



## Policy: Educational Needs of Children in Out-Of-Home Care

**ChildNet Number: CN 003.056**

**Policy Original Approved Date: February 15, 2003**

**Policy Revised Date(s): April 2, 2007; December 15, 2009; October 11, 2012,  
July 9, 2014**

**Sunset Date:**

**COA Standard(s): NET 2.01, 2.03, 7.01, 7.03, 7.04, FKC 9.05**

### Statement of Policy:

ChildNet is firmly committed to supporting the educational needs of children in out-of-home placements. Due to factors such as the effects of abuse, abandonment and neglect, removal from their families, lack of previous focus on education, and inadequate support systems, children entering the foster care system often struggle academically. Lack of a solid educational foundation can severely limit a child's life opportunities both in the sense of securing an adequate income and in the sense of full social participation and person fulfillment. Therefore, ChildNet has entered into Interagency Agreements which facilitate the coordination and enhancement of educational services to children experiencing the stresses associated with removal from their home. The Interagency Agreements further address the special needs of children with disabilities and older youth preparing for independence. ChildNet supports and maintains both the spirit of, and the specific procedures, described in the Interagency Agreements.

**Board Chair's Signature:**

**Date:**

07-29-14



## **Procedure: Educational Needs of Children in Out-Of-Home Care**

**ChildNet Number: CN 003.056**

**Original Approved Date: February 15, 2003**

**Procedure Revised Date(s): April 2, 2007; December 15, 2009; July 9, 2014,  
April 25, 2018, April 14, 2022**

**Procedure Sunset Date:**

**COA Standard(s): NET 2.01, 2.03, 7.01, 7.03, 7.04, FKC 9.05**

### **Definitions (If any):**

Home Education Programs (home schooling) – the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent(s) in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of Florida Statute 1002.41, 1003.01(4) and 1003.21(1).

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law in December 2015, amending the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and replacing No Child Left Behind provisions. With a strong, proven accountability system, Florida is already ahead of most of the nation as it relates to the requirements laid out in ESSA. Student performance has consistently improved since Florida introduced rigorous accountability measures.

### **Statement of Procedure:**

#### **I. Broward**

- A. Upon completion of the Shelter Hearing and the staffing of the case, all available school information will be provided to Intake and Placement and the Dependency Case Manager, when assigned.
  1. If the child will remain in their current school, the Intake and Placement Supervisor/designee or Dependency Case Manager, if assigned, is to:
    - a. Complete the REC Form (School Registration/Emergency( Contact Form) located on ChildNet's Resource Link) and submit to [fostercare@browardschools.com](mailto:fostercare@browardschools.com) with a copy to ChildNet's Educational Services Specialist, notifying that the Department of Children and Families/ChildNet has been assigned custody and the address where the child will be residing.



- b. If the school is outside of the boundary where the child will be placed, the Intake and Placement Transportation Supervisor/designee or Dependency Case Manager (if assigned) is to complete the transportation request on the REC Form. If the request is approved by BCPS, they have up to 14 days to route the bus and begin transportation to and from school. In the meantime, ChildNet is responsible for ensuring that temporary transportation is in place.
2. If the child must be placed in a new school, the Director of Intake and Placement/designee or Dependency Case Manager, if assigned, is to:
  - a. Contact ChildNet's Educational Services Specialist to schedule an ESSA staffing. The Educational Services Specialist will complete
  - b. the School Stability Checklist to ensure that it is in the student's best interest to change school placement, and submit to [fostercare@browardschools.com](mailto:fostercare@browardschools.com) with a copy to the Dependency Case Manager
  - c. Register the child in his/her new school promptly, at the most logical juncture that is identified. The District (Foster Care Designee) must also be provided with a court order documenting custody and any visitation/contact restrictions, at the time of registration. If the caretaker is registering, the above paperwork must be submitted prior to registration or provided to the caretaker for registration, so that there will be no delay.
  - d. ChildNet's Educational Services Specialist will enter the school placement in the education section in FSFN, upload the School Stability Checklist in FSFN, and document the best interest determination in FSFN. A copy of REC Form must also be retained in the file and the DCM will update the Child Resource Record (CRR) must also be updated.

**B. Change of foster care placement:**

When the placement of a child in out of home care changes, the Dependency Case Manager is to collaborate with members of the treatment team and/or relevant parties involved in the case (i.e.: GAL, Foster Care Designee, Targeted Case Manager, Therapist, Psychiatrist, Behavior Analyst) to determine if it is in the child's best interest to remain at his/her current school or whether a new school placement is appropriate.

1. If the child will stay enrolled in the current school, and the school is out of boundary for the new placement, the Dependency Case Manager is to submit a Special Transportation Request to BCPS. If the out of boundary Special Transportation request is denied by BCPS, the Dependency Case Manager is to staff the case with his/her Supervisor and Director/Manager to determine whether a request



should be made through ChildNet's transportation unit or to discuss other possible transportation accommodations.

2. A new REC Form will be completed as outlined in Part I, Section A, 1b and 2c.
3. If the child will transfer to a new school, the Dependency Case Manager will promptly register the child in the new school at the most logical juncture and submit a fully completed REC Form, School Stability Checklist, and any applicable court orders to the Foster Care Designee, [fostercare@browardschools.com](mailto:fostercare@browardschools.com), and ChildNet's Educational Services Specialist. If the caretaker is registering, the paperwork must be submitted prior to registration or provided to the caretaker for registration, so that there will be no delay. The School Stability Checklist shall also be uploaded in FSFN, as well as documented in the chronological section.
4. The Dependency Case Manager will note any changes in school placement in the chronological section of the case file, the Child's Resource Record, and on the education tab in FSFN.

