



# Out-of-Home Care Educational Stability Joint eBrief

FALL 2019



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

## Welcome Back

With the 2019-20 school year fully underway, DCF and DPI embrace our continued collaboration to support schools and child welfare agencies in opening the path to academic success through educational stability for students placed in out-of-home care. Through a commitment to work together in fully engaging Wisconsin's youth, families, and communities, we and our local partners can ensure true opportunities for student success and further steps towards educational equity.

Students placed in out-of-home care often face challenges when systemic barriers slow or even stop their academic progress. We encourage child welfare agencies and local education agencies to connect, form relationships, and have conversations in order to collaboratively establish protocols around best interest determinations and transportation agreements, so that agencies are prepared *before* student placements happen. Please refer to the [Foster Care Points of Contact](#) and the [Education Points of Contact](#) lists on the DPI and DCF websites to find your local representatives.

In support of encouraging collaboration that goes beyond compliance and towards best practice, we have developed 3 new resources to assist you in understanding laws and regulations; educating partners; and building policy and processes to support your work:

1. [DPI's website for Educational Stability for Students in Out-of-Home Care](#) is newly redesigned with fresh resources, streamlined content, and a new layout to make it easier to find the information you need.
2. A handy [new desk guide](#) presents the basic requirements for educational stability under the Every Student Succeeds Act. This desk guide includes statutory references and links to other helpful resources.
3. [This short \(four minute\) video](#) covers the basics of educational stability for public school students placed in out-of-home care. Use this video to quickly assist others in understanding the importance of educational stability and the basic requirements under the law.

DCF and DPI have entered into a joint agreement leading to our first review of ESSA data on students in out-of-home care, and we are building a variety of technical assistance opportunities to meet your needs throughout the 2019-20 school year. We look forward to another year developing our foundational work together, so please reach out to our state level points of contact for additional support or feedback. Thank you for your continued commitment to create opportunities for school success for every student.

## Update Your Point of Contact!

Update CWA Points of Contact by emailing [dcfedupoc@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dcfedupoc@wisconsin.gov)

Please ensure LEA Foster Care Points of Contact are up-to-date in the School Directory via the online application (directions to access the directory are [here](#)).

## DPI Links

- [DPI Out of Home Care website](#)
- [Student Records and Confidentiality](#)
- [Trauma-Sensitive Schools](#)
- [Wisconsin Education Calendar](#)

## DCF Links

- [DCF - Education Points of Contact Map](#)
- [DCF - Educational Stability website](#)

## Other Links

- [Disproportionality Technical Assistance NETWORK Calendar](#)

## Out-of-Home Care Eligibility for Free School Meals

A student placed in out-of-home care is categorically eligible for free meals. The student may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children. Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If non-foster children in a foster family are not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, an eligible foster child will still receive free meal benefits.

Districts can look to the [Eligibility Manual for School Meals: Determining and Verifying Eligibility](#) for more information on what students in out-of-home care may be eligible for.



## Brighter Star Financial Aid



[Brighter Star, Wisconsin's Education and Training Voucher \(ETV\) Program](#) allows [eligible youth](#)/young adult students to receive up to \$5,000 per school year in financial aid. The student must be enrolled in (or accepted to) an accredited or pre-accredited post high school program. Brighter Star funds are awarded through the Transition Resource Agencies (TRA). Processes may differ between regions, but eligible youth will likely need to complete an application to receive funds. To identify the TRA in your region, visit: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/map/il-r>

## Professional Development Opportunities

Conference	Date	Location
<a href="#">Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference</a>	December 5-6	Wisconsin Dells

**Out-of-Home Care Educational Stability Joint e-Brief** is published by the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Public Instruction. Get a PDF version of this newsletter [here](#)

Contacts	Kyle Peaden State Foster Care Point of Contact, DPI (608) 266-5404 <a href="mailto:kyle.peaden@dpi.wi.gov">kyle.peaden@dpi.wi.gov</a>	Julie Majerus State Foster Care Point of Contact, DPI (608) 267-1281 <a href="mailto:julie.majerus@dpi.wi.gov">julie.majerus@dpi.wi.gov</a>	Jillian Young State Education Point of Contact, DCF (608) 422-6945 <a href="mailto:dcfedupoc@wisconsin.gov">dcfedupoc@wisconsin.gov</a>
----------	--	--	--

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation, or disability.