

SB 1421: Improving County and State Accountability for Outcomes Among Older Foster Youth

[Senate Bill 1421](#), authored by Senate President pro Tempore Emeritus Mike McGuire, was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 27, 2026. SB 1421 strengthens California's child welfare accountability system by requiring the [California Child and Family Service Review System \(C-CFSR\)](#) to include data measures for nonminor dependents in Extended Foster Care (EFC).

WHAT IS EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC)?

EFC was established federally in 2008 and in California through Assembly Bill 12 (AB 12) in 2010, taking effect in 2012. EFC allows eligible youth in the child welfare and probation systems to remain in foster care up until turning 21 years old, referred to as "nonminor dependents."

WHAT IS THE C-CFSR SYSTEM?

The C-CFSR is a continuous performance management system established by the passage of AB 636 (Steinberg, 2001), and used by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to monitor county child welfare and out-of-home placement probation agencies. California's child welfare system is state-supervised and county-operated. The C-CFSR is the accountability system used by the State to ensure county compliance with state and federal child welfare requirements.

HOW DOES THE C-CFSR SYSTEM WORK?

This system includes the completion of a County Self-Assessment (CSA) which includes a peer review, development of a five-year System Improvement Plan (SIP), the submission of annual SIP Progress Reports, and quarterly monitoring of SIP strategies and the effects on child welfare outcomes. Current county self-assessments, improvement plans, progress reports, and data reports are available online [here](#).

WHY IS SB 1421 NECESSARY?

The C-CFSR process began in 2001, prior to the federal or state enactment of EFC. Despite the federal and state extension of foster care, neither the federal nor state CFSR process was updated to evaluate outcomes for foster youth ages 18 to 21.

WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE THAT STATE AND COUNTY PERFORMANCE REVIEWS ARE NEEDED?

While EFC is associated with improved outcomes for participating youth including education, employment,

and housing security, youth access to services and outcomes varies greatly depending on the county in which they reside. For example, county-level financial aid application completion rates among foster youth ranged from 16% to 100% in 2025. Counties' proportion of 19-year-old foster youth who had never enrolled in postsecondary education spanned from 44% and 82%.

WHAT CHANGES DOES SB 1421 REQUIRE?

Beginning January 1, 2027, SB 1421 requires CDSS and county human services and probation agencies to include nonminor dependents in the C-CFSR process, adding measures that are age and developmentally appropriate. Specifically, SB 1421:

- Requires the inclusion of data measures related to the utilization of programs for nonminor dependents that are designed to reduce poverty, including, but not limited to, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion and enrollment in postsecondary and vocational education.
- Allows CDSS to consider feedback from relevant interest holders including researchers, county representatives, advocates, and individuals with lived experience, in determining which additional relevant nonminor dependent data to include.
- Incorporates these new measures into the comprehensive review of county performance of C-CFSR measures that CDSS is required to conduct at least once every five years.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE C-CFSR?

Several data elements included in the C-CFSR are publicly reported alongside other [TAY Hub](#) indicators through the [California Child Welfare Indicators Project](#).

CDSS's 2024 CFSR report can be found [here](#) and the C-CFSR Program Improvement Plan can be found online on the Administration for Children, Youth, & Families website [here](#). The improvement plan is in effect from June 2025 to June 2027.