



**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 any of the following:
 - A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code ("WIC") section 309 (whether or not the child has been removed from the child's home by juvenile court).
 - A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant WIC section 602, has been

removed from the child's home by the juvenile court, and is in foster care.

- A nonminor under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as described in WIC section 450, who satisfies all of the following criteria:
 - The nonminor has attained 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement by the juvenile court.
 - The nonminor is in foster care under the placement and care responsibility of the county welfare department, county probation department, Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization.
 - The nonminor is participating in a transitional independent living case plan.
- A dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization who is the subject of a petition filed in the tribal court.¹
- A child who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement, as defined in WIC section 11400.
- ***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 a school district or charter school, excluding a student who transfers from a juvenile court school to a school district operated by the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- ***Child of a military family*** refers to a student who resides in the household of an active duty military member.
- ***Educational Rights Holder (ERH)*** means a parent, guardian, responsible adult appointed by a court to make educational decisions for a minor pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code sections 319, 361 or 726, or a person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil pursuant to Education Code section 56055.

II. Transfer of Coursework, Credits and Graduation Requirements

GCCS shall accept coursework satisfactorily completed by a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth while attending another public school², 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 pursuant to this paragraph shall be applied for enrollment purposes to the same or equivalent course, if applicable, as the coursework completed in the prior public school,

¹ The Charter School shall not require an Indian tribe or tribal court representative to certify that any student is a dependent of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization.

² For purposes of coursework completed by a student who is a child of a military family, "public school" includes schools operated by the United States Department of Defense.

juvenile court school, charter school, school in a country other than the United States, or nonpublic, nonsectarian school. For purposes of the official transcript, the credits accepted pursuant to this paragraph shall be added to the credits earned from the same or equivalent course for purposes of calculating the total credits earned for the course but shall separately identify the school and local educational agency in which the credits were earned.

If a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth transfers in or out of GCCS, GCCS shall issue the full and partial credits on an official transcript for the pupil and shall ensure the transcript includes all of the following:

1. All full and partial credits and grades earned based on any measure of full or partial coursework being satisfactorily completed, including a determination of the days of enrollment or seat time, or both, if applicable, at a school of that local educational agency or a prior local educational agency, or any other public school, juvenile court school, charter school, school in a country other than the United States, or nonpublic, nonsectarian school.
2. The credits and grades for each school and local educational agency listed separately so it is clear where they were earned.
3. A complete record of the pupil's seat time, including both period attendance and days of enrollment.

If GCCS has knowledge that the transcript from the transferring local educational agency may not include certain credits or grades for the pupil, it shall contact the prior local educational agency within two business days to request that the prior local educational agency issue full or partial credits pursuant to this paragraph. The prior local educational agency shall issue appropriate credits and provide all academic and other records to the Charter School within two business days of the request.

If the Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth did not complete the entire course, the student shall be issued partial credit for the coursework completed and shall not be required to retake the portion of the course that the student completed unless GCCS, in consultation with the student's ERH, finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. Whenever partial credit is issued to a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth in any particular course, the student shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course.

In no event shall GCCS prevent a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth from taking or retaking a course to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University or the University of California.

A Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth who transfers between schools any time after the completion of the student'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, and Mobile Youth 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. Consult with the student and the ERH of the student of the student's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete GCCS's graduation requirements;
2. Consult with the student, and the student's educational rights holder, about how remaining in 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. Consult with and 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;
5. For a pupil in foster care or a pupil who is a homeless child or youth, consult with the pupil, and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, regarding the pupil's option to remain in the pupil's school of origin, pursuant to Section 48852.7 for a pupil who is a homeless child or youth, or Section 48853.5 for a pupil in foster care.

To determine whether a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth 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. For a student participating in a newcomer program, enrollment in grade 11 or 12 based on the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school may be used to determine whether the student is in their third or fourth year of high school.

Within 30 calendar days of the date that a foster student, former juvenile court pupil, child of a military family or currently migratory child 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 liaison for foster children and youth 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 in foster care, if the student otherwise qualifies for the exemption.

A foster 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, and Mobile Youth is exempted from local graduation requirements pursuant to Education Code section 51225.1, GCCS shall notify the student, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student and, where applicable, the student's social worker or probation officer of the availability of the exemption. GCCS will consult with the student and the educational rights holder regarding all of the following:

1. Discussion regarding how any of the requirements that are waived may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
2. Discussion and information about other options available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, a fifth year of high school, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
3. Consideration of the pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption.

Through January 1, 2028, upon making a finding that a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth is not reasonably able to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements but is reasonably able to complete state coursework requirements specified in Education Code Section 51225.3 within the student's fifth year of high school, the Principal or designee shall exempt the pupil from the Charter School's graduation requirements and provide pupil the option of remaining in school for a fifth (5th) year to complete the statewide coursework requirements. The Charter School shall consult with the Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth and the ERH regarding all of the following:

1. The pupil's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.
2. How waiving the local educational requirements and remaining in school for a fifth year may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a institution of higher education.
3. Whether any other options are available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. The pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption and option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.

If a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth is not eligible for an exemption in the year in which the pupil transfers between schools, because the Charter School makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, then the Charter School shall do the following:

1. Within the first 30 calendar days of the *following* academic year, the Charter School shall

reevaluate eligibility;

2. Provide written notice to the pupil, the ERH, and the pupil's social worker or probation officer, if applicable, whether the pupil qualifies for an exemption, based on the course completion status of the pupil at the time of reevaluation, to determine if the pupil continues to be reasonably able to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school.
3. If, given their course completion status at that time the reevaluation is conducted, the pupil is not reasonably able to complete the Charter School additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, the Charter School shall:
 - a. provide the pupil with the option to receive an exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board body of the Charter School that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified in Section 51225.3, or
 - b. to stay in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

The Charter School shall provide notification of the availability of these options. The pupil (if not a minor) or the ERH shall have sole discretion whether to accept the exemption, based on the pupil's best educational interests. For a pupil who is an unaccompanied youth, the youth has the right to make educational decisions on their own behalf.

If a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth 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, and Mobile Youth is not exempted from local graduation requirements, was not properly notified of the exemption, 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 or qualified at the time the student originally should have been notified or declined the exemption.

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

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

GCCS shall not require or request a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth to transfer schools in

order to qualify the student for an exemption and no Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth or any person acting on behalf of a Homeless, Foster, and Mobile Youth may request a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

If a juvenile court youth satisfies the requirements for high school graduation while enrolled at a juvenile court school but has elected to decline the issuance of the diploma for the purpose of taking additional coursework, the Charter School will not prevent the juvenile court youth from enrolling in the Charter School and pursuing additional coursework if requested by the youth or by the youth's ERH.