**Best Interest Determination Form**

**(Foster Care)**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current School/District: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Determination:**

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

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***The student shall remain in the school they were attending at the time of placement unless the responses to the following questions provide evidence that a change of placement is in the student’s best interest.***

What is the student’s permanency plan (check all that apply)?

* Reunification
* Termination of Parental Rights/Adoption
* Guardianship
* Permanent Guardianship
* Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

What is the expected date for achieving the permanency plan? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Education:**

How many schools has the student attended in last 3 years? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* How many this year? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* How have the school changes affected the student emotionally, socially, academically, and/or physically?

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* Are there any safety considerations related to school placement?

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* How does the child feel about any upcoming moves?

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* What school(s) does the student’s siblings attend?

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**Academics & School Activities:**

* How is the student performing academically?

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* What are the student’s academic/career goals? Does either school have programs and/or activities that uniquely meet these needs or interests?

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* Would changing the student’s school affect his/her ability to:
  + Earn full academic credits or pass classes needed for promotion? How?

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* + Complete or appropriately progress in the career pathway/CTE courses?

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* + Participate in sports or other extracurricular activities? How?

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* + Advance to the next grade? How?

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* + Graduate on time? How?

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* Describe the student’s ties to the current school, including significant relationships and involvement in activities.

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* Would the timing of a school transfer coincide with a logical transition, such as after testing, at the end of the school year or an event that is significant to the student?

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**Specialized Instruction:**

* Does the student have an IEP (circle one)? YES NO
  + If yes, what related services are required and to what extent can each school meet those needs?

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* Does the student have a 504 plan (circle one)? YES NO
  + If yes, what accommodations are needed?

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* Does the student participate in other specialized instruction? (ie. gifted/talented program, bilingual, career & technical program)

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**Transportation:**

* Length of time to school of origin:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Distance (in miles): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + How would this impact the student?

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* Length of time to school of residence:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Distance (in miles): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + How would this impact the student?

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**Placement Preference:**

* What school does the student prefer? Why? How was this information attained?

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* Which school do the birth parents/guardians or education decision maker prefer? Why?

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* Which school does DFS prefer? Why?

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* Which school do the foster parents prefer? Why?

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**Supporting Documentation:**

Attach any documents that were used to make this determination of best interest. (The following checklist is a sample of documents that may be considered and is not intended to be exhaustive.)

* Report cards
* Progress reports
* Achievement data (test scores)
* Attendance
* IEP or 504 Plan
* E-mails or correspondence from individuals consulted
* Discipline records
* EdInsight Comprehensive Student Report

**Signature Page**

**Determination:**

* The student shall remain in the school in which the student was enrolled at the time of placement.
* Based on the best interest determination, a change in school placement is needed. The student will be immediately enrolled in the school of current residence.

The views of all parties in attendance will be taken into consideration and the final decision will be made by the representative of the school of origin, the representative of the school of residence and the DSCYF representative. *If these three parties cannot agree, the child will remain in the School of Origin.* (14 DE Admin. Code 903)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participants | Printed Name  (Title and/or relationship to student) | Signature | Agreement with determination?  (Circle & initial) | |
| \*Representative of the school of origin  (REQUIRED) |  |  | Yes | No |
| \*Representative of the school of residence (REQUIRED) |  |  | Yes | No |
| \*Representative of DSCYF (REQUIRED) |  |  | Yes | No |
| Student |  |  | Yes | No |
| \*Birth parent(s), guardian(s), Relative Caregiver |  |  | Yes | No |
| \*Education Decision Maker |  |  | Yes | No |
| School of origin special education representative, if applicable |  |  | Yes | No |
| School of residence special education representative, if applicable |  |  | Yes | No |
| Other: |  |  | Yes | No |
| Other: |  |  | Yes | No |

\*A dispute resolution process is in place for parties who do not agree with the determination decision. Please ask the Foster Care Liaison for more information.