AB130 in Action:
Supporting Foster Youth Academic Success in Kern County

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Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Office of John G. Meridith, Ed.D. — Advocates For Children
Section 141 of Assembly Bill (AB) 130 allocated $30 million to County Offices of Education (COEs) to provide direct services to foster youth.

Requires $5 million to improve postsecondary education enrollment & outcomes.

3-Year Award: Funds must be expended by June 30, 2024.
AB130: New Opportunities For Direct Service To Foster Youth

COE FYSCPs may use funds for:

- Direct tutoring, mentoring & counseling services.
- Direct interventions addressing student re-engagement, learning recovery, educational case management or advocacy.
- Postsecondary preparation & matriculation,
- Social & emotional needs of K-12 students in foster care.

STEAM Camp mentor with student, June. 2023
Kern County FYSCP & AB130

- **204,442** K-12 Students enrolled in 46 Kern County School Districts 2021-22
  - **2,160** Students in Foster Care
  - **6th** Largest FY Student Population in California

- FYSCP AB130 focus areas addressed:
  - Post-pandemic learning loss
  - Student re-engagement & mentoring
  - College readiness & financial aid assistance
Kern FYSCP Tutoring Program

- Launched countywide tutoring program with Kern Tutoring in 2022 to address learning loss & provide mentorship.
- 4th-12th grade students receive up to 40 hours of one-on-one tutoring, in-person or virtual.
- Credentialed teachers, trained in foster youth needs & trauma-informed teaching, provide academic support & teach study skills.
- Tutors build relationships & trust with students to create a positive learning environment for academic success.
- 63 students participated, totaling 1,380 hours of focused learning in 2022-23.
College Navigator Program

- Led by Brian Johnson, former foster youth & successful college student, providing one-on-one support for transitioning foster youth.

- **Personalized guidance:** Financial aid assistance, mapping transition from high school to college & connections to Next Up & Guardian Scholars programs.

- **Building a supportive network:** Linking foster youth to housing & transportation resources for a successful college journey.

- **70 foster youth** supported this school year.
FYSCP STEAM Summer Camp

- **Providing a sense of normalcy**: Foster youth experience socialization, discover new interests, & reunite with siblings.
- **Overcoming barriers**: Financial constraints, court/visitation scheduling conflicts, & lack of trauma-informed environments tackled to create a safe & supportive camp experience.
- **3-week immersive camp**: 31 foster youth in 3rd-6th grades participated, benefiting from trained teachers & mentors.
- **Fun & engaging curriculum**: Expert educators used creative scaffolding techniques to meet academic & socio-emotional needs.

STEAM camper experimenting with Laws of Motion, June, 2023.
FYSCP STEAM Summer Camp

- STEAM summer camp blended academic learning with creativity & imagination.
  - Students learned about drones, coding, rockets, science, engineering projects, arts, & graphic arts.
  - Each day, students learned a new profession connected to camp skills they learned.
- Students loved the camp, acquired new skills, formed friendships, & expressed excitement for learning & exploring the world.
- Sibling groups from different placements cherished moments together, building memories.

STEAM campers learning how to code drones & design Victorian architecture, June, 2023.
FYSCP AB130 Reflections

- Allowed program innovation & creativity.
- Removed common access barriers to foster youth students like cost, transportation, geographic distance, & language.
- Honored student voice in their education & helped them grow into more confident learners.
- Provided program models for districts to adopt & build their capacity to improve services to foster youth students.
Have Questions? Need More Information?

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