



Important Educational Updates from DFS September 2022 *What You Need to Know....*

*You made it through the first month! Way to go!
Thank you for all you do for your child!
Here is "What You Need to Know"...*

Contact Your Child's School Foster Care Advocate and/or CCSD's Foster Care Department to introduce yourself/your children and for solutions to any issues

- School Based Foster Care Advocates (FCAs) are assigned on each school campus to help families and children involved in foster care to navigate school services.
 - To find out who your FCA is, ask your child's school office or administration
- CCSD also maintains a Foster Care Department to assist schools and help families with foster care related educational issues.
 - To contact CCSD's Foster Care Department, please email fostercaretransrequest@nv.ccsd.net or call 702-799-1196.
- For schools outside of CCSD, contact your child's school office or principal to find out who the Foster Care Liaison is.

Please do not Enroll or Unenroll Your Child from a School Without Notifying the Child's Caseworker or a DFS Representative and Without Getting the Consent of DFS Before Doing So

- The child entering foster care or moving placements while in foster care has the right to remain at the school the child is currently attending even if the child moves out of the attendance boundary
- *DFS is legally responsible for determining if the child stays at the current school or can move schools based on the child's best interest and has to take several steps to make this determination before any move can be made. The legal presumption is that the child stays at the current school as with each school move, research has shown that it can put a child behind in school anywhere from 4-6 months in their education.*
- If the determination is for the child to stay at the current school, reasonable transportation must be provided by the school district and DFS together with caregiver input
- ***If it is in the child's best interest to change schools, please contact the child's caseworker/DFS Representative and let the caseworker know why the child should change schools***
- ***A child should not be unenrolled or enrolled in a school unless directed by or agreed on by their child's caseworker or a DFS Representative representing the child***

If Your Child is Suspended or Recommended for Expulsion: You can Appeal the Discipline; Get a Restorative Justice Plan for Your Child; and Ensure the School has Considered the Effects of Being in Foster Care in Moving Forward with the Discipline

- Parents have a right to appeal a suspension or a recommended expulsion, this right should be explained by an administrator when the discipline is discussed with the parent. Administrator should take note of the parent's wanting to appeal and provide the parent with the next steps in the appeal process.
- Schools must create Restorative justice Plans after a child has been removed from school for any disciplinary action (RPCs, Suspension, or Expulsions). Restorative Justice Plans outline actions taken by the school to support the student for the possible reasons the child may be in disciplinary procedures.
- **A new law stated that a child in foster care who is at least 11 years of age may be suspended or expelled from school only if a determination is made that the behavior that led to the suspension or expulsion was not caused by being in foster care. It shall be presumed that the behavior was caused by being in foster care unless an advocate for child in foster care or the school counselor of the pupil determines that the behavior was not caused by being in foster care.**
- ***If you disagree with your child's suspension or expulsion, please let your administrators know of your disagreement and ensure they document it.***
- ***Follow up with your school's Foster Care Advocate and Principal if your child was not given a Restorative Justice Plan or if it was not determined that the behavior used as the basis of the suspension/expulsion was not caused by being in foster care and you disagree with that determination.***
- ***You can ask your child's school for your child's restorative justice plan if they have been removed at all from school. You can inquire whether the plan has been followed/enacted.***
- ***For additional help and support, please contact your child's caseworker and CCSD's Foster Care Department at 702-799-1196 or at fostercaretransrequest@nv.ccsd.net***

School Meals are Available for All Children for the 2022-2023 School Year

- Student in Foster Care are eligible for school years at no cost to parents throughout their time in foster care; however this year all students will be provided with meals due to a federal program

If you have any issues with the above or any other school related issues, please contact your child's caseworker or DFS Representative.

DFS has various supports in place to help work through any school related issues. We are here to support you and can't do what we do without you!