PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR FOSTER YOUTH TWO YEARS LATER:

Challenges and Triumphs

March 5, 2013
WEBINAR TECHNICAL DETAILS

• Call in phone number for live audio*: (702) 489-0001
  Access Code: 614-855-145

• To submit live questions, click on the “question and answer” arrow on your screen, type your question, and hit “send”.

• Presentation materials and full report will be posted at www.cacollegepathways.org

*For better sound and reduced risk of technical difficulties, we recommend calling in as opposed to listening through your computer speakers
TODAY’S PRESENTERS

Paulette Castro
Student at Solano Community College

Emily Ives
University of California, Los Angeles

Nick Lawrence
Santa Rose Junior College

Debbie Raucher
John Burton Foundation

Simone Tureck
John Burton Foundation

Dyresha Williams
Student at Fresno State University
PROVISIONS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 194

• **Requires** California Community College (CCC) and California State University (CSU) campuses to grant priority for enrollment in classes to current and former foster youth

• **Requests** that University of California (UC) campuses do the same
Less than half of foster youth complete high school (45%)\(^1\)

An estimated 3-11 percent of former foster youth ever receive a bachelor’s degree\(^2\)

\(^1\) K. Frerer, et. Al., *At Greater Risk: California Foster Youth and the Path from High School to College*, Center for Social Services Research University of California, Berkeley, Institute for Evidence Based Change, MPR Associates, March 2013.

EDUCATIONAL DISPARITIES BETWEEN FOSTER YOUTH & GENERAL POPULATION

% of youth who enroll in community college:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FOSTER YOUTH</th>
<th>GENERAL POPULATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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% of students who enroll in a second year:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FOSTER YOUTH</th>
<th>LOW-INCOME YOUTH</th>
<th>GENERAL POPULATION</th>
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<td>41%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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FACTORS IMPACTING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- High rates of disability
- Placement changes disrupt education
- Poor school quality
- Educational delays & low educational attainment

- Foster youth are 4 times more likely to change schools than other students than a given year than other students
- Nearly 1 in 5 youth in foster care have a disability, twice the rate of the general population
- 15% of foster youth attend the lowest performing 10% of schools in CA
HOW DOES AB 194 HELP?

- Reduces obstacles for current and former foster youth securing needed classes
- Makes persistence and completion more attainable
- Reduces disparity between eligible foster and non-foster youth enrolling in and succeeding in higher education
AB 194 in Action: A Review of Implementation of Priority Registration for Foster Youth at California’s Public Post-Secondary Institutions

Available at www.cacollegepathways.org

Shares results and findings from a survey of 92 campuses on the implementation of priority registration for current and former foster youth, and makes recommendations for best practices.
92 of the 143 public post-secondary institutions in CA responded to a survey asking about:

- Types of services/programs a campus provides for current/former foster youth
- Implementation timeframe
- Type of outreach campuses utilize in identifying current/former foster youth students
- Mechanisms used to communicate eligibility to students
- How campuses verify foster youth status
- Best practices, challenges, and setbacks experienced

- 69 of 112 CCCs responded
- 16 of 22 CSUs responded
- 7 of 9 UCs responded
SURVEY RESULTS

Where Are We With Priority Registration for Current and Former Foster Youth?
SUPPORT FOR CURRENT & FORMER FOSTER YOUTH ON CAMPUS

- Comprehensive campus support program: 31% of all CA campuses, 32% of survey respondents
- Limited campus support program: 28% of all CA campuses, 48% of survey respondents
- Single point of contact only: 41% of all CA campuses, 21% of survey respondents
During 2012 71%

Prior to 2012 23%

Still in process of implementing 1%

Spring of 2013 5%

Winter 7%

Fall 22%

Summer 18%

Spring 53%

2012
REPORTED DATA ON ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

92 campuses responded to survey

46 campuses provided data on # of eligible students

15 campuses provided data on # of eligible youth who utilized priority registration during Fall of 2012

3,709 eligible students

70% eligible students utilized priority registration
EXTENT OF OUTREACH TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- Active outreach: 61%
- Limited promotion: 14%
- Very limited/no outreach: 25%
CAMPUSES WITH ACTIVE OUTREACH EFFORTS

- Comprehensive campus support program: 83%
- Limited campus support: 52%
- Single point of contact only: 37%
TARGETED OUTREACH: IDENTIFICATION METHODS

- List of Chafee-eligible students: 65%
- List of those who self-identified on admissions application: 70%
- List of those who self-identified on FAFSA: 67%
NUMBER OF METHODS USED FOR ELIGIBILITY IDENTIFICATION

- 3 resources: 47%
- 2 resources: 24%
- 1 resource: 14%
- None: 15%
ADDITIONAL OUTREACH STRATEGIES

- Social media: 16%
- Visual media: 23%
- Presentations: 52%
- Word-of-mouth: 83%
ARE CAMPUSES IMPOSING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS?

8 campuses reported imposing additional requirements on students eligible for priority registration in order to access it.*

5 require orientation, assessment and/or advising

3 require participation in their campus support program

*This number has now grown considerably as a result of recent amendments to state regs on education regarding community colleges.
VERIFICATION OF FOSTER YOUTH STATUS

- Verification based on Chafee eligibility (some form of child welfare/ILP verification required for youth not on list)
- Direct verification process set up with child welfare/ILP for local youth (verification letter required from other counties)
- All students required to bring in dependency letter
FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Practices for Effective Implementation of Priority Registration for Current and Former Foster Youth
USE MULTIPLE SOURCES OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA TO IDENTIFY FOSTER YOUTH IN STUDENT BODY.

