

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1017 (Reyes) – As Amended June 22, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill adds a foster youth of at least 14 years of age to the list of individuals who may access their student records upon request.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Potentially reimbursable Proposition 98 General Fund costs, likely minor, to local education agencies to provide additional student records. These costs would be reimbursable only to the extent a local agency files a claim and the Commission on State Mandates determines it is a reimbursable cost.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Currently, homeless students and unaccompanied youth aged 14 or older have access to their education records. This access helps mitigate disruptions caused by frequent school changes and lack of consistent adult guidance. However, that is not the case for foster students as they can only access their school records if they are 16 years or older. SB 1017 would grant foster youth the same rights provided to homeless students and unaccompanied youth, the ability to access their school records at 14 years old. Timely access to records empowers students to make informed decisions during critical transitions and reinforces the state's commitment to ensuring that foster youth are not disadvantaged by circumstances beyond their control. At the forefront of equity is protecting and advocating for our most vulnerable population, and SB 1017 is a step forward in ensuring foster youth have the resources they need to live a successful life.

2) **Background.** The federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act as well as existing state law maintain protections for pupil records. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S Department of Education issued joint guidance underscoring the importance of collaboration between local education agencies and child welfare agencies and the need to share data between schools and child welfare agencies.

Foster parents are often not the educational rights holder – the individual(s) with the right to make educational decisions on behalf of a pupil. Biological parents may retain the right to make education-related decisions while their child is in out-of-home care, unless the court limits or terminates their rights. However, while a foster youth's caregiver may be provided with access to the youth's student records, current law does not provide foster youth themselves with access to their student records. Notably, homeless and unaccompanied youth above age 14 or any student over 16 years of age and having completed the 10th grade may receive access to their student records.

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