C. Annually at each new school year:

1. Each new school year, an updated REC Form will be collected and provided to the BCPS Student Services Foster Care Support Office for distribution to the individual schools.
2. The Dependency Case Manager is to complete an updated REC Form for each child in out of home care who will be attending a Broward County Public School. The most current Court Order(s) must be attached to REC Form.

## II. Palm Beach

A. Upon completion of the Shelter Hearing and at any placement change

1. The School District of Palm Beach County's (SDPBC) Foster Care Liaison receives notification from Children's Legal Services when children are sheltered or are under the jurisdiction of DCF via Placement Portal.

If the school is outside of the boundary where the child will be placed, the Intake and Placement Advocate or Dependency Case Manager (if assigned) will submit a transportation request via email.

- a. If the request is approved by the SDPBC, the SDPBC has up to 10 business days to route the bus and begin transportation to and from school.



- b. In the meantime, an Intake and Placement Family Support Worker will transport the child to/from school for 5 days. If a bus route has not been established by the 5<sup>th</sup> day the Dependency Case Manager is responsible for ensuring that temporary transportation is in place.
2. If a school change is being considered, the Dependency Case Manager is to:
    - a. Request an ESSA Staffing by emailing [pbeducation@childnet.us](mailto:pbeducation@childnet.us).
    - b. If it is determined to be in the child's best interest to switch schools, the below indicate process is followed.
    - c. Caregiver is to register the child in his/her new school. DCM to update FSFN with child's new school information

### **III. Tutoring:**

- A. If tutoring services are recommended or ordered by the Court, then the Dependency Case Manager is to make a referral for tutoring services to assist the child. These services may be available free of charge or at a reduced price through the school districts or through other community providers. Good quality free or reduced-price services should be considered first.
- B. If free or reduced-price tutoring services are not available, not accessible, or not appropriate, then a request for tutoring services through ChildNet's Referral Connect System may be submitted for consideration. If the child has a behavioral health diagnosis, supporting clinical records from the past year should be attached.
  1. Factors considered for approval include the child's demonstrated need, including the following measures:
    - grades (especially in the subjects of Reading and Math)
    - standardized test scores
    - risk of retention
    - if a Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP) is in place or recommended

### **IV. Training:**

#### **A. Broward**

ChildNet's Educational Services Specialist and the BCPS Student Services Foster Care Support Office are to collaboratively develop and implement training curriculum and sessions that focus on the educational needs of foster children, as follows:



- A. Foundations of Education training provided to all newly hired ChildNet Dependency Case Managers as a component in DCF approved pre-service training.
- B. Training on the components of the Interagency Agreement and how they are operationalized to all newly hired ChildNet Dependency Case Managers within their first 6 months of employment in the Training Unit.
- C. Annual mandatory training for all ChildNet Dependency Case Managers on the Inter-Agency Agreement and any updates for the upcoming school year.
- D. Training to foster parents and Residential Group Care liaisons on the Inter-Agency Agreement.

## **B. Palm Beach**

ChildNet and the SDPBC Foster Care Liaison are to collaboratively develop and implement training curriculum and sessions that focus on the educational needs of foster children, to include an overview of the School District of Palm Beach County, any updates regarding the SDPBC, and the Interagency Agreement. This training will be offered yearly to all Dependency Case Managers and will be offered to newly hired Dependency Case Managers.

## **V. Maintaining the Interagency Agreement with the school districts**

### **A. Broward**

1. At a minimum, the Director of Service Coordination or designee and ChildNet's Educational Services Specialist are to attend the quarterly meetings of the Foster Care Steering Committee convened by the Broward County Public Schools' Foster Care Coordinator/Dependency Court Liaison to monitor the continued implementation of the local Agreement.
2. The ChildNet CEO, and the Director of Service Coordination, or designated staff, will meet with the Director of Student Services, the BCPS Foster Care Coordinator/Dependency Court Liaison, and the Florida Department of Children and Families specifically for the purpose of reviewing and amending the Agreement prior to its submission to the School Board of Broward County for approval (5year renewals). As added parties to the Agreement, The Agency for Persons with Disabilities, CareerSource, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and Broward Behavioral Health Coalition are to be invited to the meeting as well.



## B. Palm Beach

The Chief Clinical Quality Officer or designee chairs the monthly Interagency Review Team in which the school district liaison is in attendance. The purpose of this interagency meeting is to discuss system issues and address service needs of children involved in more than one system of care.

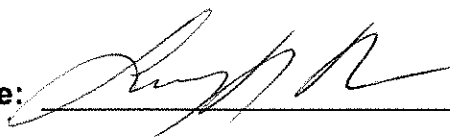
## VI. Home Education Program:

Home schooling is an educational option that is recognized in the State of Florida. However, ChildNet foster care parents are generally **not permitted** to home school dependent child(ren) that is placed in their care by ChildNet or by its contracted service providers.

If a foster parent expresses an intent to home school. Consideration may be given under the following circumstances only (**ALL** of the following criteria apply):

- a. The child has been permanently committed to the department.
- b. The current goal is adoption.
- c. The foster care home is identified as an adoption home for the minor child(ren).

President's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

09-06-22