Establish relationship with key people in campus depts. & off-campus

- Registrar/admissions
  List of self-identified on admissions application
- Financial aid office
  Chafee-eligible list
  List of self-identified on FAFSA

Start the process early!
USE ALL AVAILABLE OUTREACH STRATEGIES TO COMMUNICATE THE AVAILABILITY OF PRIORITY REGISTRATION.

- Including information in orientation materials
- Posting flyers in student services offices and other campus locations
- Tabling at campus events
- Inclusion of information in course catalogs

Reach students missed during the identification process
USE A SINGLE POINT-OF-CONTACT.

• Value of consistent and stable relationships for current and former foster youth

• Simplifies potentially complicated set of activities for staff and students

Could be CSP staff, FYSI Liaison, EOP/ EOPS counselor, financial aid staff, etc.
ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE PROTOCOL THAT ENSURES STUDENTS ARE MADE AWARE OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIORITY REGISTRATION.

Conduct follow up with students who don’t respond to their initial point-of-contact.

Ensure students know what priority registration is, why it is beneficial and how to access it.
MINIMIZE THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON STUDENTS TO VERIFY THEIR FOSTER YOUTH STATUS BY COLLABORATING WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES.

Easiest way to verify eligibility is through financial aid/Chafee eligibility list

For students not verified by financial aid, campuses seek verification through child welfare

- If campus sets up partnership with child welfare agency or ILP provider, eligibility can be verified directly with releases of information
- In this scenario, students don’t have to bring in a dependency letter
- If verification required, accept multiple forms.
“Students who are currently in foster care or who are emancipated from foster care and up to 24 years of age” are eligible for priority registration on California’s community colleges and CSUs (recommended for UCs).

⇒ CSUs should not be implementing additional requirements for students to access priority registration.

⇒ Community colleges now must implement certain requirements as a result of recent amendments to state regulations. (More info on this later).
California Education Code § 66025.95 & AB 595 (Gomez)

• Students must complete orientation, assessment and develop an education plan ("matriculation") in order to access priority registration.

New regulations enacted by the CC Chancellor’s Office also imposed restrictions on priority registration, but these regulations are being reviewed by the BOG and it’s likely that an exemption will be made for current and former foster youth.

• If students are on academic/ progress probation for 2 consecutive terms or exceed 100 units, lose access to priority registration
COMMUNITY COLLEGES SHOULD ENSURE THERE ARE SYSTEMS IN PLACE THAT MAKE MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS EASILY ACCESSIBLE IN A TIMELY MANNER

Coordinate with internal and external partners to ensure incoming students complete matriculation process in time to take advantage of priority registration.

External partners should ensure high school seniors begin process early

Campuses should ensure foster youth are identified, contacted, verified and matriculated by the time of their registration appointment

• Consider prioritizing foster youth for matriculation services
AB 194 IN ACTION:
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

• All students who indicate foster youth status on application receive automatic e-mail

• Personal follow up by e-mail and phone from former foster youth student worker

• Close collaboration with ILP provider (VOICES)
  • Priority enrollment promoted at ILP classes and during direct one-on-one counseling

• Information with specific upcoming deadlines provided to FYS liaison at County Office of Education

• Higher education tours provided 3 times per year for CASAs, housing providers, kinship providers, etc.
Counseling 270 class

- Foster youth only class
- Timed to allow foster youth to become fully matriculated prior to priority enrollment period
- Open to foster youth in high school

Enrollment party at VOICES office

- Reps from Admissions & Records and Financial Aid attend to resolve issues
- Sign up for classes on the spot for those who are fully matriculated
- Sign up for Counseling 270 for those who need assistance with matriculation process
• Expanded interpretation of eligibility (includes all Chafee eligible youth, foster youth from out of state, etc.)

• Students who qualify for Chafee are automatically coded for priority enrollment status

• Students who indicate foster youth status on admissions application or through financial aid are contacted via phone and e-mail
• Students not already qualified through Chafee provide verification to Guardian Scholars office

• Broad range of forms of verification accepted

• Assist students to trouble shoot getting necessary verification
  • If Los Angeles foster youth, can verify directly with child welfare agency with release of information
  • Many out-of-county youth require more extensive help to obtain verification

• Refer to designated academic counselor for assistance with course selection when needed
LONGER-TERM, BROADER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Educate departments across campus as well as key community contacts about priority registration for current and former foster youth.
- Track the number of current and former foster youth in the student body, as well as the number who take advantage of priority registration.
- If your campus does not have a comprehensive campus support program already on its campus, consider what could be done to change this.
LONGER-TERM, BROADER RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop a relationship with your local child welfare agency that reaches beyond priority registration implementation.

Campus personnel should advocate for the extension of the availability of priority registration beyond the current 2017 sunset date.
UPCOMING WEB SEMINARS

• **March 13th from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.**
  “AB 1023: Supporting Foster Youth Success at Community College”
  REGISTER: [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/158387017](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/158387017)

• **March 19th from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**
  “Information is Power: Using Data to Inform Campus Support Program Design”
  REGISTER: [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/849354649](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/849354649)
• Enter your questions on your screen now by clicking the “question and answer” arrow, typing your question, and clicking “send”.

• Or, direct later questions and comments to:

  Debbie Raucher
  
debbie@johnburtonfoundation.org

WWW.CACOLLEGEPATHWAYS.ORG