



CA Edition 22

Welcome to the 2024 School Year

August/September Edition 2024

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As we embark on a new academic journey, it's crucial that we support our youth with practical tips to navigate through the school year successfully. Whether you're a student gearing up for the challenges ahead or a caregiver providing guidance, here are some essential strategies and resources to keep everyone on track this school year.

Resources for you

FREE Smartphones with Hotspot



Stay connected with a FREE Motorola Moto G Power 5G, exclusively for eligible California foster youth through the California LifeLine Foster Youth Program. This smartphone comes with a charger, protective case, and a monthly plan featuring unlimited talk, text, up to 25 GB of high-speed data, and up to 10 GB of mobile hotspot data. Tailored for California's foster youth, staying in touch with peers, teachers, and accessing vital information has never been easier.

Ways to Save on all Things School



As you dive into the new school year, iFoster's Get Perks and Working Advantage are here to help you save big on everyday essentials, clothing, school supplies, and more. Take advantage of an exclusive chance to win a Free \$100 Reward Card by signing up and using the code iFoster before October 12, 2024. Beyond the giveaway, you can also enjoy a part of the \$2 million in dedicated discounts for the iFoster community, representing the most substantial savings offer from any Working Advantage partner. Don't miss out on these amazing opportunities to make

FREE K-12 Tutoring



If you're in need of extra educational assistance, your search ends here! iFoster provides complimentary tutoring across all subjects for both current and former foster youth. We work in collaboration with thoroughly screened tutors hailing from prestigious institutions such as UCLA, UC-San Diego, and Cornell University. Tutors are paired with students tailored to their unique academic requirements and study styles. For students seeking support in Spanish, we have tutors proficient in the language to aid ESL learners. Let us support you on

your back-to-school experience both exciting and economical!

your journey to academic achievement!

A new phone is a click away!

Back-to-school savings

Find a tutor today

Up to 80% Off School Supplies



As you prepare for the new school year, iFoster is here to support you with amazing savings on school supplies. Benefit from our special partnership with Office Depot and OfficeMax and receive discounts of up to 80% on more than 300 office and school supply items.

Additionally, there are over 3,000 products available at a minimum discount of 15%, allowing you to prepare for success affordably. Please note, these discounts are exclusively available for online purchases.

Start saving today

Fun Scholarships



As the school bell rings in a fresh start, we're thrilled to announce \$250 scholarships for California foster youth in grades 6 through 12. Whether you're passionate about dance, eager to learn an instrument, ready to hit the sports field, dive into creative arts, debate your way to victory, or explore new skills at weekend camps, this scholarship can help turn your dreams into reality.

The possibilities are endless, and we can't wait to see where your interests take you this school year!

Learn more!

FREE Laptops or Tablets!



As the new school year approaches, we're excited to offer free 2-in-1 laptop/tablets to all current and former California foster youth attending college, vocational schools, or continuing education this fall. Equipped with Wi-Fi, Microsoft Windows and Office, and a built-in camera, these laptops are perfect for note taking, participating in Zoom classes, essay writing, and research. Get ready to hit the ground running this academic year with this essential tech tool at your fingertips.

Scroll here to find your state

Unlock a Stellar New Year: Essential Tips and Tricks for High Schoolers

As the excitement of the New Year builds, it's the perfect time to set new goals and prepare for a successful semester. High schoolers, this one's for you! Whether you're aiming for academic success, extracurricular achievements, or personal growth, we've got you covered with some essential tips to kickstart your year.

1. **Set SMART Goals**
2. **Organize Your Space and Schedule**
3. **Prioritize Self-Care**
4. **Seek Help When Needed**
5. **Explore and Engage**
6. **Stay Flexible and Embrace Changes**



Embarking on a new year is an exciting opportunity for growth and new experiences. By setting clear goals, organizing your life, taking care of your wellbeing, seeking help when necessary, and staying positive, you can make this year phenomenally successful. High schoolers, gear up for an amazing New Year filled with achievements, personal growth, and unforgettable memories. Let's make it a year to remember!

Caregiver Connections



Generations United Webinar: PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS: K-12 Education Support for Kinship & Grandfamilies

Event Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024 | Time: 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

Register Now: [Join the Webinar Here](#)

Join Generations United's pivotal webinar on the "2024 State of Grandfamilies and Kinship Care Report: Pathways to Success." This event will delve into the unique educational challenges and solutions for over 2.4 million children in grandfamily and kinship care.

What to Expect:

- Insightful Discussions with educators, caregivers, and advocates.
- Exclusive Previews of new resources designed to support these families.
- Interactive Q&A Session to discuss insights and engage with experts.

