



# Best Interest Determination for Foster Care School Placement Form



Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School of Current Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Best Interest Determination Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

## Determination:

- The student shall remain in the school in which the child 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 enrolled in the school of current residence.

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

**Note:** If a change in educational placement is needed, enrollment should take place immediately at the new school with all educational records provided to the new school.

Was the child or youth informed of the benefits in inviting a significant person to attend the meeting?  
 Yes  No

If a person was identified, who did the child invite? \_\_\_\_\_

What school does the child prefer? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Signature Page

The following individuals participated in determining the school placement that is in the student's best interest:

Participants	Printed name, Title, and/or relationship with child	Signature	Agree with determination? (circle)
Child or youth in care			Yes    No
DSS service worker or supervisor			Yes    No
Foster Parent or Placement Provider			Yes    No
School representative from child's school at time of placement			Yes    No
IEP team for special education purposes, if applicable			Yes    No
Birth parent(s) or prior custodian(s)			Yes    No
The child's guardian ad litem			Yes    No
Other significant person(s) the child or youth wishes to attend (if attending)			Yes    No
Other _____			Yes    No
Other _____			Yes    No

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The student remains in the school at time of placement unless the answers to the following questions suggest a change of placement is in the child's best interest.

1. What is the child's permanency goal and plan?
2. What is the expected date for achieving the permanency goal?
3. How many schools has the child attended? How many schools has the child attended this year? How have the school transfers affected the child emotionally, socially, academically, and physically?
4. What are the safety considerations related to school placement?
5. Which school does the student prefer? Why? How was this information obtained?
6. How does the child feel about any upcoming moves?

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7. Which school do the birth parents or prior custodians as appropriate, and the child's current placement provider prefer? Why?
  
8. What school(s) do the child's siblings attend?
  
9. How is the child performing academically?
  
10. Does the child have a current IEP or a 504 Plan?
  
11. If the student has a current IEP, is specialized transportation identified as a related service?
  
12. Does the child participate in other specialized instruction? (e.g., gifted program, career and technical program)
  
13. What are the child's academic/career goals? Does one school have programs and activities that address the unique needs or interests of the student that the other school does not have?

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14. Describe the child's ties to his or her current school, including significant relationships and involvement in extracurricular activities?
15. Would changing schools affect the student's ability to earn full academic credit, participate in sports or other extra-curricular activities, proceed to the next grade, or graduate on time? If so, how?
16. Would the timing of the school transfer coincide with a logical juncture, such as after testing, after an event that is significant to the child or at the end of the school year?
17. How would the length of the commute to school impact the child?

Attach any supporting documentation used in making this determination of best interest.  
(The following is checklist of sample documents that may be considered. The list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

- Report cards
- Progress reports
- Achievement data (test scores)
- Attendance data
- IEP or 504 Plan
- E-mails or correspondence from individuals consulted
- Disciplinary referrals
- Health reports/records

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