



Out-of-Home Care Educational Stability Joint eBrief

SPRING 2020



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

Thank You for Your Extraordinary Work

These are extraordinary times, and we appreciate your dedication to Wisconsin students placed in out-of-home care more than ever. Above all else, we hope you find the time and space to care for the health and wellness of yourself, your family, your colleagues, and the children with whom you work. [This self-care resource](#), from the University of Michigan Medical School, was developed for student support professionals to “help you maintain your strength and resilience in the coming weeks.” For students in out-of-home care, their need for connection is greater than ever. Please find ways to keep these students connected to their school, and to involve parents and relatives in those connections whenever possible.

Stay well and know that we are here to continue to support you through the end of the school year, even during extended closures. Thank you for all of your work and commitment to the students of Wisconsin.

Please let us know if you have questions or need further assistance, [Julie Majerus](#), [Jonelle Brom](#), and [Kyle Peaden](#).

New COVID-19 Resources Online

In collaboration with DCF, the DPI has updated its web page to provide updated policy considerations, as well as resources to support school professionals, child welfare agencies, and foster parents and other out-of-home care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. These resources can be found at the top of our usual home page at dpi.wi.gov/foster-care.

- For COVID-19 updates from DCF please head to dcf.wisconsin.gov/covid-19
- For COVID-19 updates from DPI please head to dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus.

DPI’s Consultants for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth and State Foster Care Points of Contact have established statewide calls as a space for LEA Homeless Liaisons and Foster Care Points of Contact to connect and discuss challenges presented by COVID-19 and solutions and strategies to address those challenges. If you are a Foster Care Point of Contact and would like to participate, please note the schedule and call-in information sent to our directory list via email.

DPI Links

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

DCF Links

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

Other Links

- [Disproportionality Technical Assistance NETWORK Calendar](#)

Update Your Point of Contact

Update CWA Points of Contact by emailing 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](#)).

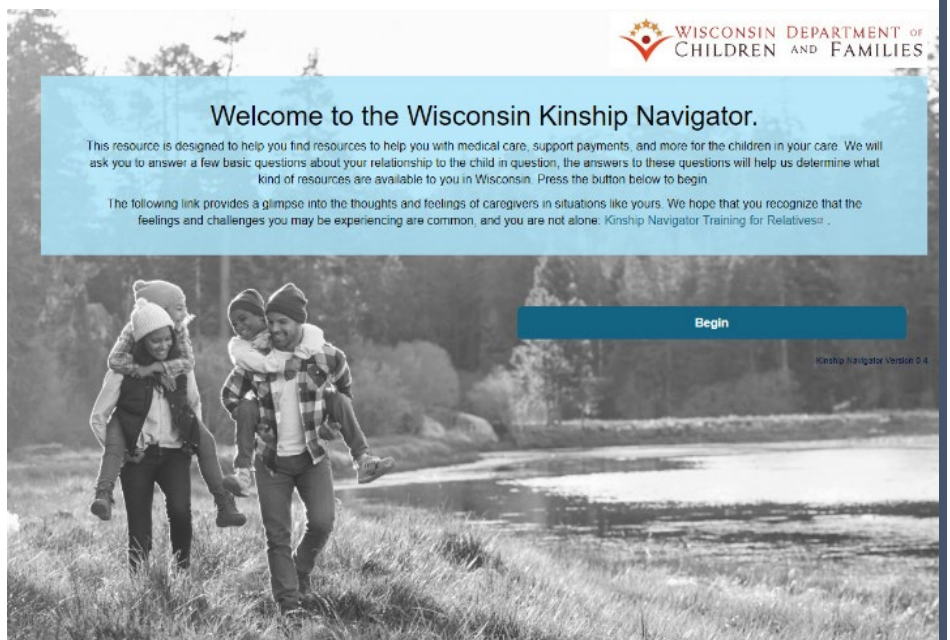


Kinship Navigator

The Kinship Navigator Portal (<http://dcf.wi.gov/kinship/navigator>) can be used by any relative caregiver throughout the state to identify services and resources available to them based on their specific caregiving situation. Caregivers will be asked to answer a set of questions specific to their situation, and based on those answers, they will be provided with an array of information about their eligibility for various programs.

We hope that this portal will reach far and wide throughout our state so that it is accessible to all relative caregivers, whether they are involved in the child welfare system or not. Please feel free to share this resource broadly, both with relative caregivers that you are working with and with the agencies in your area that serve relative caregivers in some capacity.

DCF plans to continue to enhance this portal to ensure that caregivers have access to a wide array of information to assist them in meeting both the needs of children in their home and their own needs as caregivers. Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or thoughts regarding this portal.



Professional Development Opportunities

Conference	Date	Location
2020 Public Child Welfare Conference	9/22 – 9/24, 2020	Wisconsin Dells
Annual State Superintendent’s Conference on Special Education and Pupil Services Leadership Issues	11/17 – 11/18, 2020	Wisconsin Dells
Building the Heart of Successful Schools	12/3 – 12/4, 2020	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	Julie Majerus	Jonelle Brom	Kyle Peaden
	State Foster Care Point of Contact, DPI (608) 267-1281 julie.majerus@dpi.wi.gov	State Education Point of Contact, DCF (608) 422-6930 dcfedupoc@wisconsin.gov	State Foster Care Point of Contact, DPI (608) 266-5404 kyle.peaden@dpi.wi.gov

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.