



Important Educational Updates from DFS March 2023

You and your child are almost halfway through the 2nd Semester. Woo hoo!

Congratulations on making it this far!

The 3rd Quarter ends this month. This is the time to check on your child's grades and make a plan to ensure your child's success.

Also see below for some great opportunities for youths!

Important Dates to Know

- Friday March 10 - End of Third Grading Period (47 days)
- Monday March 13 – Friday March 17 – Spring Break – No School
- Monday March 20 - Classes Resume

Quarter Ends March 10 - Check Your Child's Grades/Progress Reports

- The 3rd Quarter ends March 10th. This is the halfway mark of the 2nd Semester.
- ***Quarters are a great time to check your child's progress in classes and reach out to your child/your child's teacher if your child is getting an F or low D in the class. We recommend you ask your child's teacher what the most important assignments are to complete and what upcoming assignments your child should focus on to raise your child's grade in the class.***
- ***If a teacher will not work with you or your child on makeup work, please contact your child's Foster Care Advocate/Social Worker to assist you.***
- Please ensure you have access to your child's grades in real time on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal and/or Canvas Learning System.
 - Families can create an observer account in the Parent Canvas Portal. Parents/Caregivers can personalize the notifications to best stay informed about their children's educational progress. To sign up for an observer Canvas account please visit <https://ccsd.net/employees/canvas/canvas-students>.
 - To sign up to get Infinite Campus Parent Portal and set up your account, contact your child's school and ask for the Infinite Campus Designee to assist you.

Scholarships for Foster Youth Available

- **Otto A. Huth Scholarship – Application Due April 15, 2023**
 - The Otto Huth Scholarship fund is established to provide support for youths who are about to age out of foster care or have already aged out of foster care in the state of Nevada who are seeking support for post-high school education at universities, community colleges, business schools, and trade schools in the US

- Applicants may apply for scholarships for a maximum of 5 years for up to \$40,000 total (not to exceed \$10,000 per year)
- Scholarships may be used for tuition, on-campus room and board, student health insurance, on-campus meal plans, and other education related expenses
- *For other requirement information please visit [Otto A. Huth Scholarship Fund | Community Foundation of Northern Nevada \(nevadafund.org\)](https://www.nevadafund.org) and contact your child's Independent Living Worker or Caseworker*
- **Foster Children Education Scholarship** – Application due **April 30, 2023**
 - The Foster Children Education Foundation Scholarship supports youths who are or have been in foster care (never legally adopted or expected to be adopted) in Nevada who have received a high school diploma and desire to pursue higher education with at least a 3.0 GPA
 - Applicants must have no other significant financial means or other significant financial assistance to pursue education.
 - Funds may be used for vocational or other specialized training covers tuition, books and fees for awardees.
 - *For other requirement information please visit [Foster Children Education Scholarship | Community Foundation of Northern Nevada \(nevadafund.org\)](https://www.nevadafund.org) and contact your child's Independent Living Worker or Caseworker*

Nevada Youth Legislature Applications Open

- The Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) provides a unique opportunity for young people in Nevada to learn about representative government and participate in policymaking.
- *Youth Legislators represent the 21 State Senate Districts in NV and are appointed by their State Senators to represent youth under the age of 18 who live in their State Senate District. Youth Legislators participate in monthly interactive trainings during the school year and gain real world experience with the legislative process.*
- *The deadline for 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students to apply is March 31st. The application for NYL is available online at [Nevada Youth Legislature Application 2023-2025 \(state.nv.us\)](https://state.nv.us). For further questions, contact the NYL Facilitator, Tina Ashdown, at info@youthleg.state.nv.us.*

If Your Child was RPCed, Suspended, or Recommended for Expulsion, Ensure that a Restorative Justice Plan was Created and a Determination was Made that the Incident was not Related to Being in Foster Care

- Schools must create Restorative justice Plans after a child has been removed from school for any disciplinary action (RPCs, Suspension, or Expulsions). Restorative Justice Plans outline actions taken by the school to support the student for the possible reasons the child may be in disciplinary procedures.
- Parents have the right to appeal a suspension or expulsion recommendation from a school.
- **A child in foster care who is at least 11 years of age may be suspended or expelled from school only if a determination is made that the behavior that led to the suspension or expulsion was not caused by being in foster care. It shall be presumed that the behavior was caused by being in foster care unless an advocate for child in foster care or the school counselor of the pupil determines that the behavior was not caused by being in foster care.**

- For discipline to occur, it must have been presumed the behavior was not related to being in foster care
- In CCSD, the meeting is called the SB354 Meeting and occurs before the discipline proceeds
- CCSD has provided guidance that the child's caseworker, caregiver, Educational Decision Maker, Attorney, and other parties should be contacted for information to help make the determination
- *You can ask your child's school for your child's restorative justice plan if they have been removed at all from school. You can inquire whether the plan has been followed/enacted.*
- *If you disagree with your child's suspension or expulsion, please let your administrators know of your disagreement.*
- *Please also follow up with your caseworker and the Foster Care Department at Department at 702-799-1196 and fostercaretransrequest@nv.ccsd.net if: (a) your child was not given a Restorative Justice Plan; (b) if you did not get contacted for the SB354 meeting; and/or (c) if it was not determined that the behavior used as the basis of the suspension/expulsion was related to being in foster care and you disagree with that determination.*

Please Report/Have Your Child Report Threats, Suicide, and Bullying

- SafeVoice is an anonymous tip report system with live response 24/7/365. SafeVoice (SV) includes and goes beyond bullying to create an anonymous way to also report threats of school violence and friends at risk of suicide, self-harm, drugs and more. Reports are followed up on and are monitored.
- *To access SafeVoice and find out more about the system, please visit <https://ccsd.net/students/safevoice>.*
- *For other resources, please contact your child's school counselor and social worker*

We at DFS thank you for all you are doing to help your child succeed!

Please contact your DFS Representative for any assistance you need.

We appreciate you very much!