

Youth Education Support Newsletter

"Promoting Academic Success"

The Education and Mentoring Section presents the first Volume of our monthly newsletter created to inform, share lessons learned and applaud our dedicated staff. We welcome your ideas and stories and look forward to continuing our partnership in strengthening our youth's education and meaningful relationships.

"Did You Know?"

Some of California's foster youth experience frequent placements and moves from school to school, which often results in a loss of school credits, and a delay in earning a high school diploma. Foster youth in their junior or senior year of high school, relocated to another school district, may be faced with additional graduation requirements at the new school. However, **Assembly Bill 167**, which went into effect January 1, 2010, helps foster youth by not requiring them to complete the new school's additional graduation requirements. The youth only need to complete the state's minimum high school requirements and pass both parts of the CAHSEE. Your Education Consultants have been delivering this news to our youth and their caretakers, which has been putting lots of smiles of relief on our youth's faces!

Education Consultants

We welcome our newly formed teams of Education Specialists: DCFS' Education Consultants and LACOE, Foster Youth Services' Education Counselors and Education Community Workers.

Belvedere: Fatima Saenz-Estela Saravia -Carmen Huertas
Glendora: Rosemary Harrahill-Teresa Villasenor- Pauline Goitia
SFVs: Annalisa Del Castillo-Shirley Shaw-Gabriella Watkins-Machelle Massey
So.County: Chethan Boddula-Marcelino Ybarra-Mildred Burge
Vermont: Chien-Yi Yang-Toni Thomas
For phone numbers visit LA Kids' Youth Education Support site

Above and Beyond

Education Consultant, Rosemary Harrahill recovered 52 lost credits for a youth!

Top Offices: Education Information for all serviced youth:

Lancaster	1017 cases	96%
Torrance	916 cases	91%
W. San Fernando Valley	466 cases	89%
San Fernando Valley	1272 cases	89%
Pasadena	940 cases	87%

We applaud the team work of Clerical, CSWs, SCSWs and Administrators Department wide for in-putting over 15,000 records!!!!



Resources

The Children Youth & Family Collaborative (CYFC) serves over 4,000 foster and at-risk youth at 25 sites in the Compton and Los Angeles areas. Their objective is to increase the high school graduation rate of these youth, by pairing them with volunteer Mentors. They offer a structured tutoring program, designed to improve academic performance, and assist with passing the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Additional schools served are:

Montebello High School: Contact maria@cyfcla.org
Schurr High School: Contact derek@cyfcla.org
Bell Gardens High School: Contact gilma@cyfcla.org

For a complete list of schools, please visit: www.cyfcla.org

Mentoring Relationships

The DCFS Community-Based Mentoring Program, although in its "sunsetting" phase, is a 2-year "pilot" project, that kicked-off on July 1, 2009. Since then, there have been more than 200 youth in foster care paired with a caring volunteer Mentor from the youth's community. These volunteers were thoroughly screened and trained, and were eager to take on the "challenge" and "privilege" of fostering a relationship with our precious youth. One such wonderful volunteer Mentor was DCFS' own, Susan Vu-Pritko, who was paired with 14 year-old Mentee, Alondra. Since being paired only months ago, these 2 trailblazing young ladies have enjoyed sharing a passion for fashion, among other things. Susan's commitment is commendable, as she insisted on remaining in Alondra's life, despite a placement change to a not-so-nearby foster home. Keep an eye out for future Academic Mentoring Programs.

Enrichment Plus Awards

The Enrichment Plus Program, established by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS), recognizes our youth in foster care, who have made outstanding achievements in academic performance. Youth who are selected are honored at a televised Board Meeting. They receive a congratulatory letter, a scroll from the Board of Supervisors, and a \$50 Gift Certificate to Barnes & Nobles from the Y.O.U. Board. They are also photographed with the Board of Supervisors! These awards are issued quarterly, and the names are submitted by the CSW. The most recent recipients have been: **Luis E., Jesse C., Brianna G., Keisha S., Kelsey E., Amanda M., and Joseph C.** Submit the names of prospective candidates today for March 2011. Go to our site's Latest News/ Home page to download the information. This is a wonderful opportunity to inspire, recognize and honor our youth and their families!

DCFS' Education & Mentoring Section

**Please Email your feedback, questions or stories to: Youth.Education.Support@dcfs.lacounty.gov.
Also visit us on LA Kids, Youth Education Support Website. We look forward to hearing from you!!**