

# Kids Central, Inc. System of Care Procedure Manual

---

**Series:** Education

**Procedure Name:** School Stability for Children in Out of Home Care

**Procedure Number:** 1505

**Origination Date:** 2/13/2012

**Revision Date:** 7/9/2012

**Authority:** Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (2008); McKinney-Vento Act

**Reference:** CSE 2.04

---

## **Procedure**

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections) places a duty on the child welfare agency to work for school stability for children in care. The Act emphasizes the importance of remaining in the same school by requiring child welfare agencies to work for that goal *unless* “remaining in such school is not in the best interests of the child.” It is Kids Central’s procedure to create a plan for educational stability for children in out of home care under the supervision of the formalized child welfare system.

### **A. General Information:**

1. Kids Central includes “a plan for ensuring the educational stability of the child while in out of home care as part of every child’s case plan.
2. Each placement of the child in out of home care takes into account the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.
3. Kids Central has coordinated with appropriate local educational agencies to ensure that the child remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.
4. If remaining in the child’s home school is not in the best interest of the child, the case plan must include assurances by Kids Central that they will work with the local school district to:
  - a. provide immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school; and
  - b. provide all of the educational records of the child to the school.

# Kids Central, Inc. System of Care Procedure Manual

---

## **B. Making Best Interest Determination of Change of School Placement:**

1. The following should be considered before removing a child from their home school:
  - a. the child's preference to change schools or remain in the same school;
  - b. the safety of the child;
  - c. the appropriateness of educational programs in the current school; and
  - d. how each school is serving or can serve the child's needs, including special education and other interests.
2. Additional factors should be considered prior to changing schools for a child in out of home cares:
  - a. preferences of the child's parent or education decision-maker;
  - b. the expected length of the child's current placement and the child's permanency plan;
  - c. the number of schools the child has attended over the past few years and within the current year, and how the school transfers have affected the child emotionally, academically and physically;
  - d. how anxious the child is about upcoming moves and about being in out-of-home care;
  - e. how each school can respond to the child's academic strengths and needs;
  - f. whether the timing of the school transfer would coincide with a logical juncture such as after testing;
  - g. after an event that is significant to the child, or at the end of the school year;
  - h. how changing schools would affect the student's ability to earn full academic credit, participate in sports or other extra-curricular activities, proceed to the next grade, or graduate on time;
  - i. how the length of the commute to the school of origin would impact the child;
  - j. the schools the child's siblings attend.

**Approved By:**

---

Cynthia A. Schuler, Chief Executive Officer

---

Date