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Introduction Date	May 11, 2022
Enactment Number	22-1083
Enactment Date	6/8/2022 os



# Board Cover Memorandum

**To** Board of Education

**From** VanCedric Williams, Board Member

**Meeting Date** June 8, 2022

**Subject** Foster Youth Enrollment Access and Priority

**Ask of the Board** Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2122-0081 - Foster Youth Enrollment Priority.

**Background** The Oakland Unified School District (“OUSD”) receives designated LCFF funds to increase or improve services for foster students, students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and English Learners (“high need students”). These funds are often referred to as supplemental and concentration funding (“S&C funds”). These S&C funds are allocated to districts so that high need students are provided with more than equal access to resources and services as compared with all students. OUSD has the largest number of foster youth in Alameda County and, as such, has an outsized obligation to understand their unique rights and circumstances and to implement proactive measures to support them.

Foster students are placed in school districts and households at all times of the year and are thus not able to access the school application window.

Additionally, while OUSD has established a sibling priority for school enrollment in its commitment to support families and their relationship to schools, foster students residing in the same household are in effect siblings and members of a family (yet not able to use the “sibling priority” status). As such, they often attend different schools due to lack of space at the time of enrollment depriving them of the sibling priority afforded to other students.

**Discussion** This Resolution would lead to the creation of a separate enrollment priority status for foster youth that is below continuing students and ahead of other existing enrollment priorities such as sibling of current student, opportunity ticket, and neighborhood. The Resolution would also give foster youth the opportunity to transfer to another OUSD school at any point if it is deemed in their best interest by the student and the Education Rights holder in collaboration with their Adult Team. Additionally, the Resolution directs that seats be set aside to provide to foster youth enrolled at an OUSD school in each geographic boundary and the number of requests for particular schools in previous years to be reviewed each October for seat allocations in the following school year. Lastly, in order to implement and effectuate this Resolution, it directs the Superintendent or designee to bring forward amendments to any Board Policies and to similarly update any Administrative Regulations.

The Resolution was introduced as a new legislative item on May 11, 2022.

**Fiscal Impact** Any financial impact would be minimal. It is possible that giving higher priority to foster youth would mean that other students do not receive an offer at their preferred schools, leaving those students to enroll outside of OUSD. However, the numbers of such students would likely be very lower and it would be very difficult to determine whether it was the enrollment priority change that was the proximate cause.

**Attachment**

- Resolution No. 2122-0081 - Foster Youth Enrollment Priority

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 2122-0081**

**Foster Youth Enrollment Priority**

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland Unified School District (“OUSD”) receives designated LCFF funds to increase or improve services for foster students, students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and English Learners (“high need students”) often referred to as supplemental and concentration funding (“S&C funds”);

**WHEREAS**, S&C funds are allocated to districts so that high need students are provided with more than equal access to resources and services as compared with all students;

**WHEREAS**, OUSD is committed to addressing the inequitable outcomes for many student groups, including foster students, who most often have intersectional experiences as low income students, students of color, and/or students with disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, OUSD has the largest number of foster youth in Alameda County and, as such, has an outsized obligation to understand their unique rights and circumstances and to implement proactive measures to support them;

**WHEREAS**, due to their adverse childhood experiences, intense mobility, and severely disrupted family circumstances, foster students need a solid sense of belonging and engagement within school communities that reflect their interests and needs;

**WHEREAS**, foster students are placed in school districts and households at all times of the year and are thus not able to access the school application window;

**WHEREAS**, OUSD has established a sibling priority for school enrollment in its commitment to support families and their relationship to schools;

**WHEREAS**, foster students residing in the same household are in effect siblings and members of a family (yet not able to use the “sibling priority” status), and are often attending different schools due to lack of space at the time of enrollment depriving them of the sibling priority afforded to other students; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the aforementioned factors, foster students arriving late in the school year have historically only been able to access two high schools with rare exceptions, and also face obstacles to access at the elementary and middle school levels.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board hereby declares that foster youth must be provided with equitable enrollment priority to schools;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board finds that a separate enrollment priority status needs to be created for foster youth below continuing students and ahead of other existing enrollment priorities such as sibling of current student, opportunity ticket, and neighborhood;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board finds that foster youth must be granted the opportunity to transfer to a school at any point if it is deemed in their best interest by the student and the Education Rights holder in collaboration with their Adult Team;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Superintendent or designee shall set aside a number of seats to provide to foster youth with the school access described above based on the number of foster youth enrolled at an OUSD school living in each geographic boundary and the number of requests for particular schools in previous years to be reviewed each October for seat allocations in the following school year;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that foster youth students with an individualized education plan (“IEP”) will continue to be enrolled based on the policies and procedures that apply to all students with an IEP; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in order to implement and effectuate this Resolution, the Superintendent or designee shall, if necessary, bring forward amendments to any Board Policies – e.g., BP 5116.1 (Open Enrollment) – at a future Board meeting for Board action (and those proposed amendments may be placed on consent) and shall, if necessary, update any Administrative Regulations – e.g., AR 5116.1 (Intradistrict Open Enrollment).

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District this 8th day of June, 2022, by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE: None

PREFERENTIAL NOE: None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION: None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE: None

AYES: VanCedric Williams, Clifford Thompson, Aimee Eng, Vice President Benjamin “Sam” Davis, President Gary Yee

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

RECUSED: None

ABSENT: Student Director Samantha Pal, Student Director Natalie Gallegos-Chavez, Mike Hutchinson

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at the Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on June 8 \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**



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Gary Yee  
President, Board of Education



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Kyla Johnson-Trammell  
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education