College-Led Discussion on AB 12 and AB 194

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What is AB 194?

AB 194 will provide priority registration for classes to foster youth and former foster youth at California's public colleges and universities.
And the survey results say...

Number of students who currently receive priority registration

- Receiving priority registration: 44.9%
- Not receiving priority registration: 55.1%
Number of students who have received their desired classes

- All: 60%
- Most: 20%
- About half: 10%
- Some: 5%
- None: 5%
Number of students who received the needed prerequisite math and English courses
AB 12 California Fostering Connections to Success Act
Extending Support for Foster Youth beyond age 18

What is AB 12?
Allows foster youth under the age of 17 (as of January 2011) to be provided transitional support up to age 20 (possibly to 21 if funding is made available by 2014).

The Goal:
To provide young adults who leave foster care with the social, emotional and practical skills to achieve their potential and succeed in life.
What does AB12 do?

Extend benefits to age 21 for:

- Youth who “age out” of foster care or juvenile probation systems
- Youth who exit to Kin-GAP at age 16+
- Youth who receive Adoption Assistance at age 16+
- Non-Dependent, Non-Related Legal Guardian Youth
Timeline and Process

• Legislation was passed in Sept. 2010
• Focus Area Teams are currently meeting and collecting stakeholder input regarding development of regulations
• All County Letters will be released around October 1, 2011
• The projected release of regulations will be around July 1, 2012
• Until ACLs are finalized many questions will not have definitive answers
AB 12: What We Believe:
Every Young Adult is Fully Valued

Voices of Young Adults
Assistance & Partnering
Love & Belonging
Unique Needs
Eligibility is Maintained
Development is Supported

From CA Fostering Connections to Success - www.cafosteringconnections.org
How Does Participation Work?

• Social worker discusses options with youth prior to 18\textsuperscript{th} birthday
• Participation in foster care after age 18 under AB 12 is \textit{voluntary}
• Youth may decide to exit at \underline{anytime} before they turn age 21
• Youth have the option to return before they turn 21 through \underline{trial independence}
Eligibility Requirements

The youth must:

1. continue under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a dependent or a ward,
2. sign a mutual agreement with the county child welfare or probation agency or tribe that has a IV-E agreement with the state for supervision and support;
3. meet one of the five participation conditions, and
4. agree to live in a supervised placement that is licensed or approved under new standards for 18 to 21 year olds.
AB 12 Participation Requirements
Work or Go to School:

1. Complete secondary education/equivalent credential
2. Enroll in post secondary/vocational education institution \( \rightarrow \) make that a CCC!
3. Participate in activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
4. Employed (at least 80 hours per month)
5. Unable to do one of the above due to a medical condition
Higher Education Recommendations:

Recommendation Subject Areas

- Eligibility for AB12 benefits
- Supervised Independent Living Placement
- Transitional Independent Living Plan
- Collaboration
- Training
- Financial Aid
Eligibility

- Minimum enrollment requirement
- Any licensed institution eligible
  - Public systems
  - Bureau for Private Post Secondary Ed
  - Western Assn. of Schools and Colleges
  - Similar institutions outside of California
  - Includes online courses
Eligibility (cont.)

- Both for-credit and non-credit courses eligible
  - Remedial or basic skills
  - University extension programs
  - Not-for-credit vocational programs
  - College and Career Planning or College Success Skills Courses
- Maintenance over summer and other breaks
- Range of options for verification
- Flexibility in situations where a student drops a class
Supervised Independent Living Placement

- Expectation that many in SILPs will be students
- Age appropriate approval standards
- Expedited approval for college owned housing and housing that is subject to inspection by govt. entity
- No background checks for other adults in household
Supervised Independent Living Placement

• Participants must be allowed to move into sites pending approval with retroactive payment
• No requirement for formal lease with landlord with social worker approval and written verification of arrangement
• Respect for privacy and confidentiality of participants
Transitional Independent Living Plan

• Reflect higher education goals on samples provided on TILP form
• Train social workers to incorporate specific higher education goals into TILP and provide appropriate services to youth to support access of higher education
• Utilize ongoing monitoring to support youth to be successful in higher education
Collaboration

• Co-location of ILSP with higher education
• Create mechanism for sharing of information between higher ed and child welfare with permission from student
• Child welfare agencies identify higher education liaison
• Establish local education partnerships
Training

• Train all Social Workers and Probation Officers with basic higher education information
• Create advanced curriculum for Social Workers working with participants aged 14 and up
• Provide training to relative caregivers and foster parents
Financial Aid

• Specific exemption for Title IV-e funds from Estimated Family Contribution should include AB12 payments

• AB12 payments should not considered part of Estimated Financial Assistance

• Working to get guidance from Dept of Education and CSAC
Discussion
For More Info on AB 12

To stay up to date, visit

www.CAFosteringConnections.org