



Questions & Answers About My Education

Do I have a right to go to school?



Yes. You have the right and responsibility to go to school every day, get help when you need it, have access to school supplies, and other resources that you need to do well and succeed in school. You have the right to the same school resources, services, and activities as all other students in your school.

Who can make educational decisions for me?



You have the right to have an “education rights holder.” An education rights holder is an adult who understands your educational needs and makes decisions about your education. This may be your parent, or another person approved by the judge, like a relative, foster parent, Indian Custodian or guardian, or CASA. Your education rights holder cannot be your social worker/probation officer, lawyer, STRTP staff, or school staff.

Do I have to change schools if my placement changes?



No. You have the right to stay in your “school of origin” if it is best for you to stay in that school. Your school of origin is the school you attended when you entered foster care, or before the placement change, or another school you have had a connection to within the past 15 months. You have the right to get transportation to your school of origin. If there is disagreement about which school you attend, you should tell your lawyer immediately. You have the right to stay in your same school until the disagreement is resolved.

What happens if I have to change schools?



If you and your education rights holder agree that you need to move schools, you have the right to immediately enroll in the next school and begin classes. You cannot be turned away because you don’t have the right paperwork (like your birth certificate, transcripts, or immunization records) or owe fees or items to another school.

Career Goal

My future career goal is...



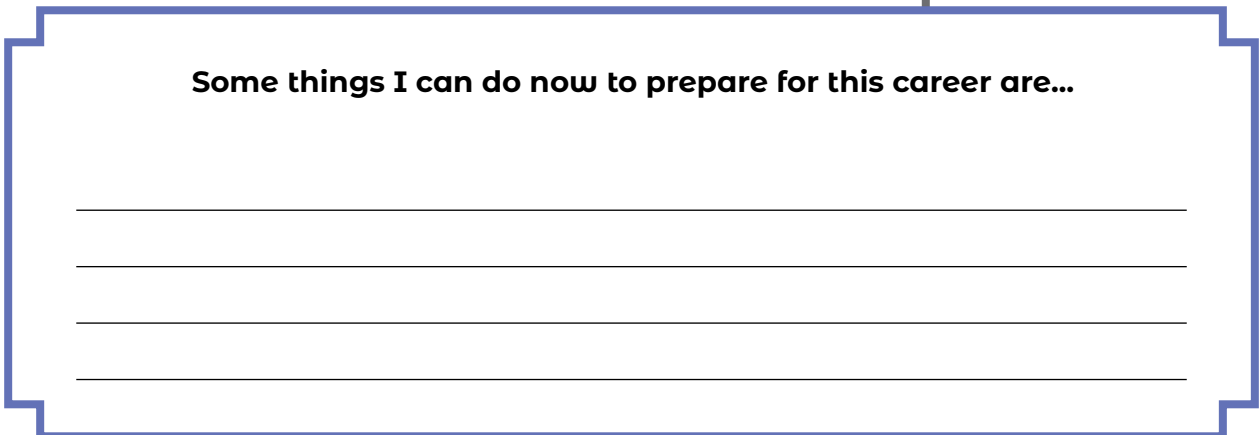
I am choosing this career because...



The skills and training that I need for this career are...



Some things I can do now to prepare for this career are...





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If I change schools during the school year, what happens to the credits I earned from my last school?



If you change schools during the school year, you have a right to receive partial (some) credits in all classes that you were passing when you left your school even if you did not finish the entire class.

What if I need help with school?



You have the right to get help with school if you need it. This help can include tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and a referral for special education services. Your social worker/probation officer, caregiver, education rights holder, school foster youth liaison, or school counselor can help you get the services you need.

Do I have priority enrollment in school because I am in foster care?



Yes. You have the right to priority enrollment in preschool, after school programs, at California State Universities, and in community colleges.

What are my options for education after high school?



You have the right to get accurate information and help from your social worker/probation officer on how to apply for college and financial aid. You also have the right to get accurate information about other options you may have, including career education programs such as cosmetology, nursing, construction, and/or automotive programs. You also must be told about special programs for foster youth at the University of California schools, California State University schools, and the California Community Colleges.