Featured Panelists:

- Moderated by Jason B. Allen with insights from Donna Butts, Michael Robert, Ed.D., and experiences shared by caregivers Victoria Gray & Laurie Tapozada.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to contribute to the support framework for kinship and grandfamilies.

Secure your virtual seat!

School Might Just be Starting, but We Plan Ahead for Sweater Weather Fun!



Win a Free
\$100 Reward Card

Sign up at <https://workingadvantage.com> to be entered in to win. Share with your family! Sign up by October 12, 2024 to be eligible to be entered in for the drawing!

Create/Verify Account with Code:

iFoster

School might just be starting, but we can plan ahead for Sweater Weather Fun!

As we eagerly anticipate the cozy layers and vibrant hues of fall, it's the perfect time to prep your fall and winter break plans with iFoster Get Perks and Working Advantage. Get ahead with these early deals to make your holiday season both memorable and budget-friendly. Plus, an exclusive opportunity awaits you and your family:

Win a Free \$100 Reward Card when you sign up for our special benefits program! Dive into the spirit of the season by sharing this chance with your family. Be sure to sign up by October 12, 2024, to be eligible for the drawing - and remember to use the company code **iFoster** when creating or verifying your account.

Let's look at the highlighted offers that can reshape your holiday planning:

- Enjoy up to 60% off hotels for that perfect autumnal or winter getaway.
- Take to the skies with flight discounts of up to 20% to top seasonal destinations.
- Embark on a festive journey with a \$1,500 Onboard Credit for unforgettable holiday cruises.
- Transform your home with a refreshing 70% off Finecraft window treatments, readying it for the chilly months.
- Elevate your holiday meals with simplicity and save 50% off your first four Home Chef boxes.
- Indulge in 20% off at The Popcorn Factory for those cozy evening treats.

Don't miss out on these incredible discounts. Sign up today, enter for the \$100 Reward Card, and start planning an extraordinary fall or winter break with iFoster Get Perks and Working Advantage. Make this holiday season magical with advance planning and exclusive savings!

[Click to learn more](#)

College Center

Here is a selection of tools for our students pursuing higher education to assist with preparations for the approaching academic year and strategize for the future.

Scholarships

Obtaining scholarships can significantly reduce the financial burden of college. Beginning early with your search and application for scholarships can be greatly beneficial for both the current and upcoming academic years. Below is a compilation of scholarship options to consider for this and the following school year.

Kentucky

- [Kentucky Scholarships - Scholarships.com](#)
- [Tuition Waiver Schools.pub \(ky.gov\)](#)

Ohio

- [Ohio Scholarships - Scholarships.com](#)

Nationwide

- [State Scholarships – Horatio Alger Association Students](#)
- [Adopted/Foster Child/Orphan Scholarships - Scholarships.com](#)

Simplifying FAFSA for Foster Youth with JBAY



If you've spent time in foster care, you're in a prime position to unlock significant financial aid for college or vocational schools through the FAFSA, including Pell and Chafee ETV grants - essentially free money that doesn't need to be repaid. By completing the FAFSA, you can access Pell Grants, offering \$4K-\$6K, and if you were in foster care for any period between ages 16 and 18, you're also eligible for an additional \$5K yearly for education or vocational training.

To aid in this endeavor, The John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) team has compiled essential insights into the FAFSA process tailored specifically for foster youth. Here's a quick glance at what we've unpacked for you:

- **Updating Personal Info & Address Solutions:** Ensuring your FAFSA reflects your current situation.
- **Determining State of Legal Residence:** Key for state aid eligibility.
- **Handling Federal Tax Information:** Submit with confidence.
- **Selecting Schools:** Strategize which institutions can view your application.
- **Navigating Student Financials:** A closer look at how to report assets and the impact of federal benefits.

Dive into our guidance to make your journey through financial aid smooth and successful.

[Explore the guide](#)

Episode 2 | Transitioning to College Tips and Tricks

Great news to share! The newest episode of the iFoster Smooth Transitions podcast is available now, focusing on the journey to college for foster youth. This episode is perfect for anyone from those just beginning to consider higher education to those already deep in their studies. We've filled the episode with advice on securing financial aid, leveraging campus programs, and utilizing other incredible resources designed to support your educational journey.





Got ideas for our next Smooth Transitions episode? We're all ears! Share your thoughts and help us craft the perfect guide to tackling the next big hurdle in your journey out of foster care.

Share your thoughts



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For more information, please contact: iFoster Support at 855-936-7837 / text 530-550-8001/ support@ifoster.org
Must be an iFoster Member/ Register at www.ifoster.org, it's free!

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