

Educational Stability for Students in Out-of-Home Care



Are you or your family member placed in a foster home or other out-of-home care setting? If so, the law provides special protections to support your rights to educational stability. Your school and case worker advocates must work together to reduce disruptions in your education. This includes working with you to make a plan for your educational stability. Whenever possible this plan should allow for you to continue enrollment in the school you attended before placement.

Stability in education means the ability to maintain more positive academic experiences and outcomes. Each school change can result in more challenges and disruptions to your school success. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a law that guides schools to help reduce those educational disruptions. Knowing your rights, opportunities, and what the research says can help you advocate for you or those you love.

*The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015,
Sections 1005 and 1006*



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

Opportunities for Educational Stability



School of Origin If you are placed in an out-of-home care setting that is outside the boundaries of the school you were attending, you have the right to continue in the school where you were enrolled.



Transportation If you need transportation to your school of origin, the school must arrange for transportation as long as you are placed in out-of-home care.



Best Interest Determination (BID) If there is consideration that you might change schools, the schools and child welfare agency must conduct a best interest determination review. If you have a preference of what school you think is in your best interest, talk to your case worker or school counselor to make sure your voice is included in the decision making process.



Immediate Enrollment If it's decided that it is in your best interest to enroll in the resident school, the new school must immediately enroll you even if you don't have documents normally required for enrollment.

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>

Or contact the DPI or DCF State Education Points of Contact:

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608-422-6925

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Wisconsin State Guidance

Department of Public Instruction: Educational Stability for Students Placed in Out-of-Home Care

<https://dpi.wi.gov/foster-care>

Department of Children and Families: Supporting Educational Stability for Students Placed in Out-of-Home Care

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/essa>

Federal Law and Guidance

Foster Care Provisions under the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\) as amended by ESSA](#)
20 U.S.C. § 6311(g)(1)(E) [ESEA Section 1111(g)(1)(E)] 20 U.S.C. § 6312(c)(5) [ESEA Section 1112(c)(5)]

[Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care \(December 2024\)](#).
Updated from the [Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability \(2016\)](#), for reference purposes only.

[Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008](#)