

## WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

SOLANO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM

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SOLANO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM

**TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR  
FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION!**

## INTRODUCTION

**THIS BOOKLET IS WRITTEN TO HELP STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE UNDERSTAND IMPORTANT LAWS RELATED TO THEIR EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION ABOUT POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES.**

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## WEBSITES

### FREE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH WEBSITES

NEVER PAY MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES. THERE ARE PLENTY OF FREE PLACES TO SEARCH!

HERE ARE A FEW:

[WWW.COLLEGEANSWER.COM](http://WWW.COLLEGEANSWER.COM)

[WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM](http://WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM)

[WWW.FASTWEB.COM](http://WWW.FASTWEB.COM)

[WWW.FINAID.ORG](http://WWW.FINAID.ORG)

[WWW.GOCOLLEGE.COM](http://WWW.GOCOLLEGE.COM)

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION:

[WWW.NFPAINC.ORG](http://WWW.NFPAINC.ORG)

ORPHAN FOUNDATION:

[WWW.ORPHAN.ORG](http://WWW.ORPHAN.ORG)

CHAFEE GRANT PROGRAM:

[WWW.CHAFEE.CSAC.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CHAFEE.CSAC.CA.GOV)

## RECOMMENDED COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

### DEFINITIONS FOR TYPES OF COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

#### -PSAT-

THIS EXAM CAN BE USED AS A PREPATORY EXAM FOR THE SAT. YOU WILL EXPERIENCE SIMILAR QUESTIONS IN A MULTIPLE CHOICE FORMAT.

- IT IS RECOMMENDED TO TAKE THE PSAT EXAMINATION IN YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR
- THERE IS NO FEE FOR TAKING THE EXAM. CHECK WITH YOUR DISTRICT FOR TESTING DATES.

#### -SAT I REASONING TEST-

MEASURES VERBAL AND MATHEMATICAL REASONING SKILLS THAT ARE NEEDED TO ACADEMICALLY SUCCESSFUL.

- COMPLETED ALL THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THEIR IEP AND TRANSITION PLAN
- THERE IS A FEE FOR TAKING THE TEST BUT YOU QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER.
- FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT: <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

#### -SAT II SUBJECT TESTS-

MANY COLLEGE USE THE SUBJECT TEST TO MEASURE HOW MUCH STUDENTS KNOW ABOUT A PARTICULAR SUBJECT AND HOW WELL THE STUDENT CAN APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE.

- THERE IS A FEE FOR TAKING THE TEST BUT YOU QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER.
- FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT: <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

#### -ACT-

THE ACT IS A NATIONAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EXAMINATION THAT CONSISTS OF SUBJECT AREA TESTS IN: ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, READING AND SCIENCE

- ACT RESULTS ARE ACCEPTED BY ALL 4-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
- IT IS RECOMMENDED TO TAKE THE ACT EXAMINATION IN YOUR JUNIOR YEAR.
- THERE IS A FEE FOR TAKING THE TEST BUT YOU COULD QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER.
- FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT: <http://www.actstudent.org/>

## RIGHTS & REGULATIONS

### KNOW THE LAW

#### **AB 490**

- FOSTER YOUTH ARE ALLOWED TO ENROLL IN SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY, WITHOUT IMMUNIZATIONS OR SCHOOL RECORDS
- FOSTER YOUTH CAN EARN PARTIAL CREDITS
- FOSTER YOUTH CAN REMAIN IN THEIR SCHOOL OF ORIGIN
- ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUST HAVE A FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION LIAISON
- SCHOOL GRADES CANNOT BE LOWERED DUE TO PARTICIPATION IN COURT RELATED ACTIVITIES

#### **AB 1858**

- FOSTER YOUTH MAY NOT BE MANDATED TO ATTEND A NON PUBLIC SCHOOL AS A CONDITION OF PLACEMENT IN A GROUP HOME

**TO RECEIVE A FULL OUTLINE OF YOUR EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS UNDER CALIFORNIA STATE LAW AB 490 CONTACT THE SOLANO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOSTER YOUTH SERVICE PROGRAM AT (707) 646-7605.**

## GRADUATION/COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIRE-

### A—G REQUIREMENTS UC COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED INTO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGES, STUDENTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING LIST OF MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS CALLED A—G REQUIREMENTS. IN ORDER TO MEET THE A- G REQUIREMENTS STUDENTS MUST PASS EACH COURSE WITH A "C" OR BETTER:

a—HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE .....	2 YEARS
b—ENGLISH .....	4 YEARS
c—MATH .....	3 YEARS
d—LABORATORY SCIENCE .....	2 YEARS
e—FOREIGN LANGUAGE .....	2 YEARS
f—VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS .....	1 YEAR
g—ELECTIVE .....	1 YEAR

