



## School Stability Checklist for Children in Out-of-Home Care

**Check One:**       Initial Placement                       Placement Change

<b>Name of Child:</b>	<b>School of Origin:</b> <small>(school the child is attending at the initial removal or school the child is currently attending if placement change)</small>	<b>Available Schools in the Child's New School District:</b>
<b>Case Manager's Name and Agency</b>		

**Purpose:** On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), a 1965 federal law governing education last reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act in 2002. Among its provisions, the law now requires states to ensure protections for vulnerable youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. These include school stability and transportation, mandatory data reporting, and agency collaboration.

**Instructions:** Maintaining the child's school stability while in out-of-home care is first priority, unless remaining in the school of origin is not in the best interest of the child. The below factors shall be considered in determining whether or not a child remaining in the school of origin is in the child's best interest.

Any decision that remaining in the school of origin is not in the child's best interest must be documented in Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) and provided to the child's new school.

<b>Best Interest Factors:</b>	
1.	The child's desire to remain in the school of origin.
2.	The preference of the child's parents or legal guardian.
3.	Whether the child has a sibling(s), close friends, and/or a mentor at the school of origin.
4.	The child's cultural and community connections in the school of origin.
5.	The ability to implement a 504 Plan, Individual Education Plan (I.E.P), or other special education services, if applicable.
6.	The impact a change would have on academic credits and progress towards promotion.
7.	The availability of extracurricular activities important to the child.
8.	The child's medical and behavioral health needs.
9.	The child's permanency goal and timeframe for achieving permanency.
10.	The child's history of school transfers and how they have impacted the child.
11.	The length of the commute and how it would impact the child.
12.	The length of time the child has attended the school of origin.
13.	List any additional factors considered in making the best interest determination:



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Select One:

Recommendation:	Rationale for Recommendation:
Maintain the child in the school of origin.	
It is not in the best interest of the child to remain in the school of origin.	

### Signatures of Participants (as applicable).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child Welfare Professional Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child Welfare Professional Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Representative Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Representative Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian Ad Litem Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Educational Surrogate Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Parent or Guardian Date

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Child's Parent or Guardian Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Representative Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Date