due to abuse and/or neglect in the home.

66,000 children and youth currently in foster care in California.

Over 30,000 current and former foster youth are enrolled in college.
Experiences Foster Youth Face

- Abuse and/or neglect in home
- Removal from home
- Separation from siblings
- Instability - multiple placements
- Frequent changes in school
Challenges to Academic Success

One third of students in foster care change schools at least once during the school year—one fourth times the rate of other students.

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.

Over half of California foster youth attend poor quality high schools compared to one-third of the general student population.
Experiences Result in Academic Delays

Percentage of students who scored at each of five proficiency levels at the California Standards Test in English Language Arts

- General population:
  - Far below basic: 11%
  - Below basic: 13%
  - Basic: 26%
  - Proficient: 23%
  - Advanced: 22%

- Economically disadvantaged:
  - Far below basic: 24%
  - Below basic: 17%
  - Basic: 32%
  - Proficient: 23%
  - Advanced: 12%

- Foster youth:
  - Far below basic: 35%
  - Below basic: 27%
  - Basic: 30%
  - Proficient: 15%
  - Advanced: 4%
Foster Youth and Post-Secondary Education

The extension of foster care to age 21 has expanded college enrollment by 10-11% for each additional year in care.

By age 19/20, 54.8% of foster youth are enrolled in college.

Of those enrolled in college, 84.8% enroll in a 2-year community college.

Once enrolled, however, foster youth struggle to be successful.
Foster youth succeed in college courses at a lower rate than their counterparts.

Course success is defined as achieving a grade of A, B, C or P.
### Level of Education Completed

**Highest Grade Completed at Age 26**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Education</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>

*Legend: Red arrows indicate significant differences.*
Decreasing Opportunity

Figure 1. Workers with a Bachelor’s degree have added 8.4 million jobs in the recovery, but workers with high school diplomas or less added only 80,000 jobs after losing 5.6 million jobs in the recession.
Outcomes From Lack of Education

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Unemployment rate (%)</th>
<th>Median usual weekly earnings ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 3.6%                                    All workers: $907

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.
Financial aid impacts college persistence and success.

Students with a zero-expected family contribution who receive:

- $1,000-2,500: 17% graduation or transfer rate
- $7,500: 47% graduation or transfer rate

3x
Chafee Education and Training Vouchers

- Grants up to $5,000 for current or former foster youth
- Paid through a combination of state and federal dollars
- Available for a maximum of 5 years or up to age 26
- Can be used for living costs rather than just tuition and fees
- Funds authorized through the Department of Social Services and managed through California Student Aid Commission

**FY 2017-18**
- $13.2 million
- 3,516 students
- $3,750 average award

**FY 2018-2019**
- $17.2 million
Challenges of the Chafee ETV

**Grant disbursement delays**
- Many students do not receive funds until well into the school year

**Satisfactory Academic Progress**
- Estimated 20-50% of Chafee recipients lose funding due to not making SAP
- Loss of all financial aid makes continued enrollment extremely challenging
- Students returning to school after previous SAP disqualification remain ineligible
SB 150

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
  - Cal Grant Expansion
- Thank you Jim Beall!
SB 150 Provisions

- Authorize CSAC to over-award Chafee grants in order to ensure timely receipt of payments
- Allow students to receive Chafee grants for two years before losing grant due to not making SAP
- Allow returning students to regain eligibility for Chafee grant
- Specify criteria for appeal for the loss of a Chafee grant
Current distribution of Chafee Grants leads to delays in financial aid receipt

**Current Process:**

- CSAC awards Chafee grants to qualified students.
- About half of students are not enrolled or are ineligible, and funds are withdrawn and awarded to students on waiting list.
- Students awarded in later rounds of funding don’t receive funds until late in the school year.
Provision 1: Authorize CSAC to over-award Chafee grants in order to ensure timely receipt of payments

Proposed Process:

• Starting in the 2021-2022 award year, CSAC would be authorized to distribute up to twice the allocated Chafee budget (“over-award”) during the first award cycle to ensure faster disbursement.

• Bill protects from overages by stipulating that CSAC deduct any spending overages from the program in the following year.
Provision 1 would implement a process that has been successful for the distribution of the competitive Cal Grant.

The process of over-awarding was implemented for the Cal Grant program in 2017-2018 and found to speed up the disbursement process by 33%.

Total percentage of awards paid increased from 92.8% in 2014/2015 to 100% in 2016/2017.
Provision 2: Allow students to receive Chafee grants for two years before losing grant due to not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

**Current Process:**
- Failure to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Financial Aid Termination
  - One year

**Proposed Process:**
- Failure to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Financial Aid Termination
  - Two years
Satisfactory Academic Progress

Standard that students must meet to receive state and federal financial aid, including publicly subsidized loans and work study.

