

FOR MORE INFORMATION

NEVADA COUNTY INDIAN EDUCATION (NCIE)

At the beginning of each school year a federal form provided by the U.S. Department of Education is sent home with every student to identify if they are of Native American descent. If they have filled out this form, which is known as a 506 form, and meet the qualifications, they are eligible for services from the Nevada County Indian Education program.

Identified Native students are not required to participate in program activities, but are eligible for services when needed. The primary purpose of the program is to provide tutoring for Native children who are struggling in school. The academic criteria for determining who is in need of tutoring is primarily based on STAR testing scores, but this is not the only determining factor. Although tutoring is the main service offered by the program it is not the only one offered. If a child is dealing with behavioral and motivational issues, encouragement, support, and mentoring can be provided by program staff also.

- Tutoring for all grade levels: one-on-one or in a group setting
- Typical tutor time: one hour per week, per student, during or after school
- Cultural activities linked to state standards

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Nevada County

**Foster Youth Services,
Independent Living Program,
Indian Education**



FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES (FYS)

There are nearly 80,000 children in the out-of-home placements in California. A change in home placement is all too often accompanied by a change in schools, and the educational impact of every school change is significant. Each time a youth enters a new school, they must adjust to different curricula, different expectations, new students and new teachers.

Children who experience chronic failure in school face many challenges in adulthood. It is critical that foster children develop the skills and confidence they need to become self-sufficient, productive, healthy members of our society.

Nevada County Foster Youth Services (FYS), a program established through the California Department of Education (E.C. 42920-42925), has been a part of Nevada County schools since 1992, successfully serving scores of students. FYS provides support services to youth who have been displaced from family, friends and school due to physical and emotional abuse, neglect or abandonment. FYS staff are dedicated to: provide school stability and academic success; secure and maintain accurate school records; provide youth access to supplemental education opportunities; and facilitate transitional services.

Purpose

Nevada County Foster Youth Services is committed to providing students in out-of-home placements with the resources needed to achieve their maximum educational and vocational potential and well-being through a holistic, multidisciplinary and collaborative approach.

Program Goals

- Timely and appropriate school placement
- Foster youth will advocate for their own needs
- Academic success for all foster youth
- Successful transition to independent living or higher education

Health & Education Passports

In collaboration with County CPS and Probation, a Health and Education Passport (HEP) is created for foster youth in out-of-home placement, and each HEP is maintained by FYS staff to facilitate the exchange of necessary information to ensure that the child's current education needs are met.

Tutoring

Statewide and national studies have shown that:

- **80% of foster children are retained after one year by the third grade**
- **75% work below grade level**
- **37% do not graduate from high school**

FYS Tutors:

- Provide one-on-one academic tutoring tailored to each student's individual needs.
- Work with teachers to promote academic achievement and track academic growth.
- Foster resiliency in children by establishing consistent healthy relationships.

School Adjustment Counseling

FYS staff can provide school adjustment counseling services to individuals and groups to bridge the educational and emotional gaps often associated with multiple school placements of foster children. FYS staff help to stabilize foster care placements by providing consultation to foster parents, group home staff, and school personnel.

FOSTER KINSHIP CARE EDUCATION (FKCE)

- Provides foster parent training classes recognized through Sierra College as providing the required continuing education hours to foster parents.
- Facilitates an education and support group for grandparents, neighbors and relatives raising children.

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP)

A nationwide study found that within 12-18 months following emancipation at age 18:

- **39% of former foster youth were unemployed**
- **39% were on public assistance**
- **25% were homeless for at least one night**
- **27% of males and 10% of females had been incarcerated at least once**

Purpose

The Nevada County Foster Youth Independent Living Program, in partnership with Nevada County Social Services and Sierra College, provides activities directed towards one goal: *assisting youth that are or were in foster care to become self-sufficient adults.*

Program Goals

- Education
- Employment
- Permanency
- Well-Being

Implementation

- One-on-one case management focused on career development, higher education, housing and life skills.
- Life Skills classes covering budgeting, job skills, housing options, health, social skills, and self-advocacy.
- Opportunities for financial incentives by participating in the program. Youth are recognized for accomplishments such as: high school graduation, gaining/sustaining employment, attendance at life skills classes, setting and keeping goals, etc.
- Fieldtrips to institutions of higher learning.
- Opportunities for positive recreational outings.
- Referrals to community resources and connections.