



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS



Education Stability Provisions

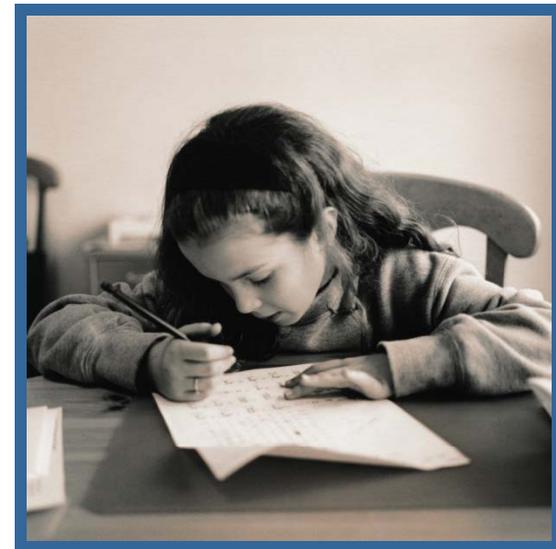
Division for Children, Youth and Families
Department of Health and Human Services



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

Jane's Story

- Seven year old child neglected by her mother
- Placed with Aunt-attends same school
- Moved to foster family-attends new school
- Misses month of school
- Repeats school year





Fostering Connections To Success & Increasing Adoptions

- Maintain the foster child in the same school when possible
- Transfer the foster child immediately to a new school when maintaining in same school not possible.
- Have all involved parties consider the appropriateness of the child's current education



DCYF Case Plan

- Assure the child's placement in foster care takes into account the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school the child was enrolled in at time of placement, and
- Assure DCYF has coordinated with the local education agencies to ensure the child can remain in that school or if not in child's best interest. assure immediate enrollment in new school with educational records



Other Placement Considerations

- Child's education stability
- Parents wishes
- Availability of a willing and capable relative or foster family
- Potential of a permanent home for the child
- Any special medical or behavioral needs
- Placement with a sibling



Education Stability Requirements

- School attendance
- Maintain child in the same school
- Transfer to a new school
- Appropriateness of education



School Attendance

- Every foster child must be attending full time elementary or secondary school unless a medical condition prohibits
- Evaluations are done to confirm continued absence from school
- Workers involve everyone in the ongoing education of the child (parents, foster parents professional staff)



Maintain Child in the Same School

- To provide for the continuity of the child's education and minimize trauma associated with removal from home and friends
- Allow foster child to continue with his or her classmates, friends, teachers and current activities
- DCYF works with school, parents, relatives and foster parents to arrange transportation as possible.



Transfer to a New School

- When it is not possible to find a foster home or a relative's home to allow a child to continue in their home school
- When the child's needs may require a placement away from their school district



Transfer to a New School

- Transfer must be timely (next day if possible)
- Coordinated between schools so that the new school has the education and inoculation records
- DCYF workers provide information timely
- School district personnel give priority to the work of transferring
- Coordinate, communicate and focus on the child's needs



Transfer to a New School

- Not in child's best interest to remain in their home school district
- Decision about selecting the school in the child's best interest should include all school personnel, parents or guardians, the DCYF worker and others who can provide insight



Factor's to Consider

- Importance of school stability and educational continuity
- Importance of academic, social and emotional impact
- If special education needs, ensure services and evaluations not interrupted
- Travel time and distance
- Projected length of time for out-of-home placement and permanency plan
- Safety issues
- Siblings
- Any other factor unique and specific to the child



Appropriateness of Education

- Does the child need to be evaluated for special education or an accelerated educational program
- DCYF must explore educational needs and coordinate its efforts with those of the school
- DCYF must advocate for best possible education service, identify what is working and what isn't by working closely with the local school professionals



Recommendations

- Continue to work collaboratively with partners
- DCYF & DJJS need to ensure that excellent working relationships are established/ongoing with school district personnel
- Jointly provide training , support and professional development for each other
- Establish a statewide standardization plan for documenting educational placement, transfer of placement and educational progress for children placed by DCYF/DJJS