

BACK TO SCHOOL ADVOCACY

for youth in care in Washington State

August 26th, 2020



Presented by:

Peggy Carlson, OSPI
Kelly Warner-King, CITA
Ryan Murrey, WACAP
Jill Malat, OCLA
Debra Flanagan, Treehouse



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Office of Civil Legal Aid



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Washington Association
of Child Advocate
Programs

**Court Improvement
Training Academy**

Evolving leadership to promote justice in child welfare

1. SCHOOL NOTIFICATION FORM

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Has the child changed placements in 2020?

DCYF Social workers should complete the [School Notification](#) form (included with flyer) to notify the new school of the change.

Completed forms go to [School District Foster Care Liaisons](#).

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.

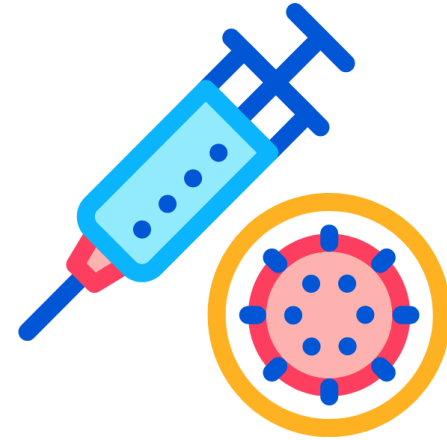
If school of origin is **NOT** in their best interest, the student is entitled to immediate enrollment in the new school. Priority should be to keep students connected to the school they've been attending.



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 education accommodations?

- **Treehouse's Education Advocates** are tremendous resources in ensuring that kids educational needs are being met while in care. Contact 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.



5. COVID AND CAREGIVER OPTIONS

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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 September 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.



Thank you!

Peggy Carlson, OSPI

Peggy.Carlson@k12.wa.us

Kelly Warner-King, CITA

Kelly.Warner-King@courts.wa.gov

Ryan Murrey, WACAP

ryan@wachildadvocates.org

Jill Malat, OCLA

jill.malat@ocla.wa.gov

Debra Flanagan, Treehouse

Debra@treehouseforkids.org

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