

6/2023

## Best Interest Determination

Child's name:

DCBS case number:

Educational ID:

Current school/district:

Previous schools:

Current grade:

Date of best interest meeting:

**Per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), local educational agencies and child welfare workers must collaborate to ensure that students remain in their school of origin, unless it is determined to be in their best interest to change schools.**

**School of origin is defined as: the school in which a child is enrolled when they enter foster care. If a child's placement changes, the school of origin would then be considered the school in which they are enrolled at the time of placement change.**

**\*\*This form is to be completed at the child's date of initial placement and each time there is a change in living arrangement\* \***

**If a determination is made that it is in the student's best interest to change schools, the student must be immediately enrolled in a new school, even if child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.**

Considerations	Yes	No
1. The child believes staying in his/her current school is in his/her best interest. <u>Notes:</u>		
2. The parents/prior custodians believe that remaining in the current school is in the child's best interest. <u>Notes:</u>		
3. The distance to the school will be appropriate for a daily commute. <u>Notes:</u>		

<p>4. The child is connected to current school including strong relationships or participation in extra-curricular activities (consider length of time at current school).</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p>		
<p>5. Safety considerations favor remaining in the current school.</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p>		
<p>6. The child has siblings enrolled in the current school.</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p>		
<p>7. Remaining in the same school will positively impact the child's social, emotional, and/or behavioral well-being</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p>		
<p>8. Remaining in the same school will positively impact the child's academics. (consider current academic performance, academic/career goals, activities that address unique interests of student)</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p>		
<p>9. The child's permanency goal supports remaining in the current school, (i.e., reunification, adoption, PPLA).</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p>		
<p>10. Remaining in the same school would help the child stay on track to graduate (would changing schools affect ability to earn full academic credit, proceed to next grade, or graduate on time).</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p>		

Summary of considerations:

Determination

The student shall remain in the same school where he/she is currently enrolled.

School/district:

Transportation plan:

Based on best interest determination, a change in school placement is needed.

School/district:

Individual responsible for enrolling student:

The team disagrees on the best interest determination for the child, resolution process to be followed and student to remain in school of origin until decision is made.

Date process initiated:

Participants

Name	Role	Contact information	Attended	Consulted
	Child			
	Biological parents/custodian			
	Kin/foster parent			
	DCBS worker			
	School representative			
	Guardian ad litem			
	Service provider			

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	Educational surrogate			
	Other			
	Other			
	Other			