2.0 GPA
The required GPA is set by individual institution but must be set no lower than 2.0.

67% Pace
Students must complete a set percentage of credits attempted. It is commonly set at 67%.

150% Timeframe
Students must complete their degree within 150% of the credit hours required for their program.
Is the Chafee subject to SAP requirements?

- Federal law requirements requires States to implement some form of academic progress requirement for the Chafee grant.
- **BUT** it is *not required* that it be the same standard as federal aid standards.
- The decision to impose SAP requirements on the Chafee Grant in California was made in 2001 when the program was created.
- Improved understanding of the challenges foster youth face in college and importance of financial aid points to a need for reevaluation of these SAP requirements.
Precedent exists for special considerations for foster youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SAP Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal aid</td>
<td>Subject to SAP per federal law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pell Grant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Federal Work Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Subsidized loans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State aid</td>
<td>Subject to SAP per state law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cal Grant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CA Dream Act</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chafee ETV</td>
<td>Subject to SAP currently – federal law allows flexibility in standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College Promise Grant (fee waiver)</td>
<td>Foster youth are exempted from SAP requirements by regulation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How are foster youth grades in college compared to the general population?

Percentage of students who have a 2.0 GPA or higher in California’s Community College

- Chafee recipients: 51%
- General Population: 67%
Losing financial aid due to SAP disproportionally affects foster youth.

A July 2018 survey of youth in the state’s two transitional housing programs for current and former foster youth found that one in five youth in both housing programs have lost financial aid due to failure to meet SAP.
Similar proportion of Chafee Grant applicants are deemed ineligible because of SAP.

In the pool of 2017/18 Chafee applicants, 5,045 applicants were found to be ineligible for the one or more of the following reasons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for Ineligibility*</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not enrolled or enrolled elsewhere</td>
<td>3,578</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not meeting SAP</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete financial aid application</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not half time</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduated</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*students may lose eligibility for more than one reason
Why do foster youth commonly not meet SAP?

- Short term crisis related to foster care experience
- Lack of adult support or support on campus
- Confusion about SAP requirement
- Longer time to develop academic and study skills
- Lack of knowledge about drop deadlines
- Longer time to develop academic and study skills
How much can a foster youth student lose due to not maintaining SAP?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of Financial Aid</th>
<th>Community college</th>
<th>CSU</th>
<th>UC</th>
<th>Private College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>$6,095</td>
<td>$6,095</td>
<td>$6,095</td>
<td>$6,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Cal Grant</td>
<td>$1,672</td>
<td>$7,414</td>
<td>$14,302</td>
<td>$10,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chafee ETV</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LOST DUE TO SAP</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,767</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,509</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25,397</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,990</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Provision 3: Allow returning students to regain eligibility for Chafee grant

Current Process:
Student who was on SAP disqualification returns to school
At least one term and until student demonstrates progress
Financial Aid Reinstated

Proposed Process:
Student who was on SAP disqualification returns to school
Chafee Grant Reinstated Upon Return
Provision 4: Specify criteria for appeal for the loss of a Chafee grant

The student achieves a 2.0 GPA.

Extenuating circumstance that has since been addressed

Engagement with a supportive program
Benefits of the SAP provisions in SB 150

Statewide consistency:
Establish minimum standard for students receiving Chafee across all post secondary institutions

Economic security:
Creates foundational financial support for foster youth to remedy academic deficiencies and to stay enrolled

College Persistence:
Allows foster youth to continue to receive one form of financial aid to remain enrolled and help pay for tuition, fees, and living costs
What do foster youth have to say about this bill?

Xavier Mountain, former foster youth and current graduate student at the University of Southern California
Challenges SB 150 May Face

- Instability at the federal level creates uncertainty at the state level
- Worthy, competing priorities
- Controversy around Satisfactory Academic Progress
  - Some stakeholders may not fully recognize the unique circumstances foster youth face
- Recent successes, including Pell, Cal Grant, and Chafee expansion
Legislative Timeline for SB 150

- Jan 22: SB 150 introduced
- May 31: Last Day for Senate to pass bills
- Sept 13: Last Day for Assembly to pass bills
- October 13: Last Day for Governor to sign or veto
- Bill goes to Governor
- If not vetoed, bill becomes law effective January 1, 2020
How can you help make SB 150 a reality?

- Send in an organizational support letter to carolyn@jbay.org.
  - Sample letter can be found at www.jbay.org/support-legislation-2
- Attend and testify at Senate Policy Committee – March hearing dates TBD
- Meet with legislators in your district
- Encourage foster youth to send support letters and provide personal testimony at hearings
- Stay tuned for more work over the spring and summer
Questions or Comments?

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@jbay.org