

Educational continuity guidance for DCF workers

1. If you want to keep a student in the home school district.

The family services worker facilitates the conversation between school districts either by calling a meeting or phone work.

The team, including both school districts, discusses what is in the student's best educational interest. If it is continued attendance at the home school, the family services worker makes a request in writing to the Superintendent of Schools, who seeks board approval to keep the student.

The school districts send a letter to Commissioner of Education or designee then for confirmation that an alternative plan for the education of the student has been agreed to. An alternative plan should be submitted to the Commissioner of Education for approval each year it is requested by a home school district.

There is no Commissioner appeal to the home school boards decision per education statute.

2. If you want to have a student stay in a school district where neither parents live, and the student is placed in a school district where neither parents live.

The family services worker facilitates the conversation between school districts either by a meeting or phone work.

The team, including both school districts, discusses what is in the best educational interests of the student. If the schools agree that it is in the student's best interest to remain in the previous school district, then the school district serving the student, who will be seeking reimbursement from DOE, proposes an alternative plan for the education of the student to the Assistant Director of the Student Support and Safe and Healthy Schools Team of DOE. The proposals should be made annually, if they are to be extended beyond the end of one school year.

There is an appeal process if the student is denied finishing the school year in one school, through the commissioners of DCF and DOE. Please seek guidance from your supervisor.

3. There is now a formal mechanism to keep students who have been placed at home in the previous "non resident" school district through the end of the school year at the request of the school and with the approval of the Commissioner of Education or his designee.

The caseworker initiates conversation between the attending school and the home school so they can determine educational best interests. If the schools decide it is in the student's best educational interests to remain in the attending school through the end of the school year, the attending school can request permission and continued reimbursement from the Department of Education Commissioner. For students returned to parent custody written confirmation of custodial parental agreement will be required. If the student is not in the Commissioner of DCF's custody, it is the parents' responsibility to enroll the student if it is decided the student's interests are best served by attending the home school.