


STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Children and Families
Division of Safety and Permanence

To: Area Administrators/ Human Services Area Coordinators
 Bureau Directors
 Child Placing Agency Directors
 Child Welfare Agency Directors
 County Departments of Community Programs Directors
 County Departments of Developmental Disabilities Services Directors
 County Departments of Human Services Directors
 County Departments of Social Services Directors
 Group Home Providers
 Indian Child Welfare Directors
 Private Child Placing Agencies
 Residential Care Center Providers
 Section Chiefs/Licensing Chiefs
 Shelter Care Providers
 Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From: Cyrus A. Behroozi 
 Administrator

Re: Children/Youth in Out-of-Home Care and Education

This memo provides information on activities to improve educational outcomes for children/youth in out-of-home care.

Educational Stability

The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, Public Law 110-351, amended the Social Security Act to affect several aspects of child welfare programming including provisions around planning for the educational stability of children in out-of-home care. Sections 48.38 and 938.38, Wis. Stats. require child welfare agencies to consider the educational stability of children placed in out-of-home care.

The permanency plan for all children in out-of-home care must include a plan for ensuring the educational stability of the child while in out-of-home care which 1) takes into account the appropriateness of the educational setting and proximity to school when placing a child; and 2) assures that the child remains in the school in which the child was enrolled at the time of placement or, when remaining in such school is not in the best interests of the child, provides immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school with all of the educational records of the child provided to the school. The State must also provide assurances that children receiving foster care, guardianship, or adoption assistance payments are enrolled in school in accordance with state compulsory school attendance law.

The Fostering Connections Act provides the opportunity to claim additional Title IV-E funding for costs associated with transporting children to and from the school the child was enrolled in (school of origin) at the time of placement into out-of-home care. DCF is exploring options to claim Title IV-E for costs related to transporting a child to the school of origin. Changes are being made to eWiSACWIS and specific instructions for reporting transportation costs will be issued when the system changes are ready.

Resources

The Educational Services for Children Placed in Foster Care publication, <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pupil-services/school-social-work/publications/foster-care> was produced through a collaborative effort of the Wisconsin Departments of Children and Families (DCF) and Public Instruction (DPI), and the Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies (WAFCA). Its purpose is to help facilitate cooperation between the child welfare and public school systems by:

- Summarizing the legal responsibilities of each system to serve children living in foster care, and
- Sharing practices and resources that can help to improve how these two systems serve youth living in foster care.

The publication is divided into topical sections in a question and answer (Q&A) format to help readers find the information they need in a timely manner. It replaces DPI Information Update Bulletin 00.11 and DCFS Information Memo 2001-05.

Copies of the publication will be provided to all county, tribal, and private child placing agencies working with children in foster care. It is also available on the DCF and DPI websites to download.

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pupil-services/school-social-work/publications/foster-care>

Wisconsin Covenant

The Department of Children and Families recommends that every foster youth (unless severely cognitively disabled) becomes involved in the Wisconsin Covenant. Any youth entering 9th grade in the fall of 2010 who wants to be eligible for the Wisconsin Covenant promise upon entering college must sign and submit the pledge to the Wisconsin Covenant office by September 30, 2010. See the attached information for details, and share with your youth and families as soon as possible. Please assist in facilitating foster youths abilities to take advantage of these opportunities.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/covenant/Pages/default.aspx>

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: DCF Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Out of Home Care Section Chief
Division of Safety and Permanence
Bureau of Permanence and Out of Home Care
608-422-6930

Youth Services Section Manager
Division of Safety and Permanence
Bureau of Youth Services
608-422-6993

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>