

## CALCULATING PARTIAL CREDITS FOR HIGH SCHOOL FOSTER YOUTH



**Sixty percent of foster youth drop out of high school. One major barrier to high school graduations is schools' failure to issue partial credits.**

In recognition of this barrier, the California Legislature enacted AB 490 in 2004, requiring school districts to calculate, award, and accept partial credits for foster youth. However, many school districts do not fulfill these obligations because the laws did not give them any guidance. Therefore, it is very important that CASAs work with schools to ensure that their youth are awarded partial credits when they transfer schools and that the new schools accept these credits and apply them to core graduation requirements.

### USEFUL LAWS

- **Education Code Section 49069.5:** Schools must award youth partial credits for all work satisfactorily completed as of their last day of actual attendance.
- **Education Code Section 51225.2:** Schools must accept all previously issued partial credits and enroll the youth in the same or equivalent courses as those enrolled in at the previous school.

### CALCULATION FORMULA

Very few school districts in California have adopted partial credit policies that define how schools should calculate credits for foster youth who transfer schools mid-semester. Therefore, the California Department of Education and California School Boards Association helped to develop a Partial Credit Model Policy for schools to use when calculating partial credits. When CASAs advocate for partial credits for their youth, they should check to see if the youth's school has a partial credit policy. If none exists, the CASA should request that the school use the following formula and guidelines to calculate partial credits.

7 CLASS PERIODS = 0.5 CREDITS PER SUBJECT	
7-13 class periods = 0.5 credits per subject	42-48 class periods = 3 credits per subject
14-20 class periods = 1 credit per subject	49-55 class periods = 3.5 credits per subject
21-27 class periods = 1.5 credits per subject	56-62 class periods = 4.0 credits per subject
28-34 class periods = 2 credits per subject	63-69 class periods = 4.5 credits per subject
35-41 class periods = 2.5 credits per subject	70+ class periods = 5 credits per subject

### CALCULATION GUIDELINES

- **Length of Class Period:** Class periods lasting 89 minutes or less count as 1 class period for purposes of calculating partial credits. Class periods lasting 90 minutes or longer count as two class periods.
- **Sending School Responsibilities:** Issue check out grades upon receiving notification that a foster youth will transfer schools. Calculate partial credits for each subject the youth is passing as of the last day of actual attendance. Include all courses, grades, and partial credits earned on an official transcript within 2 business days of youth's transfer.
- **Receiving School Responsibilities:** When youth transfer schools mid-semester, request and accept all check out grades and partial credits awarded by sending school within 2 business days of youth's enrollment. Apply them to the same equivalent courses on the school district's official transcript. Immediately enroll the youth in the same/equivalent courses so they can complete a full semester of credits.

**If you need assistance obtaining partial credits for a foster youth, please contact the Alliance for Children's Rights at (213) 368-6010.**

## CASA Student Withdrawal Report

### **Student Identification Information**

Student Name: _____	Court Case Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Age: _____
Gender: _____	Grade: _____
Education Rights Holder Name: _____	Contact Number: _____
Caregiver Name: _____	Contact Number: _____

### **Old School Information**

School Name/District: _____	Counselor/Registrar Name: _____
Enrollment Date: _____	Withdrawal Date: _____
Last Day of Actual Attendance: _____	
Reason for School Transfer: _____	

#### Partial Credit Log

**Type of Grading Period** (circle one): Semester / Trimester

**Total # of Credits Available/Grading Period** (circle one): 1 / 5

Course Name	Corresponding Graduation Requirement	Check Out Grade**	# of Periods Attended	Length of Each Period (in min.)	# of Credits Earned

\*\* A check out grade is the final grade issued by an individual teacher based on youth's cumulative work over the entire grading period up until the last day of actual attendance, including exam scores, home and class work, participation, and attendance. Foster youths' grades may not be lowered for absences caused by placement changes, court appearances, or participation in court-ordered activities.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **New School Information**

School Name/District: _____	Enrollment Date: _____
School Registrar/Counselor: _____	Phone Number: _____
Courses student enrolled in: _____	
_____	
_____	