



## BACK to SCHOOL 2018 – 2019 Updates

There are many **education updates** this year to help support students in foster care achieve academic success!

DHS revised **Educational Services for a Child or Young Adult in Substitute Care Rules** this summer. This includes: the new federal and state laws related to the Every Student Succeeds Act; School of Origin, changes to management approvals for various education placements; and moved the rules so they are easier to find.

[http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual\\_1/division\\_105.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/division_105.pdf)

**School of Origin** changes require a **Best Interest Finding from the Juvenile Court**. If a foster student is changing school of origin for the new school year, getting this finding now, will ensure prompt enrollment. If you do not have a court hearing before school, please use the branch paralegal or AAG process, to obtain an ex parte motion.

DHS has two (2) **school related forms** now in the forms directory. Please remember, when emailing schools or the Foster Care Point of Contact, do so securely using **#secure#** in the email subject line:

- 1) The **School Notification/School Records Request** form (CW 0338) has been updated in the forms directory. This form needs to be sent to the Foster Care Point of Contact for the school district, where the child is attending. Schools need to know when DHS has care or custody, whom should be acting as the “parent” for school decisions, known safety issues, and when DHS no longer has care and custody.  
<https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/ce0338.doc>
- 2) The **Foster Student School District of Origin Transportation Request Form** (DHS 2885), is now in the forms directory. This will need to be sent to the Foster Care Point of Contact at the beginning of each school year, to request school of origin transportation.  
<https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/de2885.pdf>

**\*\* Some districts have centralized processes in place for school notification and transportation. These processes do not need to change, as long as we are using the updated forms.**

New legislation (**SB 1540**) passed, relating to **CPS and LEA investigations on school premises**. School Districts were notified of the agreed upon procedure over the summer, but some schools may not have updated their forms and processes by the beginning of the school year.

Please review the IM (<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/im/2018/cw-im-18-009.pdf>), and carry a copy in your go-out bags, in case there are any issues. In short, the bill reiterates that:

- DHS or LEA staff are not required to disclose any information about the investigation to the school;
- While the school may request that an administrator or staff person be present to facilitate the investigation, it is up to the discretion of the DHS or LEA staff to allow their presence;
- The school staff shall not notify anyone regarding the investigation, including the child's parents or guardian, except for the appropriate school employee necessary to enable the investigation; and
- Information obtained by DHS or LEA in the investigation is not part of the child's school record.

There is a new law that allows foster students to graduate, by completing the minimum state credit requirements, when their current school has credits required above the state standard. The only requirement is that the student has to be in foster care any time during grades nine to twelve. The full law can be found in ORS 329.451 (2) (a).

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3267/Enrolled>

Who is this **Foster Care Point of Contact** I've been hearing about? Every school district has a Foster Care Point of Contact. The updated list can be found here, on the Oregon Dept. of Ed Foster Care web page:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/fosteringconnections/Pages/default.aspx>

Don't forget! The beginning of the school year is a good time to update the **school information** in the **person management tab of OR-Kids**. It is imperative that this school information is up to date, should there be an emergency during school hours, so DHS can help respond to emergency management.

If you have questions, please email Catherine Stelzer (Education Program Coordinator) at [Catherine.R.Stelzer@state.or.us](mailto:Catherine.R.Stelzer@state.or.us)