

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires schools to collaborate with DHHS to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care, including assurances that children in care remain in their school of origin (the school district they lived in when they became a state ward), unless it is not in their educational best interest. A best interest determination meeting must be held to meet this requirement and establish whether a student who is in foster care should remain in his or her "school of origin."

The Education Best Interest Determination for Children in Foster Care Form serves as a mechanism through which relevant parties can meaningfully participate in the Best Interest Determination (BID) and determine what school district the foster child should attend. **Note: This document shall be kept in both the child's school (LEA) and DHHS case file.**

Student's Name:		State ID:	
Gender:	Date of Birth:	Grade:	
Current School:		Phone:	
Case Manager:		Phone:	
Date of Meeting:		Location:	

Determination Attendance (Print Name)	Title or Relationship to Foster Child	Signature	Agree with the Determination?

Factors Considered in Making the BID

The student shall remain in the current school unless consideration of the following factors indicates that a change of school placement is in the child's best interest.

Provide a **brief** explanation of all that apply. **Add additional pages if needed.**

Question	Discussion	Yes	No
Transferring schools will positively affect the child emotionally, socially, or academically (e.g., the child's siblings attend the new school)		☐	☐

The student is best served at a different school due to his or her academic history/ future (report cards, GPA, teachers' progress reports, etc.). A change in school placement would benefit the child academically.		☐	☐
The parents/prior custodians or child believes that changing schools is in the child's best interest.		☐	☐
The preferences of the child (depending on age) have been taken into consideration and the child believes that changing schools is in their best interest.		☐	☐
The distance/length of commute to return to the current school (school of origin) would negatively affect the student's education and/or special needs. Has the child's age been considered when determining appropriate/feasible proximity?		☐	☐
The child's permanency goal, plan, and expected date for achieving the permanency supports a change in school placement.		☐	☐

The child has only attended the current school for a short time or is not attached to the school, does not mind transferring to another school, or is not involved in school related or extra-curricular activities.		☐	☐
Safety considerations favor a change in school placement.		☐	☐
The student's need for special instruction/ education and related services can be met better at the new school. Is the child receiving any special education services? Does the child participate in other specialized instruction? (e.g. gifted program, English learner, career and technical program)		☐	☐
The new school is able to meet the child's academic needs. Would the child's new school have programs and activities that address the unique needs or interests of the student that the current school does not have?		☐	☐
Changing schools will NOT undermine the child's ability to stay on track to graduate. How would changing schools affect the student's ability to earn full academic credit, proceed to the next grade, or graduate on time?		☐	☐

The timing of the school transfer will not undermine school success. Would the timing of the school transfer coincide with a logical juncture in the child's academic or personal progress? (e.g., after an event that is significant to the child or end of the school year)		☐	☐
Note any additional considerations or factors that indicate a change of school placement is in the child's best interest.		☐	☐

The student will remain in the same school. Transportation will be provided by: Responsible party/parties for transportation costs:
A change in school placement is needed. Enrollment in the new school must take place without interruption. The above-mentioned student will be enrolled in: School: _____ District: _____ Date: _____ Person Responsible: _____

Special Education Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- ☐ The student currently is receiving special education services and will need to continue special education services in the receiving school district.
- The former school is to include all documentation of needed services when transferring educational information and records to the new school within one school day.

Supporting Documentation (Optional)

Please indicate on the below chart any supporting documentation that was utilized in the Best Interest Determination.

☐ Report Cards	☐ Progress Reports	☐ Assessment Data	☐ IEP/MDT
☐ 504/SAT	☐ Attendance Records	☐ Individualized Family Service Plan	☐ Relevant Correspondence
☐ Transcripts	☐ Behavior Plans	☐ Discipline	