**BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION WORKSHEET**

Use this worksheet to determine whether it is in a child or youth’s best interest to remain in their school of origin each time a school change is considered due to a change in foster care placements. See 12 CCR 2509-4, 7.301.241 for the regulations regarding best interest determinations. **The presumption is that a student will remain in the current school; a student should only change schools if remaining in the current school is not in their best interest.**

**Child/Youth’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade in school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Meeting:** Enter a date **Meeting Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Current School and District: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Potential New School(s) and District(s) considered:**

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARTICIPANTS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Name** | **Signature (Or note “on file”)** | **Agree w/ determination?** |
| **Child/Youth\*** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Parent\*** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Parent\*** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Caseworker or designee\*** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Child/youth’s GAL, if appointed\*** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Current school rep. who knows child/youth\*** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Educational Surrogate Parent, if any\*** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Future Caregiver (new placement)** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **New school rep. w/ knowledge of resources** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Other:** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Other:** |  |  | **Yes No** |
| **Other:** |  |  | **Yes No** |

\* Required by 12 CCR 2509-4, 7.301.241. If required participants do not attend, document attempts to invite the participant and obtain their input prior to the meeting.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CONSIDERED:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Report cards/progress reports | Discipline records |
| Test scores | Evaluations of student |
| Attendance data | Written input from absent participants |
| IEP or 504 Plan | Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Transcript with current credits, if in high school | Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**DISCUSSION OF CHILD/YOUTH’S BEST INTEREST**

Bolded questions are required by 12 CCR 2509-4, 7.301.241.

1. **Which school does the child/youth prefer? Why?**
2. **Is the child/youth’s safety impacted by which school they attend? If so, how?**
3. **How can the school of origin meet the child/youth’s academic and non-academic needs?** 
   1. **Academic needs, including special education:**
   2. **Extra-curricular activities:**
   3. **Social needs:**
   4. **Emotional needs:**
   5. **Other needs:**
   6. **Does the child/youth have a meaningful and appropriate relationship with an adult at the school of origin? Give special weight to this factor.**
4. **How can the proposed new school meet the child/youth’s academic and non-academic needs?** (Repeat for each school under consideration)
   1. **Academic needs, including special education:**
   2. **Extra-curricular activities:**
   3. **Social needs:**
   4. **Emotional needs:**
   5. **Other needs:**
5. Could a school transfer be timed to coincide with a logical academic juncture such as at the end of the school year or semester or an event that is significant to the child/youth? Consider the academic calendars of the proposed new school(s) and the current school.
6. How would changing schools affect the child/youth’s ability to earn full academic credit, proceed to the next grade, or graduate on time?
7. How many schools has the child/youth attended over the past few years? This year? How have past school transfers impacted him/her?
8. How will the placement change impact the child/youth’s other relationships outside of school, such as friends, family and kin, faith and community organizations, etc.? Consider where the child/youth’s siblings are placed and where they will go to school, if applicable.
9. **What is the child/youth’s permanency goal, and how is this impacted by the school selection?**
10. **How would the length of the commute to the current school impact the child/youth?** Consider the length of the commute on various modes of transportation, e.g., car, school bus, public transit. (*Note:* The cost of transportation is not a permissible factor.)
11. Which school does the child/youth’s parent(s) prefer? Why?
12. Document any other factors the team considered.

**DETERMINATION AT END OF MEETING:**

It is in the child/youth’s best interest to remain in the school of origin. *(Presumed outcome)*

Is a transportation plan needed?

Yes

No

It is in the child/youth’s best interests to transfer to a new school, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_School District on Enter a date.