School Residency for Children in Foster and Group Homes

Senate Bill 905 (SB 905) was passed during Oregon’s 2019 Legislative Session and took effect on July 1, 2019. SB 905 impacts school-age children who are not under custody of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and are voluntarily placed in foster or residential care. This includes children who are voluntarily placed in: (1) a foster home for children with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD); (2) a group home for children with I/DD; or (3) a voluntary placement through Child Welfare where the parent/guardian retains guardianship. SB 905 describes school residency determination for these children.

Children described in SB 905 are generally considered residents—for school purposes—in the school district where they reside in their foster or group home. SB 905 provides an exception to this default rule in certain situations. A voluntarily-placed child will remain a resident for school purposes in the school district where their parent/guardian resides if:

- The child’s preferences regarding school attendance are taken into
consideration;

• The child’s parent/guardian retains legal guardianship;
• There is a plan for the child to return home;
• The voluntary placement is within 20 miles by the nearest traveled road from the school the child attended prior to the voluntary placement, unless not feasible; and
• The parent/guardian and school staff from the school the child attended prior to voluntary placement can demonstrate it is in the best interest of the child to continue attending.

This policy only applies to school age-children. It does not apply to adults who may still be accessing special education services after turning 18.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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This transmittal will be discussed during the next Monthly Transmittal Call In. These meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 2 pm.
877-873-8017, guest code #772325, please try to send questions in advance to ODDS.INFO@state.or.us