

# Out-of-Home Care Educational Stability Joint eBrief

FALL 2020



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families

A newsletter from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI)



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## Permanency Plan Review Input Tool

DPI, in collaboration with DCF, and after extensive stakeholder feedback, has developed an optional resource for LEAs to provide meaningful input to courts and review panels conducting permanency plan reviews or hearings.

Schools must receive notice whenever there is a review of, or hearing on, a child's permanency plan, and they have the opportunity to provide input at the hearing or review. Schools can offer a unique perspective to the Permanency Plan, as they can be a source of continuity during what may be a disruptive time in a child's life. We encourage schools to add thoughtful and evidence-based input in the process. This input serves as another opportunity for a child's voice and advocacy to be heard.

The tool is available in two formats: a PDF that is easy to print (and fillable by hand), and the Word format that can be completed electronically before printing.

- [Permanency Plan Review Input Tool \(PDF\)](#)
- [Permanency Plan Review Input Tool \(Word Doc\)](#)



This resource is posted to the [DPI's Child Welfare and School Collaboration Webpage](#). As we develop additional resources and training for LEA's using the Permanency Plan Review Input Tool, we will post it to the page as well.

Schools and LEAs interested in additional information can look to [DPI's Memo on Notification of Permanency Plan Hearings and the School's Role in Providing Information](#).

## DPI Links

- [DPI Out of Home Care website](#)
- [Student Records and Confidentiality](#)
- [Trauma-Sensitive Schools](#)
- [Wisconsin Education Calendar](#)
- [Instructions on updating your Foster Care Point of Contact](#)

## DCF Links

- [DCF - Education Points of Contact Map](#)
- [DCF - Educational Stability website](#)
- [Email contact for updating your Education Point of Contact](#)

## Other Links

- [Disproportionality Technical Assistance NETWORK Calendar](#)

## Instructional Model Considerations

Educational stability during COVID-19 has changed how schools and child welfare agencies think about meeting a student's greatest needs.

The [Ohio Dept. of Education](#) has some questions and suggestions to consider if school instructional models change. Some of these scenarios and tools are specific to Ohio, but the questions below and some recommendations for best practices can be useful in Wisconsin as well.

- How can local school district foster care points of contact provide additional support to students in foster care during an instructional model change?
- Where can best practices for engaging with families and caregivers of youth in foster care be found?
- How can schools support students in foster care who are seniors in high school or older youth?
- How can school districts and child welfare agencies collaborate for "best interest determination" meetings?
- How can foster families and caseworkers ensure students in foster care who have IEPs or Section 504 plans are receiving educational services during the 2020-21 school year?

## Supports/Resources

The [Out-of-Home Care Educational Stability "Know-Your-Rights" Flier for Families](#) is a one page document that can be shared with students, biological parents, foster parents, or other stakeholders.

Within the document, there is a place to personalize this tool for your LEA(s). As a CWA or LEA you can edit this section to include the Foster Care Point of Contact's name and contact information so students and advocates can have a direct contact to help support them in ensuring their rights are preserved.

### Contacts

Reach out to your School District Foster Care Point of Contact:

Click or tap here to enter LEA Contact Name

Click or tap here to enter LEA Contact phone number and email

Reach out to your Child Welfare Agency Education Point of Contact: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/map/essa>

## Access for Caseworkers

Due to the pandemic, some LEAs have limited visitor access to schools. It is important to note that child welfare caseworkers should have continued access to youth.

[Wis. Statute 48.57 \(1\)\(a\)](#)

Wis. Statute 48.981(3)(c)1.b.

## Professional Development Opportunities

Conference	Date	Location
<a href="#">Building the Hearth of Successful Schools</a>	12/3/ - 12/4/2020	Virtual

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