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

   o www.jbaforyouth.org
Agenda

- SB 860
- SB 958
- Legislative Process
- How You Can Help
- Q & A
Today’s Presenters

Jordan Sosa, Legislative Coordinator
Margaret Olmos, Director, FosterEd California
Kista Holani, Youth Advocate
Christina Torres, Youth Advocate
Estevan Ginsburg, Legislative Aide, Senator Beall’s Office
In today’s economy, a post-secondary credential is essential.
Foster Youth & College

- Want to go to college: 86%
- Enroll: 55%
- Complete 2 or 4 year degree: 8%
Foster Youth and Academic Outcomes

Achieved a 2.0+ Grade Point Average (GPA) at Community College

- Foster Youth: 54%
- Non-Foster Youth: 68%
SB 860 (Beall)
Foster Youth FAFSA Completion
Very low-income students are 127% more likely to immediately enroll in college if they complete the FAFSA.
Financial Aid makes a Difference

$7,500 in financial aid
49% transferred or graduated

$1,000 to 2,500 in financial aid
17% transferred or graduated
Impact of Financial Aid on Foster Youth

Pell Grants
+0.07 GPA | +2.12 Units
Foster youth who receive a Chafee grant are four times more likely to persist through their first year of college than those who do not receive the grant.
Financial Aid & Foster Youth

Financial aid received
First time students at community college

- Pell Grant: 49%
- Promise Grant Fee Waiver: 78%
So much help, not enough coordination

- Independent Living Programs
- Social Workers
- HS Counselors
- Probation Officers
- Ed Rights Holders
- College Programs
- Resource Families
- CASAs
The FAFSA Challenge

- Launched November 2017
- Now in third year
- FYSCPs serve as central coordinators of effort
- 52 of 58 FYSCPs participate
- Use WebGrants to track completion
- Coordinate partners
FAFSA Challenge Results – It Worked!

2017-2018: 45%

2018-2019: 57%
WebGrants and the FAFSA Challenge

• Allows LEAs to look up student level data regarding FAFSA/Dream Act completion

• Tool for tracking completion

• Identify patterns in completion rates

• Enables student specific intervention
FAFSA Challenge Strategies

- Board of Supervisors resolution
- Data sharing with child welfare and probation
- Peer ambassadors
- College and career fair
- Training to school counselors
“Facilitate the provision of educational support to any pupil in foster care residing or attending school in the county”
Why is the FYSCP Necessary?

- Specialized needs
- Small population
FYSCP Plan must describe “how the program will facilitate coordination with local postsecondary educational institutions...to ensure foster youth pupils...access programs that support their matriculation needs.
SB 860: Codifying FAFSA Challenge

SB 860 would specify that the responsibilities of FYSCPs include \textit{coordination} of efforts to ensure FAFSA completion among foster youth who are high school seniors.
SB 860: Codifying FAFSA Challenge

Addition of FAFSA completion rates to reported data elements
Student Perspective

KISTA HOLANI
Q: Does this shift the responsibilities of the FYSCPs back to direct service?
A: No. The bill language specifies the role of FYSCPs as one of coordination of FAFSA completion efforts, not direct service.

Q: Would this language require 100% FAFSA completion among foster youth?
A: No. Existing statute provides that each named responsibility should be achieved “to the extent possible.” This same language governs the new provision.

Q: What if a foster youth doesn’t want to complete the FAFSA?
A: There may be students who don’t want to complete a FAFSA. The bill requires FAFSAs be completed “to the extent possible.” No student would be forced to complete a FAFSA under this bill.
Q: Will FYSCPs have flexibility regarding how they support FAFSA completion efforts?
A: Yes, FYSCPs can utilize whatever strategies make the most sense in their local context.

Q: Will FYSCPs be required to hold college and career events for foster youth to complete FAFSAs?
A: No. FYSCPs can choose whatever strategies make the most sense in their local context. Hosting an event is just one of many options.
Q: Aren’t high school counselors already doing this? Or Independent Living Programs?
A: While some students receive support from their high school counselor or ILP, the low rates of Pell grant receipt indicate that many foster youth are not receiving the needed support. The lack of a central entity to track and coordinate this work has allowed many foster youth to fall through the cracks.

Q: If AB 1617 passes wouldn’t that negate the need for this?
A: AB 1617 would make FAFSA completion a high school graduation requirement. If this were to move forward, it would be imperative that high schools receive technical assistance about FAFSA completion for foster youth and that foster youth FAFSA completion is being tracked.
Q: How are FYSCPs supposed to track rates of FASFA completion?
A: WebGrants allows FYSCPs to look up FAFSA status for youth enrolled in any accredited school in the county. This should become easier in 2021 when CSAC introduces a new and improved WebGrants system.

Q: Why does the bill include Dream Act applications in addition to FAFSA? How do we track Dream Act applications?
A: The information available in WebGrants automatically captures both FAFSA and Dream Act completion so no additional tracking is required.

