



**Grizzly Challenge Charter School
Notice for Students and Parents/Guardians**

**Educational and Graduation Requirements for Homeless, Foster,
Former Juvenile Court School Pupils, and Child(ren) of a Military Family**

The Governing Board of Grizzly Challenge Charter School (GCCS) desires to ensure that homeless, foster, former juvenile court school pupils, and child(ren) of a military family (Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth) are provided equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children and youth. Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth will be given access to the education and other services that such students need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth students will not be stigmatized or segregated in a separate school or program based on the student's status as Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth.

I. Definitions

- ***Homeless children and youth*** means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youths:
 - Who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks (not including mobile home parks), or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
 - Who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
 - Who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
 - Who are migratory children who qualify as homeless for purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described above.
- ***Foster child/student/youth*** means a child who has been removed from his or her home pursuant to Welfare and Institutions ("W&I") Code section 309, is the subject of a petition filed under W&I sections 300 or 602. This includes children who are the subject of cases in dependency court and juvenile justice court.

- ***Former juvenile court school pupil*** means a pupil who, upon completion of the pupil's second year of high school, transfers from a juvenile court school to the school.
- ***Child of a military family*** refers to a student who resides in the household of an active duty military member.

II. Transfer of Coursework, Credits and Graduation Requirements

GCCS shall accept coursework satisfactorily completed by Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth pupils while attending another public school, a juvenile court school, a charter school, a school in a country other than the United States, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency even if the student did not complete the entire course and shall issue that student full or partial credit for the coursework completed. The credits accepted shall be applied to the same or equivalent course, if applicable, as the coursework completed in the prior school.

GCCS shall not require a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student to retake a course if the student has satisfactorily completed the entire course in a prior school. If the student did not complete the entire course, GCCS shall not require the pupil to retake the portion of the course the student completed unless GCCS, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the student, finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so the student may continue and complete the entire course.

A Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student shall not be prevented from retaking or taking a course to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University or the University of California.

A Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student who transfers between schools any time after the completion of the pupil's second year of high school and is in the student's third or fourth year of high school, GCCS shall exempt from all coursework and other requirements adopted by GCCS that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3, unless GCCS makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete GCCS's graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

If GCCS determines that the Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student is reasonably able to complete GCCS's graduation requirements within the student's fifth year of high school, GCCS shall do all of the following: 1) Inform the student of the student's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete GCCS's graduation requirements; 2) Inform the student, and the student's educational rights holder, about how remaining at GCCS for a fifth year to complete GCCS's graduation requirements will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution; 3) Provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges; 4) Permit the student to stay in school for a fifth year to complete

GCCS's graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or if under 18 years of age, with the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student.

To determine whether a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student is in the third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the pupil has earned to the date of transfer or the length of the student's school admission may be used, whichever will qualify the student for the exemption.

Within 30 calendar days of the date that a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student may qualify for the exemption from local graduation requirements transfers into a school, GCCS shall notify the student, the educational rights holder, and GCCS's Homeless or Foster and Mobile Youth liaison of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for an exemption. If GCCS fails to provide timely notice, the student shall be eligible for the exemption from local graduation requirements once notified, even if that notification occurs after the student is no longer homeless, migrant or in foster care, if the student otherwise qualifies for the exemption.

A Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student that has been exempted from local graduation requirements in accordance with Education Code section 51225.1 and completes the statewide coursework requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 before the end of the student's fourth year of high school and that student would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the school, GCCS shall not require or request that the pupil graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

If a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student is exempted from local graduation requirements pursuant to Education Code section 51225.1, GCCS shall notify the student and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student how any of the requirements that are waived will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

If a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student who is eligible for the exemption from local graduation requirements and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at GCCS shall not be required to accept the exemption or be denied admission in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible, including courses necessary to attend an institution of higher education, regardless of whether those courses are required for statewide graduation requirements.

If a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student is not exempted from local graduation requirements or has previously declined the exemption, GCCS shall exempt the student at any time if an exemption is required by the student and the student qualifies for the exemption.

If a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student is exempted from local graduation requirements, GCCS shall not revoke the exemption.

If a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student is exempted from local graduation requirements, the exemption shall continue to apply after the pupil is no longer a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student while the student is enrolled in GCCS or if a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student who is exempt from local graduation requirements transfers to the GCCS from another school.

GCCS shall not require or request a Homeless, Foster, Mobile Youth student to transfer schools in order to qualify the pupil for an exemption.

A complaint for noncompliance with this section may be filed with GCCS under GCCS's Uniform Complaint Procedures.