

# School Placement Form

## Best Interest Determination for Children in Foster Care

This document serves as a guidance and a tool related to school placement. Children in foster care remain in their school of origin unless there is a determination that it is not in his or her best interest to attend the school of origin. The Best Interest Determination for Children in Foster Care School Placement Form serves as a mechanism through which relevant parties can meaningfully participate in the Best Interest Determination (BID).

All children in foster care, with the exception of voluntary placements, are placed under order of the court. As such, court determinations, findings and orders are critical to best interest discussions. Teams should be aware of and must follow existing court orders. If a court order specifies an educational placement for the child, the CCYA must request and obtain a modified court order prior to the child changing schools if a best interest educational determination is different from the court order.

**Note:** This document shall be kept in both the child’s school (LEA) and County Children and Youth Agency’s (CCYA) case file.

### Student Information

Student name:

Student PA secure ID:

Student CCYA case number:

School and SD of current attendance/origin:

SD of current residence/foster care placement:

Previous school district(s) attended (if applicable):

Current grade of student:

Has the student’s current school placement been determined by the court?	Yes	No
If yes, has the court order been shared with the LEA?	Yes	No
Does the student have an educational decision maker appointed?	Yes	No

## Individuals Involved in BID

In addition to the required LEA and CCYA representatives, every effort should be made to gather meaningful input from additional relevant parties. This might include the child (depending on age), foster parents, biological parents when appropriate, education decision makers, teachers, counselors, coaches, other relatives, child attorney, guardian ad litem, or other meaningful persons in the child's life.

**Note:** If a child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 plan, or is an English Learner (EL), then these relevant LEA staff members must also participate in the best interest determination (BID).

Name: Relation to student: LEA POC current attendance

Organization

Name: Relation to student: CCYA representative

Organization

Name: Relation to student:

Organization

Name: Relation to student:

Organization

Name: Relation to student:

Organization

Name: Relation to student:

Organization

Name: Relation to student:

Organization

Name: Relation to student:

Organization

Name: Relation to student:

Organization



- 5) 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?*
  
- 6) The child's permanency goal, plan, and expected date for achieving the permanency supports a change in school placement.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) 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.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8) Safety considerations favor a change in school placement.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9) 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)*

- 10) 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?*
- 11) 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?*
- 12) 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)*
- 13) Please note any additional considerations or factors that indicate a change of school placement is in the child's best interest.

## Supporting Documentation

Attach any supporting documentation used in making this BID. The following is sample documents; the list is not exhaustive.

- Report cards
- Progress reports
- Achievement data
- Attendance records
- Individualized education plan (IEP)
- Section 504 plan
- Family service plan
- Child permanency plan
- Individualized service plan
- Emails or correspondence from individuals consulted
- Documentation supporting child's participation in extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs, or afterschool programs

## Determination

Date of BID:

The student shall remain in the school in which the child was enrolled at the time of placement.

Name of school/SD:

Based on the best interest determination, a change in school placement is needed. The student will be enrolled in the school of current residence.

Name of school/SD:

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Signature parent/guardian

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Signature County Children and Youth Agency

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Signature Local Education Agency point of contact

*Additional Signatures (if applicable)*

Printed name:

Title:

Organization:

Signature:

Date:

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Printed name:

Title:

Organization:

Signature:

Date:

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Printed name:

Title:

Organization:

Signature:

Date:

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Printed name:

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