

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Getting Through High School

Because foster youth are moved around and switch schools a lot, they fall off track to graduate from high school. This should never stop a foster youth from striving to get their diploma or equivalency credential. There are several options for you to complete high school and get your diploma without taking extra classes and tests.

### What is AB 167/216 graduation?

You can receive a high school diploma if you:

- Transfer after your second year of high school;
- Are behind on credits and off track for graduation;
- Complete state graduation requirements (130 credits);
- Pass the CAHSEE; and remain in high school for four years.



### How do I know if I can graduate under AB 167/216?

- Step 1.** Your new school must review your transcripts from your previous schools.
- Step 2.** Using this information, your new school must decide if you are eligible for AB 167/216 graduation.
- Step 3.** Within 30 days of transferring, your school must provide you, your education rights holder, and social worker with a decision, in writing, about your eligibility. Keep this document in case you transfer schools. If you are 18, you are your own education rights holder.
- Step 4.** If you are eligible, only your education rights holder can decide whether you should graduate under AB 167/216. Your school cannot force you to graduate under AB 167/216.

### If eligible, should I graduate under AB 167/216?

#### Pros

- Receive a regular high school diploma
- Graduate on time with classmates
- May be eligible to attend community college for free

#### Cons

- Usually not eligible to apply directly to a four year university
- Inappropriate for youth with low academic skills
- No longer eligible for extra-curricular high school activities, including sports

### What are the state graduation requirements?

You must complete the following 130 credits:

- English: 30 credits
- Math: 20 credits
- Social Sciences: 30 credits
- Science: 20 credits
- Visual/Performing Arts or Foreign Language: 10 credits
- Physical Education: 20 credits

### What else do I need to know about AB 167/216 graduation?

- You must stay in high school four years, even if all AB 167/216 graduation requirements are completed earlier.
- You have a right to remain in your current high school for a 5th year to complete all graduation requirements if you do not want to graduate under AB 167/216.



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- Once your school tells you in writing that you are eligible for AB 167/216 graduation, you have a right to graduate under AB 167/216 even if your foster care/probation case closes or you transfer schools before you graduate.

If you have any concerns regarding your eligibility for AB 167/216 graduation, speak to your school counselor and education rights holder. If you have any questions or have an IEP, please contact the Alliance for further assistance.

## Information on Partial Credits

### Did you ever:

- Transfer schools mid-semester and not get credits for the classes you took at your old school?
- Take the same class more than once, even though you already passed the class?
- Transfer schools mid-semester and get put in different classes than those you were taking at your old school?

### As a foster or probation youth, you:

- Must receive partial credits when you transfer schools mid-semester for all work you completed at your last school.
- Cannot be forced to retake parts of a class you already completed, if it would push you off track for high school graduation.
- Must be enrolled in the same or similar courses as those you were in at your last school.

### Partial credit checklist

To stay on track for high school graduation when you transfer schools the following must happen:

#### Before you leave your old school:

1. Your social worker or education rights holders must complete all disenrollment documents and give it to your school counselor.
2. Each of your teachers must provide your school registrar or counselor with a “check out” grade that is based on all the work you completed in the class before you transferred.
3. For each class that you passed, your school registrar or counselor must calculate the number of partial credits you earned. This will be based on the number of days you attended school.
4. Your school must put your check out grades and partial credits onto an official transcript and send it to your new school.

#### When you get to your new school:

1. Your new school registrar or counselor must request all records from your old school, including an official transcript with all check out grades and partial credits.
2. Your school registrar or counselor must accept the credits and grades you earned at other schools and apply them to classes required for high school graduation, not just elective courses.
3. Your school counselor must immediately enroll you in the same or similar classes that you were enrolled in at your old school.

If you believe that you were not given partial credits that you have earned, work with your social worker or education rights holder to contact your old schools to request partial credits. You can also contact the Alliance for Children’s Rights for assistance.

