

Questions to Ensure That the Educational Needs of Children and Youth in Foster Care Are Being Addressed

General Education Information

Enrollment

- Is the child or youth enrolled in school?
 - At which school is the child or youth enrolled?
 - In what type of school setting is the child or youth enrolled (e.g., specialized school)?
- How long has the child or youth been attending his/her current school?
 - Where is this school located in relation to the child's or youth's foster care placement?
 - Were efforts made to continue school placement, where feasible?
- If currently not in a school setting, what educational services is the child or youth receiving and from whom?
 - Is the child or youth receiving homebound or home-schooled educational services?
 - If Yes: Who is responsible for providing educational materials and what information is available about their quality?
 - If Yes: How frequently are educational sessions taking place?
 - What is the duration of each session? (e.g., how many hours?)

Provision of Supplies

- Does the child or youth have appropriate clothing to attend school?
- Does the child or youth have the necessary supplies and equipment (e.g., pens, notebooks, musical instrument) to be successful in school?

Transportation

- How is the child or youth getting to and from school?
- What entity (e.g., school, child welfare agency) is responsible for providing transportation?

Attendance

- Is the child or youth regularly attending school?
- Has the child or youth been expelled, suspended or excluded from school this year/ever?
 - If Yes: How many times?
 - Have proper due process procedures been followed for the expulsions, suspensions or exclusions from school?
 - What was the nature/reason for the child's or youth's most recent expulsion, suspension or exclusion from school?

Performance Level

Attendance (continued)

- How many days of school will the child or youth miss as a result of being expelled, suspended or excluded from school?
- If currently not attending school, what educational services is the child or youth receiving and from whom?
- How many days of school has the child or youth missed this year?
 - What is the reason for these absences?
 - What steps have been taken to address these absences?
 - Has the child or youth received any truancies, and if so, for how many days?
 - Has the child or youth been tardy, and if so, for how many times?
- When did the child or youth last receive an educational evaluation or assessment?
 - How current is this educational evaluation or assessment?
 - How comprehensive is this assessment?
- At which grade level is this child or youth currently performing? [Is the child or youth academically on target?]
 - Is this the appropriate grade level at which the child or youth should be functioning?
 - If No: What is the appropriate grade level for this child or youth?
 - Is there a specified plan in place to help this child or youth reach that level?
- What is this child's or youth's current grade point average?
 - If below average, what efforts are being made to address this issue?
- Is the child or youth receiving any tutoring or other academic supportive services?
 - If Yes: In which subjects?

Tracking Education Information

- Does this child or youth have a responsible adult serving as an educational advocate?
 - If Yes: Who is this adult?
 - How long has this adult been advocating for the child's or youth's educational needs?
 - How often does this adult meet with the child or youth?
 - Does this adult attend scheduled meetings on behalf of the child or youth?

Tracking Education Information (continued)

- Is this adult effective as an advocate?
- If there is no designated educational advocate, who ensures that the child's or youth's educational needs are being met?
 - Who is making sure that the child or youth is attending school?
 - Who gathers and communicates information about the child's or youth's educational history and needs?
 - Who is responsible for educational decision-making for the child or youth?
 - Who monitors the child's or youth's educational progress on an ongoing basis?
 - Who is notified by the school if the child or youth is absent (i.e., foster parent, social worker)?
 - Who could be appointed to advocate on behalf of the child or youth if his or her educational needs are not met?

Change in Placement/Change in School

- Has the child or youth experienced a change in schools as a result of a change in his or her foster care placement?
 - If Yes: How many times has this occurred?
 - What information, if any, has been provided to the child's or youth's new school about his or her needs?
 - Did this change in foster care placement result in the child or youth missing any school?
 - If Yes: How many days of school did the child or youth miss?
 - Have any of these absences resulted in a truancy petition?
 - Were efforts made to maintain the child or youth in his or her original school despite foster care placement change?

Health Factors Impacting Education

Physical Health

- Does the child or youth have any *physical* issues that impair his or her ability to learn, interact appropriately, or attend school regularly (e.g., hearing impairment, visual impairment)?
 - If Yes: What is this physical issue?
 - How is this physical issue impacting the child's or youth's education?
 - How is this need being addressed?