



EDUCATION COORDINATING COUNCIL

2024

END OF YEAR UPDATE

Thank you to our Education Coordinating Council Members and Constituents for their incredible work this year to improve education outcomes for youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. We would like to say an additional thank you to all partners who participated in our Strategic Planning process this year!

This year we had several notable accomplishments that are highlighted below. Additionally, please see some updates on future work of the ECC.

ECC ACCOMPLISHMENTS HIGHLIGHTS



STRATEGIC PLAN

- From January 2023 to May 2024, the ECC conducted an intensive Strategic Planning process including listening sessions with 145 young people/adults with lived expertise and 39 systems partners. These listening sessions resulted in seven priority areas for the ECC:
 - Stability
 - Information Sharing and Data Integration
 - Chronic Absenteeism
 - Youth Engagement and Supports
 - Collaboration, Communication, and Partnerships
 - Academic Achievement
 - Post-Secondary Educational Achievement and Workforce Readiness
- Updates on implementation of the ECC Strategic Plan are listed below and a copy of the plan can be found [here](#).

EXPANDED THE ECC

The ECC gained several new members in 2023 and 2024, including the California State University, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Los Angeles, LA County Department of Youth Development, LA County Youth Commission, and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

Additionally, Tanya Ortiz Franklin, LAUSD Board Member District 7, stepped up to be the ECC Chair in 2023 after Monica Garcia retired from her LAUSD Board position. We thank Tanya for taking on this leadership role and Monica for her many dedicated years of service to the ECC.

To keep up-to-date on future ECC Meetings and agendas, please visit our website:

<https://ocp.lacounty.gov/education-coordinating-council/>

ECC END OF YEAR UPDATE

EXPANDING SCHOOL STABILITY TRANSPORTATION

- This year, 2 public school districts, including the first out of county public school district, and 20 charter schools signed on to the long-term school stability transportation MOU. To date **53 public school districts and 42 charter schools, which serve over 85% of the County's youth have signed on to the MOU.**
- The ECC convened a **workgroup** comprising of DCFS, LACOE, school districts, and advocates to **address school stability implementation gaps**, including addressing lack of school of origin transportation for youth placed in STRTPs and who have transportation listed in their IEPs. DCFS launched the AB 130 program to address these gaps and with the sunset of that program has now launched the Student Transportation Extracurricular Enrichment Rides (STEER) to provide transportation for populations not currently covered by the long-term school stability transportation MOUs. DCFS, LACOE, school districts, and OCP are meeting to discuss how to update the MOU to address these concerns and incorporate lessons learned from the last several years of implementation to ensure all youth have equitable access to school of origin transportation.
- The ECC worked with the UCLA Center for Transformation of Schools on a **study examining the impact of the LA County School Stability Transportation Program for Youth in Foster Care.** The study and its findings are posted [here](#).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOSTER YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION ACT

The ECC is working on the implementation of SB 89, the Foster Youth Sexual Health Education Act, to ensure that DCFS can track whether or not youth in foster care receive comprehensive sexual health education that meets the California Healthy Youth Act standards, at least once in middle school and once in high school. An analysis of current information sharing systems showed a lack of ability to track this data countywide, therefore LACOE, OCP, and DCFS have developed and distributed a survey to school districts to create a list of when schools are implementing comprehensive sexual health education. This list will inform when DCFS CSWs should reach out to schools to confirm that SB 89 requirements have been met or if a youth will need another plan to receive comprehensive sexual health education.

EDUCATION RIGHTS BY YOUTH AND FOR YOUTH

- Based on feedback collected at youth listening sessions, the OCP worked with the Alliance for Children's Rights Youth Education Cohort and Castillo Consulting Partners to facilitate a group of lived experts to **create education rights videos by youth and for youth to help educate youth on their education rights and how to implement them.**
- These videos will be presented at the February 2025 ECC meeting and available to all stakeholders to share directly with youth and adults who serve youth in foster care.

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- John Burton Advocates for Youth (JABY), in partnership with DCFS and OCP, **developed a Release of Information (ROI) to facilitate foster youth seniors being connected earlier to post-secondary campus-based support programs** (i.e. NextUp, Guardian Scholars) and address the "summer melt" – when youth may apply and/or enroll in college but do not make it to their first day of classes.
- DCFS and Probation, in partnership with JBAY and OCP, **updated policy and training for social workers and probation officers on the implementation of SB 12 provisions** that mandates identification of the person or persons responsible for assisting the child or non-minor dependent with applications for postsecondary education and related financial aid.

ECC END OF YEAR UPDATE

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION CONT'D

- In October 2024, **Probation and UFC signed an MOU to provide a Secondary and Post-Secondary Educational Support Services Pilot to youth involved in the juvenile justice system.** The pilot program will provide a range of support services, activities, and guidance, focused on secondary and post-secondary educational attainment and access, to support the participants' success. The pilot program will serve 20 youth ages 13 through 18 years old.

ECC STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION & FUTURE WORK

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND STABILITY

- As Chronic Absenteeism and Stability impact one another, the ECC agreed to merge the two priority areas into one workgroup that is co-chaired by Jennifer Higuchi from DCFS and Yasmin Dorado from Antelope Valley Union High School District.
- The Chronic Absenteeism and Stability workgroup is working to create youth-specific strategies on how agencies will team to re-engage youth who are not attending school regularly, and explore approaches to provide education on stability and school of origin to youth, caregivers, Education Rights Holders, and school staff. Additionally, the workgroup will partner with DCFS to identify strategies to support recruitment of resource families in areas with high numbers of DCFS removals to increase the ability of youth to be placed in their school of origin communities.
- The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15th.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORTS

- A new ECC workgroup was created that is co-chaired by Youth Commissioner Josh Elizondo and Taylor Schooley from DYD. The Co-Chairs first act was to hold a listening session with youth and youth advocacy organizations in October 2024 to gather feedback on how the ECC can develop an authentic structure to engage youth in its work.
- As a next step, the Co-Chairs are analyzing the feedback from the first listening session and plan to host another listening session to gather additional feedback to develop an ECC Youth Engagement structure.

INFORMATION SHARING AND DATA INTEGRATION

- OCP is working with LACOE and DCFS to convene County partners to better understanding existing data tracking ability to integrate data systems between child welfare and local education agencies. Once this analysis is complete, the OCP will convene district and other stakeholders to discuss next steps.

FOSTER YOUTH COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT PROJECT (FYCAP)

- JBAY and LA Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) are leading FYCAP which has developed several five-year goals that align with the ECC's goals. The ECC will partner with JBAY and OYC to implement these goals, which are:
 - At least 70% of high school seniors in foster care will complete their FAFSA/CADAA.
 - Increase direct college-enrollment rates for high school seniors involved in the child welfare system from 29.2% to 53%
 - Increase rates of college graduation by age 23 for youth involved in the child welfare system from 10% to 36%
 - Work with the LA OYC to collect baseline data on the number of youth involved in the child-welfare and juvenile-justice systems enrolled in workforce and/or career training programs and work on increasing the number of youth involved in systems enrolled in these programs.

The next ECC meeting is on February 26, 2025 at 510 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles 90020
(hybrid option available for ECC Constituents).

If you would like to join the ECC listserv to receive future meeting/workgroup notices,
please email ECC Director Barbara Lundqvist at blundqvist@ocp.lacounty.gov.