

## **SFCASA Advocacy Areas, Definitions and Examples**

### **Community Connections**

Youth experiences caring and supportive adult and peer relationships in their natural community; youth identifies and pursues personal interests; and youth participates in related prosocial activities.

Examples of relationships: relatives, peers, friends' families, teachers, spiritual communities, neighborhood groups, recreational/arts/cultural/athletic communities, etc.

Examples of prosocial pursuits: skateboarding, soccer, playing a musical instrument/singing, coding, theater, cooking, summer camps, etc.

### **Education**

Youth is on track to advance grade levels; plans exist for youth to achieve educational goals with appropriate supports; youth has access to and utilizes academic and non-academic supports in school; youth participates in school clubs or activities.

Examples: Youth advances a grade level; youth's Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and/or 504 Plans take place as needed and required by law; youth begins to understand and explore the link between education and vocational training/career; upon moving placements, youth is quickly enrolled in a new school or youth maintains their school of origin; youth joins school club or sports team.

### **Healthcare**

Youth has access to and receives preventative and acute-needs healthcare to maintain positive physical, mental, and behavioral health.

Examples: Annual physicals, regular dental care, and vision screenings/care as needed; access to mental and behavioral health services; consistent, culturally humble, and timely care for both preventative and acute healthcare needs; youth voice and choice considered for services and providers; maintenance of health insurance and other resources as appropriate.

### **Placement**

Youth is in an appropriate placement for their level of need; youth is involved in placement and housing decisions as developmentally appropriate; and youth's voice is integral to home placement options other than long-term foster care.

Examples: Youth participates or their preferences are presented and considered in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings and other conversations about both short- and long-term placement; NMD understands requirements for housing programs; appropriate support and tools are provided to youth and caregiver to maintain placement of preference; for youth ages 0-17, ongoing efforts made toward case closure (reunification, guardianship or adoption).

**Independent Living Skills (ages 16+)**

Youth is supported to achieve their educational and/or career goals while learning and practicing independent living skills (related to their housing, healthcare, and personal finances).

Examples: Youth is engaged with an Independent Living Skills program; youth prepares for employment; youth has an internship or job; youth has a bank account and practices budgeting; youth practices time management skills; youth understands the difference between needs and wants and prioritizes accordingly; youth tours college campuses and/or vocational training options; youth prepares for independent living through finding and maintaining a home where they pay rent.