

# BACK TO SCHOOL ADVOCACY

for youth in care in Washington State

There are 5,710 children in state care who will be starting school soon; and depending on the child's location, will be in person, remote or a hybrid of the two!

Use this handout as a guide to ensure each child in state care is ready to learn!

## Has the child changed placements in 2020?

DCYF Social workers should **complete the School Notification form on the reverse** to notify the new school of the change.

*This also includes pre-K students as well!*



## Has a BEST INTEREST determination been made regarding any school change?

RCW 28A.225.350

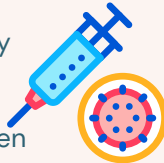
Students in foster care have a right to remain in their school of origin, even when placed outside the district. If **school of origin** is NOT in their best interest, the student is entitled to immediate enrollment in the new school. Priority should be to keep students connected to the school they've been attending.



## Are the child's immunizations up to date?

School immunization rules changed Aug 1st:

- Immunization records must be medically verified;
- Tdap vaccine required for 7th grade
- Definition of "Conditional status" has been clarified



## Does the child have or need special accommodations (504 or IEP)?

**Treehouse's Education Advocates** are tremendous resources in ensuring that kids educational needs are being met while in care. Contact [edadvocacy@treehouseforkids.org](mailto:edadvocacy@treehouseforkids.org) with questions or for support.



The **Office of the Education Ombuds** can also assist with addressing concerns (including IEPs) and resolving conflicts with K-12 public schools. Call toll free 1-866-297-2597 or email at [oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov](mailto:oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov).

## Due to COVID-19, many districts are offering a choice between in-person attendance, remote learning, or a combination of the two.

DCYF is allowing caregivers flexibility in choosing the school option that best fits their family needs and centers around the student's best interest. If there's disagreement, first discuss with the other parties or bring to court as needed.

## Pandemic Food Assistance

Each child who was enrolled in K-12 and in foster care is eligible for up to \$399 in emergency COVID food assistance.

Applications due Sept 11 by 5 PM!

*Students in foster care are categorically eligible for free school meals.*



## Does the child have access to technology for remote learning?

Check with the local school district regarding technology resources for students, including laptops and internet access. Treehouse might also be able to assist as well.

Additionally, many internet providers provide reduced fees if the child is already on public assistance, including food assistance as described above.



**Click here for a district-by-district of where to send this completed form.**

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (DCYF)

## School Notification

This is to notify the school district that the below named child has been:

Newly placed     Returned home     Changed placement

Date:

To:

From:

DCYF WORKER'S NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

FAX

DCYF ADDRESS

RE:

STUDENT'S NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

GRADE LEVEL

### Statement of Confidentiality

The information disclosed in this form is confidential and disclosed under the limitations of RCW 13.50.100. This disclosure does not constitute a waiver of any confidentiality or privilege attached to the information by operation of any state or federal law or regulation. The recipient of this information must comply with the laws governing confidentiality and must protect the records from unauthorized disclosure. RCW 13.50.100(5).

**The above named student is in the legal custody of DCYF and is temporarily placed at the following location:**

CAREGIVER'S NAME

PHONE

TYPE OF PLACEMENT

Foster care

Relative

Other:

ADDRESS

**The above named student is in the legal custody of DCYF and the child has moved (or will be moving) to a new placement at the following location:**

CAREGIVER'S NAME

PHONE

TYPE OF PLACEMENT

Foster care     Relative     Other:

ANTICIPATED DATE OF MOVE

ADDRESS

**The above named student has been returned to parent / guardian care:**

Legal custody regained by parent / guardian or

Legal custody retained by DCYF

PARENT / GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S)

ADDRESS

PHONE

**Per court order, the people named below cannot have contact with the student:**

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

RELATIONSHIP (PARENT / UNCLE / AUNT / SIBLING, NO RELATIONSHIP, ETC.)

**Please notify the DCYF worker named above immediately if contact attempts are made.**

**The above named student is in the legal custody of DCYF and continues to reside in the parental home:**

PARENT / GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S)

PHONE

ADDRESS

School transportation to be arranged at new address to maintain education stability

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

Child / youth to be un-enrolled from school as of \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

**Copy of the court order is attached.**