"Meeting the unique educational needs of foster youth."

“Be a good role model for other foster youth.”
- Foster Youth

Things to Remember

• Moving often can make a child feel hurt and act with anger.
• Don’t make assumptions. Each child is unique.
• Don’t blame the child for being in foster care. They have new homes with people they don’t know and it is stressful.
• Not every child in foster care is on probation.
• Keep confidentiality. Don’t ask them about their personal life. If they feel comfortable enough to open up to you, listen and don’t brush it off.
• Don’t share any information about foster youth, unless they threaten to harm themselves or someone else.
• Make sure to report when reportable. When you are a state mandated reporter, failure to report can possibly lead to a $500 fine, incarceration and/or a loss of your credentials!
• Treat the foster youth equally. Foster youth are not “bad kids”.

A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.

– Chinese Proverb

For more information regarding the FYSCP please contact:

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Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) Mission Statement

“Promoting educational and emotional development of Merced County foster youth through strong partnerships and collaboration to improve lifelong outcomes.”
What is the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP)?

- The FYSCP is designed to assist students who are placed in Short Term Residential Therapeutic Placements (STRTP) & Resource Homes. Ages 4-21.
- The FYSCP is operated directly through the Merced County Office of Education.
- FYSCP is grant funded through the California Department of Education.

Our Intention is:

To stabilize foster care placement, minimize school mobility, and promote educational success of foster youth by working collaboratively with Merced County schools and service providers.

Services Provided

- Transitional services (vocational training, college readiness and independent living services)
- Educational/AB 490 Advocacy
- Trainings for school districts and service providers
- Ensure appropriate school placement and minimize changing of schools
- Facilitate prompt transfer of education records
- Facilitate communication between foster care provider, social workers, probation officers, school staff or other education service providers
- Educational case management

These services are provided directly or in cooperation with collaborative partners within Merced County.

Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program provides an Educational/AB490 Liaison. A brief definition of the AB 490 law is as follows;

“AB 490, effective, January 1, 2004, seeks to ensure that California’s foster youth have a meaningful opportunity to meet the challenging state pupil academic achievement standards to which all pupils are held.” “The overall goal of AB 490 is to improve academic attainment for foster children by promoting school stability and identifying a clear preference for enrollment in regular public schools.”

Key Community Partners, include, but are not limited to:

Merced County Schools, Local SELPA, Merced County Human Services Agency, Merced County Probation Department, Merced County Mental Health, Creative Alternatives, Rainbow Valley Group Homes, Approachable Foster Family Agency, Aspiranet, & CASA of Merced County.