**Input session at Madera County Office of Education**

**Session for Foster Youth- 6 student participants**

**8 Priorities- In order of importance to students**

1. School Climate- \*\*How do students feel at school? Supported? Understood? Safe?
2. Basic Services
3. Course Access
4. Student Achievement
5. Meeting State Standards
6. Student Engagement
7. Other Student Outcomes
8. \*\*\* This group of foster youth didn’t want any money going toward parent engagement for foster youth parents. They thought the funding would be better spent by educating them on the things they need to know as many of them will responsible for getting to college on their own.

\*\* Foster youth felt that School Climate was especially important to be addressed for students like them because they don’t have home support that encourages them to want to go to school, they are dealing with things that outweigh their want to go to school and they don’t feel like the school is already doing enough to help them feel supported while at school

**What makes it hard for youth to go to school every day, be on track to graduate and go to college or career after high school?**

1. Transportation
   1. bus comes late
   2. No bus stops around your house
   3. parents aren’t at home
   4. What if we don’t have money for DMV class
2. Parents don’t support
3. Being depressed or over thinking from night before
4. Bad test scores
5. not having snacks during long tests
6. Being suspended or expelled for:
   1. non violent, talking back, being late, refusing or mean
7. No backpacks or pencils
8. Less attention
9. Low self esteem

**What services would help youth want to go to school everyday? What would help them stay on track to graduate? Help students make plans for the goals they have?**

**\*All specifically for foster youth**

1. More bus stops
2. tutoring
3. special buddy for more attention (check ins, homework, someone to talk to)
4. more attention
5. special counseling
6. less judging
7. clubs- career schools
8. more school busses
9. tasty food