

## **AB 2508 –CalKIDS Foster Youth Eligibility**

### **SUMMARY**

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CalKIDS is a California state program that helps children save for college or career training after high school. Children born in California on or after July 1, 2022 are all awarded a CalKIDS college savings account with an initial deposit in it.

First graders who are identified as low-income receive an additional \$500, and first graders who are foster youth or homeless receive an additional \$500 augmentation in their account. Currently, they must be in first grade when they are identified to receive an additional \$500 deposit. If a student becomes a foster child as a fifth grader for example, they will have missed the chance to benefit from the augmented deposit for foster youth through the CalKIDS program.

AB 2508 expands CalKIDS eligibility to all foster youth, in first through twelfth grade.

### **PROBLEM**

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More than 60,000 children are currently in the foster care system in California. Approximately 46% of foster youth enter the system after the age of 6. Many of these children enter foster care, because they have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by their parents or guardians.

[Research](#) shows that 93% of foster youth want to attend college, but only 10% will graduate with a 2-year or 4-year degree by the age of 23. Unfortunately for foster youth, the financial resources, mentorship,

support, stability, and guidance needed to complete postsecondary education or training programs are not common. Most foster youth face extreme poverty. One study found that the most common reason that foster youth chose not to attend college was because of affordability and their need to work. Foster youth are some of the most vulnerable students who need additional services and programs to further their education.

College savings accounts are one of the best, proven ways of increasing the likelihood that a student will go to college. Even with savings of less than \$500, a child is 25% more likely to enroll in college and 64% more likely to graduate than a child with no savings.

### **SOLUTION**

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AB 2508 expands CalKIDS eligibility to all foster youth, in first through twelfth grade. Each foster child enrolled in public school will receive an additional \$500 in their college savings account. AB 2508 also expands marketing and reporting requirements to ensure that foster youth have access to the program and creates a process for foster youth who are erroneously excluded from the program to receive the payment.

### **SUPPORT**

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**John Burton Advocates for Youth (Sponsor)**  
Alameda County Office of Education  
All Saints Church Foster Care Project  
Alliance for Children’s Rights  
California Alliance of Caregivers



**6<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, Sacramento County**

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California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
California Child Savings Account Coalition  
California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy  
CASA of Los Angeles  
Children’s Legal Services of San Diego  
Children Now  
Children’s Institute  
Children’s Law Center of California  
City College of San Francisco – Guardian Scholars Program  
Clovis Community College – EOPS  
Doing Good Works  
East Bay Children’s Law Offices  
Excite Credit Union  
Foster Greatness  
Fullerton College – FYSI Program  
Haven of Hope  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
National Center for Youth Law  
NORCO College – Special Funded Programs  
Northern California College Promise Coalition  
Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools  
Orangewood Foundation  
Oxnard College – EOPS  
Pasadena City College-Next Up Program  
Peacock Acres Inc.  
Riverside City College – Guardian Scholars Program  
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools  
San Diego Youth Services  
San Mateo Special Education Local Plan Area  
Schoolhouse Connection  
Seneca Family of Agencies  
Skyline College  
Student’s Rising Above  
Taft College – EOPS Program  
TLC Child and Family Services Transition Age  
Woodland Community College Foster & Kinship Care Education  
Youth Housing Programs

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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