**Contract Correspondence Transmittal (CCT)**

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| **CCT Number: 12-03** | **Date of Issue: February 17, 2012** |
| **Division/Branch:** Protection and Permanency |
| **Key Words/Phrases:** Education Mandates under Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act and The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34) Including Annual Credit Reports for Youth Age 16 and Older. |
| **Attachments/Forms:** PPTL 12-01 SOP Revisions based on Title IV-E Requirements |

Dear PCC/PCP Provider,

In order to comply with education provisions under Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 and The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34), the Department for Community Based Services has made revisions to standards of practice relating to meeting the educational needs of children in foster care. Fostering Connections made many changes to federal child welfare programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, including the addition of provisions related to enrollment, educational stability and school transportation costs to maintain children in their home schools.

Summary of education provisions of Fostering Connections:

* School enrollment: Requires a title IV-E agency to assure that each child receiving a title IV-E payment who has attained the age for compulsory school attendance is a full-time elementary or secondary student in a school, in an authorized independent study program, or is being home schooled consistent with the law of the State or other jurisdiction, or that such a child has completed secondary school or is incapable of attending school full time due to a medical condition (section 471(a)(30) of the Social Security Act)
* A plan for ensuring the educational stability of the child while in foster care, including:
	+ assurances that **each** placement of the child in foster care takes into account the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement; and
	+ an assurance that the State/Tribal agency has coordinated with appropriate local educational agencies (as defined under section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) to ensure that the child remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of **each** placement; or
	+ if remaining in such school is not in the best interests of the child, assurances by the State/Tribal agency and the local educational agencies to provide immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school, with all of the educational records of the child provided to the school; (section 475(1)(G) of the Social Security Act) and
	+ the above provision was amended by The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34) to require title IV-E agencies meet the educational stability case plan requirement at the time of **each** placement change, not just at initial placement into foster care as was the original requirement under Fostering Connections.
* Costs of travel to school allowed as part of foster care maintenance payments: The law amends the definition of a “foster care maintenance payment” to allow agencies to claim for the cost of reasonable travel for the child to remain in the same school he or she was attending prior to placement in foster care as part of that payment.

Additionally, under the Innovations and Improvement Act, annual credit reports are now required for children age 16 and older.

These requirements will be incorporated into the case plan review system. Our shared goal is to focus on promoting educational stability and to improve outcomes for children in care. Care providers will need to assist and support children and youth to achieve these outcomes.

If you have questions concerning this transmittal, please contact Julie.Cubert@ky.gov or Lea.Sallengs@ky.gov.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serve our children in out-of-home care.

Sincerely,

Michael Cheek

Director

Enclosure: PPTL 12-01 SOP Revisions based on Title IV E Requirements

 