THE a—g PROVIDES MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION. TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING ACCEPTED INTO THE COLLEGE OF YOUR CHOICE, STUDENTS SHOULD PLAN TO EXCEED THESE REQUIREMENTS, 4 YEARS OF MATH, 4 YEARS OF SCIENCE WITH LABORATORY COURSES, AND 4 YEARS OF THE SAME FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

### IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE CLASSES NECESSARY FOR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS WITHIN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

#### ALL SCHOOLS REQUIRE CREDITS IN THESE SUBJECT AREAS:

- ♦ ENGLISH
- ♦ HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE
- ♦ MATH
- ♦ SCIENCE
- ♦ FOREIGN LANGUAGE, FINE ARTS, PRACTICAL ARTS
- ♦ PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- ♦ ELECTIVES

#### SOME SCHOOLS REQUIRE:

- ♦ COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS
- ♦ SENIOR PROJECTS

## GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS GRANT WAIVER

REFERRED TO AS THE **BOGG** OR THE **BOGW** THIS WAIVER APPLIES TO INCOME ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS. THIS IS FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES ONLY AND IT WILL COVER TUITION FEES AND COSTS. YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE AT THE ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID OFFICES AT ANY CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

### WHY APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE FREE MONEY FOR COLLEGE. THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO QUALIFY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

- ACADEMICS
- ETHNICITY
- SPORTS
- MUSIC
- FINANCIAL NEED
- AND MUCH, MUCH, MORE

YOU'LL BE SURPRISED HOW MANY ORGANIZATIONS WANT TO HELP YOU TO FURTHER YOUR EDUCATION THROUGH COLLEGE AND JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.

#### NOTES:

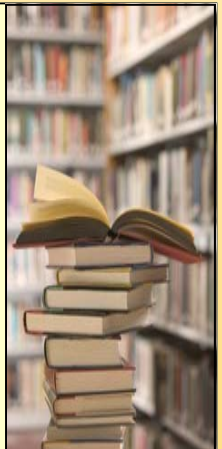
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## FINANCIAL AID

### WHAT ARE TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID?

- **GRANTS:** DO NOT NEED TO BE REPAID
- **SCHOLARSHIPS:** DO NOT NEED TO BE REPAID
- **WORK STUDY:** STUDENT EARNS PORTION OF SCHOOL COST WHILE WORKING FOR THE ATTENDING SCHOOL
- **LOANS:** BORROWED MONEY THAT MUST BE REPAID

### WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

### IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- MAKE SURE TO READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
- APPLY EARLY, PRIORITY DEADLINE IS ALWAYS MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> OF EVERY YEAR
- THIS IS YOUR FIRST STEP IN THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR:
  - ◆ PELL GRANT
  - ◆ WORK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES
  - ◆ STUDENT LOANS
- MAKE SURE YOU CHECK YES ON QUESTION #55
- MAKE SURE YOU ANSWER QUESTION 56 & 57. VERIFICATION OF EMACIPATION IS YOUR WARD OF THE COURT LETTER
- FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: [WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

### CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

Provides grant funding for the state of California called Cal Grants

YOU APPLY FOR A CAL GRANT WITH A GPA VERIFICATION FORM THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE. TALK WITH YOUR COUNSELOR ABOUT HOW TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION.

YOU MUST FILL OUT A FAFSA TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A CAL GRANT. ALL CAL GRANTS ARE BASED ON FINANCIAL NEED.

THERE ARE FOUR CAL GRANT AWARDS:

- **CAL GRANT A:** 3.0 - 4.0 GPA
- **CAL GRANT B:** 2.0 – 4.0 GPA
- **CAL GRANT C:** THIS GRANT HAS NO MINIMUM GPA REQUIREMENT AND CAN BE USED FOR VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ONTO: [WWW.CSAC.CA.GOV](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### INFORMATION ABOUT CREDITS

- CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION ARE ACCUMULATED FROM 9<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE
- YOU NEED TO COMPLETE CLASSES WITH A PASSING GRADE (D OR BETTER)
- IN MOST DISTRICTS EACH CLASS IS WORTH 5 CREDITS TOTALING 230 CREDITS
- IN SOME DISTRICTS COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

### TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR EDUCATION. ASK YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR QUESTIONS!!!

