



**Merced Union High School District**  
*Exemption Notification Letter of Graduation Requirements*  
**AB 167/216 Verification for Foster Youth**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School Official Completing Form:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_ **IEP:** YES or NO

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Enrollment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Education Rights Holder:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Probation Officer/Social Worker:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Credits at Enrollment:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Credits at District/School:** \_\_\_\_\_

This notice is to inform you that under Assembly Bills 167/216, the California State Legislature requires school districts to exempt a foster/probation youth from coursework and other requirements that exceed the State of California minimum high school graduation requirements. This applies to any youth in foster care/probation who is either removed from their home or subject to a petition under WIC Sections 300, 309, or 602 who is off track for high school graduation, and transfers after their second year of high school. They may be eligible to graduate by completing the minimum state requirements. Students may not graduate early using AB 167/216 reduced graduation requirements. **The above named student has the following graduation options:**

- The student is eligible for this exemption and may obtain a high school diploma by meeting the state-mandated graduation requirements of 130 credits. Please note that there are advantages and disadvantages to graduating under AB 167. While a student may graduate with classmates and receive a regular high school diploma, they may sacrifice important learning opportunities that are necessary to succeed in higher education and employment. Students who graduate under AB 167 may not be eligible to apply directly to a California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) school. However, through California Community Colleges the student may gain entry into the UC/CSU system through the successful completion of specific courses.
- Remain in high school for a 5<sup>th</sup> year, and complete all additional school district graduation requirements. The right to a 5<sup>th</sup> year of high school applies even if the student will be 19 years old during that additional school year. The student will be allowed to remain at the local high school and will not be required to transfer to a continuation school, independent study program, or adult school to complete the 5<sup>th</sup> year.
- Attempt to graduate high school at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year by completing all school district graduation requirements. Students may attempt to accomplish this by concurrently enrolling in adult school, a community college, continuation school, or independent study program.
- Acknowledge eligibility, but defer decision until a later date OR remain in high school for more than 4 years pursuant to their IEP.

Once the student’s Education Rights Holder has determined which graduation plan to take, please check the appropriate box above and return this form. Please note that the school district cannot allow a student to graduate under AB 167/216 without receiving this document. An 18 year old student or their Education Rights Holder can change their decision regarding graduating under AB 167/216 at any time until the student receives their high school diploma. Please note that regardless of whether or not a student elects to graduate under AB 167/216, a student has the right and obligation to attend school until age 18, with limited exceptions.

**Your signature below indicates that you are aware of the limitations of receiving a diploma under California Law AB 167/216 for foster/probation youth. This form provides no guarantee that the student has passed the necessary coursework for graduation. If you have further questions, please contact the student’s academic counselor.**

Educational Rights Holder Signature\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(or 18 year old Student)*

LEA/School Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE: It is required to place the original copy of this letter in the student’s CUME folder & send copy to Homeless & Foster Youth Program Manager.**