Q: Who will ensure that there will be consistency in how the data is reported?
A: CDE would be responsible for developing data reporting rules
Bill Author – Senator Jim Beall

• Represents the 15th District (San Jose)
• Three decades of public service
• History of support for foster youth:
  o AB 12: Extended Foster Care
  o SB 12: Removing barriers to FAFSA completion
  o AB 1809: Cal Grant Expansion
  o SB 150: Remove barriers to Chafee grant
LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

- Bills introduced (Jan – Feb)
- Fiscal hearings – first house (Mar – Apr)
- Policy hearings – second house (May)
- Fiscal hearings – second house (Jun – Jul)
- Full vote (May)
- Full vote (Jun – Jul)
- Full vote (July)
- Full vote (Sept)
- Governor (Sept – Oct)
What You Can Do

- Letters of Support
- Testify at hearings
- Recruit students to testify
- District visits
Questions?

To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”
SB 958 (Leyva)
Expanding College Support
What is NextUp?

- Program for foster youth attending community college
- Range of academic and support services including direct financial support
- Also referred to as CAFYES (Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Education Support)
Challenges to Academic Success

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

- 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.

- **40%** of foster youth in community colleges have experienced homelessness.
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.
NextUp Background

- Created in 2014 (SB 1023)
- Funded in 2015 for up to 10 districts ($15 million)
- First program operational Fall 2016
- Expanded to up to 20 districts 2018 ($20 million)
- Operating on 45 campuses serving 1800 students
Student Support Programs

**Student Support Grants**

+0.2 GPA | +3.00 units

**Campus Support Program Participation**

= Persistence ↑ 2.45x
Student Feedback

How Effective is NextUp?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Did NextUp help you to...</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enroll in the correct classes</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access priority registration</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get or keeping financial aid</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stay enrolled in college</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass my courses</td>
<td>65%</td>
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Student Feedback

“I can say without them I think I would have dropped out of college already. They are my biggest support and help.”

“It's definitely made me feel like people care and gives me reassurance that I won't slip through the cracks”

“If it wasn’t for the NEXTUp Program & my counselors, I would have not made it this far. I wouldn’t have the academic dreams that I have now.”

“I definitely would not have been able to succeed without this program and my counselor helping and encouraging me along the way for the past three years.”
Current Eligibility

- In foster care on or after 16
- Enrolled in 9 units
- Under age 26
- California residency
- Qualify for Fee Waiver with an Expected Family Contribution of $0 (or under 150% of poverty level)
Jordan Sosa

California Youth Connection (CYC)
# FosterStability

a youth-led effort to create a youth-centered process for stability in all aspects of our lives:

- Stability in Education and Extracurricular Activities
- Stability in Relationships and Lifelong Connections
- Stability in Health and Wellness

We will create a system that honors and nourishes the mind, body, and soul of every child and youth impacted by California’s foster care system.
Student Perspective

Christina Torres
SB 958 – Provision 1

Adjust eligibility for NextUp and priority registration to in foster care after age 13

Research shows similar level of need

Consistency in eligibility reduces barriers to access

Youth feedback
SB 958 - Provision 2

Allow programs to exercise professional judgment around income standards

Foster youth re-entering college may have prior years work income but still have need
SB 958 – Provision 3

Direct support allowable prior to first day of class
SB 958 – Provision 4

Ensuring that program application and enrollment processes are streamlined and do not impose barriers to entry
$3.3 million new annual funding required
Two Parallel Processes

Bill Process

Budget Process

Policy change

Funding allocation
LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

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Fiscal hearings – first house (Mar – Apr)

Policy hearings – first house (May)

Policy hearings – second house (Jun – Jul)

Fiscal hearings – second house (Jul – Aug)

Full vote (May)

Full vote (Sept)

Governor (Sept – Oct)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agency requests to Governor</td>
<td>Sept - Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor’s budget proposal</td>
<td>Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget hearings</td>
<td>Jan - May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor’s revised budget</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget hearings</td>
<td>May - June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget finalized</td>
<td>June</td>
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Budget Considerations

- Expected Budget Surplus
- Prop 98
- Emphasis on Local Control
Governor’s January budget proposes to reduce CAFYES budget by $1 million to transition administrative set-aside into a single pot for all programs with no guarantee funding will be used to support CAFYES program.
What You Can Do

Letters of Support

Testify at hearings

Recruit students to testify

District visits
Budget Hearings

Tuesday, February 25 (9 am) – Assembly Education Budget Subcommittee – budget overview

Tuesday, March 10 (9 am) – Assembly Education Budget Subcommittee – college access

April 23 (9:30 am or end of floor session) – Senate Education Budget Subcommittee – Community Colleges

Tuesday, May 15 (9 am) Assembly Education Budget Subcommittee – Community Colleges
Questions or Comments?

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

Contact information:
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https://www.jbaforyouth.org/2020-support-legislation/