- WHAT ARE THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS?
- ASK FOR A COPY OF YOUR GRADUATION PLAN
- IF YOU ARE BEHIND IN CREDITS ASK ABOUT CREDIT RECOVERY OPTIONS
- WHAT COURSEWORK IS REQUIRED?
  - ◆ CORE CLASSES
  - ◆ SENIOR PROJECT
  - ◆ COMMUNITY SERVICE
  - ◆ WHAT IS THE CREDIT SYSTEM?
  - ◆ WHAT DATES WILL THE CAHSEE BE GIVEN?
- GO TO THE SOLANO COUNTY OFFICE EDUCATION'S WEBSITE [HTTP://WWW.SOLANOCOE.NET](http://www.solanocoe.net) TO FIND USEFUL RESOURCES AND LINKS TO YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

### KEEP YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR INFORMED!!!

- TELL THEM WHEN YOU KNOW YOU ARE MOVING SCHOOL PLACEMENTS
- TELL THEM WHEN YOU NEED ADDITIONAL HELP AND RESOURCES
- TELL THEM WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

### KEEP TRACK OF YOUR TRANSCRIPT:

- CREDIT ACCUMULATION
- SCHOOL HISTORY

## GRADUATION DEFINITIONS & CAHSEE

### DEFINITIONS FOR TYPES OF HIGH SCHOOL EXIT AWARDS

#### -DIPLOMA-

- AWARDED TO STUDENTS WHO MEET ALL GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATING
- COMPLETED ALL REQUIRED COURSEWORK WITH A 2.00 GPA OR HIGHER.
- RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIORAL CONDUCT
- PASSED THE CAHSEE (PLEASE SEE SECTION ON CAHSEE FOR MORE INFORMATION)

#### -LETTER OF RECOGNITION-

- AWARDED TO STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND HAVE NOT COMPLETED ALL GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION WITH A DIPLOMA
- COMPLETED ALL THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THEIR IEP AND TRANSITION PLAN

#### -CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION-

- AWARDED TO STUDENTS WHO MEET ALL THE GENERAL DIPLOMA CRITERIA WITH A GPA OF LESS THAN 2.00
- AWARDED TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT PASSED THE CAHSEE

### WHAT IS THE CAHSEE?

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM

- PURPOSE OF THE CAHSEE IS TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND ENSURE STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH ABILITY TO UTILIZE SKILLS IN READING, WRITING, AND MATHEMATICS.
  - THE CAHSEE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS:
    - ♦ ENGLISH LANGUAGE
    - ♦ MATH
    - ♦ A SCORE OF 350 IS REQUIRED IN EACH SECTION FOR PASSING
    - ♦ STUDENTS CAN TAKE THE CAHSEE:
      - ♦ 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE 1 TIME
      - ♦ 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE UP TO 2 TIMES
      - ♦ 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE UP TO 3 TIMES
- THIS MAY INCLUDE TAKING THE TEST AFTER ALL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET BUT A PORTION OF THE TEST HAS NOT BEEN PASSED

- FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAHSEE, CHECK-OUT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S WEBSITE

[HTTP://WWW.CDE.CA.GOV/TA/TG/HS](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs)

## GRADUATION OPTIONS

### WHAT ARE OTHER OPTIONS ?

#### CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY EXAM (CHSPE)

- THIS TEST IS A LEGAL EQUIVALENT OF A CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
- THE TEST IS GIVEN 3 TIMES A YEAR
- YOU MUST BE:
  - ♦ 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
  - ♦ ENROLLED IN 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FOR ONE ACADEMIC YEAR OR LONGER
- MINORS UNDER 18 ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND SCHOOL AFTER PASSING THE EXAM UNLESS GIVEN WRITTEN CONSENT BY A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN
- THE TEST CONSISTS OF TWO SECTIONS:
  - ♦ LANGUAGE ARTS
  - ♦ MATH
- THIS DOCUMENT IS ACCEPTABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA, BUT MAY NOT BE RECOGNIZED IN OTHER STATES
- MILITARY ACCEPTANCE VARIES
- THERE IS A REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE TEST
- PLEASE CHECK [WWW.CHSPE.NET](http://WWW.CHSPE.NET) FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT - (GED)

- THE GED TEST AND PREPARATION CLASSES ARE FREE AND OFFERED AT MOST ADULT SCHOOLS
- YOU MUST BE 17 YEARS AND 10 MONTHS TO TAKE THE TEST
- THE GED IS DESIGNED TO MEASURE SKILLS ASSOCIATED WITH FOUR YEARS OF REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTION
- GED TEST CONSIST OF FOUR SECTIONS:
  - ♦ LANGUAGE ARTS
  - ♦ SOCIAL STUDIES
  - ♦ SCIENCE
  - ♦ MATH
- THE GED IS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYMENT
- THERE IS A REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE TEST

THE NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION WILL HELP PAY FOR THE COST OF THE GED.

NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION  
7512 STANICH LANE, #6  
GIG HARBOR, WA 98335

TELEPHONE: (253) 853-4000 OR (800) 557-5238  
FAX: (253) 853-4001 WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.NFPAINC.ORG](http://WWW.NFPAINC.ORG)