

Foster Care & Education Checklist

School Readiness

- ☐ Children ages 0-3 assessed for Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services. [34 C.F.R. Part 303](#)
- ☐ Children ages 0-5 enrolled in Early Head Start, Head Start, or Pre-Kindergarten. [45 C.F.R. § 1305.2](#); [Tex. Educ. Code § 29.153\(b\)](#)

School Stability

- ☐ Child remains enrolled in and has transportation to the school the child attended prior to removal. [Tex. Educ. Code § 25.001\(a\)](#)
- ☐ Child remains in the school where the child is currently enrolled unless it is not in their best interest, regardless of additional placement changes. [Tex. Educ. Code § 25.001\(g\)](#) and [\(g-1\)](#)
- ☐ School changes occur at the end of grading periods. **(BP)**
- ☐ School changes do not conflict with standardized testing or final exams. **(BP)**

Education Decision-Making

- ☐ DFPS has conservatorship and designated an Education Decision-Maker (EDM). [Tex. Fam. Code § 153.371](#)
- ☐ Parent retains or other person given specific education-related rights as appropriate. [Tex. Fam. Code § 153.371](#)
- ☐ DFPS provided EDM Form 2085-E to child's school and information regarding the EDM filed with court. [Tex. Fam. Code § 263.004](#)
- ☐ Surrogate parent appointed to make decisions regarding special education if a foster parent is unwilling or unable to fulfill that role. [Tex. Fam. Code § 263.0025](#)

School Enrollment

- ☐ Child must attend their current school or be enrolled in a new school within three school days. [Tex. Fam. Code § 264.115](#)
- ☐ Education record or credit transfer issues addressed by court as necessary. [Tex. Educ. Code § 25.007\(b\)](#)

School Placement and School Success

[Tex. Fam. Code § 263.306](#); [Tex. Fam. Code § 263.5031](#)

- ☐ What does the child say about school and where they want to attend?
- ☐ Child in an appropriate school.
- ☐ Child progressing academically and on grade level.
- ☐ Additional school supports addressed as needed.
- ☐ Child involved in extracurricular activities.
- ☐ Discipline issues addressed (truancy, suspension, expulsion, restraints).
- ☐ Caregiver signed annual form to prohibit corporal punishment at school. [Tex. Educ. Code § 37.0011](#)

Post-Secondary Education

[Tex. Fam. Code § 263.306](#); [Tex. Fam. Code § 263.5031](#)

- ☐ If the youth is at least grade 9, personal graduation plan created and graduation endorsement chosen (this is in addition to the Foundation High School Program in STEM, Business & Industry, Public Services, Arts & Humanities, or Multi-Disciplinary Studies). [Tex. Educ. Code § 28.025](#)

Foster Care and Education Checklist

continued

Post-Secondary Education

- ☐ Child has a college or vocational plan. **(BP)**
- ☐ Child and their caregivers know about high school graduation requirements and how to prepare and apply for post-secondary education. [42 U.S.C. § 677](#); [Tex. Educ. Code § 54.366](#); [Tex. Educ. Code § 54.367](#)
- ☐ Child and caregiver know how to contact the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) coordinator and have information about the Tuition and Fee Waiver. [Tex Educ. Code § 54.366](#)

Special Education

[34 C.F.R. Part 300](#)

- ☐ If needed, child evaluated for special education services.
- ☐ If eligible:
 - Date of child's last Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee meeting.
 - Child has Individualized Education Program (IEP) that is current, appropriate, and in place.
 - ARD committee meets at least one time annually.
 - If child transfers schools, previous IEP implemented or a new IEP is developed and approved by ARD committee.
 - Transition planning coordinated, beginning no later than age 14.

Best Practice (BP)