

Best Interest Determination Factors to Consider When Writing Education Stability for Students in Foster Care Plan

1. The child's preference
2. The views of the parents or the person with education decision-making rights
3. The child's attachment to school and staff
4. The placement of the child's siblings
5. The availability and quality of services in the current and potential schools to meet the child's education and social/emotional needs
6. School climate/safety
7. The impact of a school transfer, including the commute
8. The child's special needs

Remember the cost of transportation cannot be a factor in determining the child's best interest.

Possible Supporting Documentation for Best Interest Determination

1. Report cards
2. Progress reports
3. Test Scores
4. Attendance Data
5. IEP or 504 Plan
6. E-mails from individuals consulted during the best interested determination process.

Key Considerations to Include in Best Interest Determination When Writing Education Stability for Students in Foster Care Plan

1. How will best interest decisions be made in a timely manner?
2. How will best interest decisions be revisited if needed?
3. How will accurate information be gathered in a timely manner to contribute to the best interest decision?
4. Who should be involved or consulted about the decision? (LEA, DHR, other relevant parties such as the child, foster parents, biological parents when appropriate, education decision maker, other relatives for their perspective) Remember the best interest determination should be consistent with the child's case plan. Consultations do not have to be in a face to face meeting. Consultations can take place via e-mail or phone calls. Be sure to document all consultations.

