



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE**

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110
(909) 387-4821

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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

September 16, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 578 (McLeod) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

The San Bernardino Board of Supervisors is pleased to sponsor SB 578. This measure would increase the number of foster youth who obtain their high school diploma in a timely manner by requiring each public school district and county office of education to issue and accept full or partial credits for coursework satisfactorily completed by a dependent or ward while attending a public school, juvenile court school, or nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency to be applied to core curriculum and graduation requirements.

Existing law requires that schools must award all students full or partial credits for coursework satisfactorily completed by a pupil while attending a public school, juvenile court school, or nonpublic or nonsectarian school. While statute requires that these credits must be accepted, there is nothing in statute requiring that schools apply the accepted credits towards the core curriculum and graduation requirements.

Often the transferred credits are applied towards elective courses rather than the core curriculum. This practice often means that these foster youth will lag behind their peers, essentially losing months of academic progress with each change in school placement due to no fault of their own. Additionally, this can lead to the youth choosing to drop out of high school rather than retaking courses that they have already completed.

SB 578 will enable more foster youth to graduate in a timely manner and will increase the number of high school graduates among foster youth. The academic success of an individual is a key determinant in preparation for the future. This bill is a step towards ensuring every young adult's ability to flourish.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to sponsor SB 578 and thereby respectfully requests your signature on the bill. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, CHAIR
Board of Supervisors

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.