



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Indian Education  
1849 C Street NW, MIB-3610  
Washington, DC 20240

## Best Interest Determination Form for Foster Care

---

Student's Name:

Current School:

Student ID:

Current Grade:

Meeting Date:

### DETERMINATION

☐ The student shall remain in the school in which the student was enrolled at the time of placement.

Name of School:

☐ Based on the best interest determination, a change in school placement is needed. The student will be immediately enrolled in the school of current residence.

Name of School:

The student shall remain in the school they were attending at the time of placement unless the responses to the following questions provide evidence that a change of placement is in the student's best interest.

What is the student's permanency plan? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Reunification
- ☐ Termination of Parental Rights/Adoption
- ☐ Guardianship
- ☐ Permanent Guardianship
- ☐ Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

What is the expected date for achieving the permanency plan?

### EDUCATION

1. How many schools has the student attended in the last 3 years?
2. How many this year?
3. How have the school changes affected the student emotionally, socially, academically, and/or physically?

4. Are there any safety considerations related to school placement?
5. How does the child feel about any upcoming moves?
6. What school(s) do the student's siblings attend?

## ACADEMICS AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

1. How is the student performing academically?
2. What are the student's academic/career goals? Does either school have programs and/or activities that uniquely meet these needs or interests?
3. Would changing the student's school affect his/her ability to:
  - a. Earn full academic credits or pass classes needed for promotion? How?
  - b. Complete or appropriately progress in the career pathway/CTE courses?
  - c. Participate in sports or other extracurricular activities? How?
  - d. Advance to the next grade? How?
  - e. Graduate on time? How?
4. Describe the student's ties to the current school, including significant relationships and involvement in activities.
5. Would the timing of a school transfer coincide with a logical transition, such as after testing, at the end of the school year or an event that is significant to the student?

## SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONS

1. Does the student have an IEP? ☐ YES or ☐ NO
  - a. If yes, what related services are required and to what extent can each school meet those needs?
2. Does the student have a 504 plan? ☐ YES or ☐ NO
  - a. If yes, what accommodations are needed?

3. Does the student participate in other specialized instruction? (i.e. gifted/talented program, bilingual, career & technical program) ☐ YES or ☐ NO
  - a. If yes, which programs?

## TRANSPORTATION

1. Length of time to school of origin:
2. Distance (in miles):
3. How would this impact the student?
4. Length of time to school of residence:
5. Distance (in miles):
6. How would this impact the student?

## PLACEMENT PREFERENCE

1. What school does the student prefer? Why? How was this information attained?
2. Which school do the birth parents/guardians or the education decision maker prefer? Why?
3. Which school does your school team prefer? Why?
4. Which school do the foster parents prefer? Why?

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Attach any documents that were used to make this determination of best interest. (The following checklist is a sample of documents that may be considered and is not intended to be exhaustive.)

- ☐ Report cards
- ☐ Progress reports
- ☐ Achievement data (test scores)
- ☐ Attendance
- ☐ IEP or 504 Plan

- ☐ E-mails or correspondence from individuals consulted
- ☐ Discipline records
- ☐ Comprehensive Student Report