

PLACEMENT

- Where is the youth attending school?
- Has there been a school change?
- Was the change due to a change in placement?
- If there has been a school change, why is the youth not attending the same school?
- How many times has the youth experienced a change in schools as a result of a change in his/her foster care placements?

ATTENDANCE

- Is the youth regularly attending school?
- Have there been any problems with the youth getting to or from school?
- How many days of school has the youth missed this year? What is the reason for these absences?
- How many times has the youth been tardy?
- Does the youth feel safe at school?
- Has the youth been expelled, suspended or excluded from school this year/ever?

PERFORMANCE

- How is the youth doing in school academically, socially, emotionally, etc?
- What are some identifiable areas in which the youth is excelling at school?
- Who is the youth's education decision maker?
- Does the youth have a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan? Has it been discussed with the youth? Who has discussed the plan with the youth and what does the youth want?
- Has the youth observed, evaluated, assessed or identified as needing special services at any point in his/her educational career?
- What is the youth's current grade point average or grades? If below average, what effort is being made to address this issue?
- Is the youth receiving any tutoring or academic support services?
- Is the youth accruing credit toward high school graduation?

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

HEALTH FACTORS

Physical Health

- Does the youth have any physical issue that impairs the youth's ability to learn, interact properly, or attend school regularly (e.g., hearing impairment, visual impairment)? If yes, What is the physical issue?
- How is this physical issue impacting the youth's education?
- How is this need being addressed?

Mental Health

- Does the youth have any mental health issue that impairs the youth's ability to learn, interact appropriately, or attend school regularly? If yes, what is the mental health issue?
- How is this mental health issue impacting the youth's education?
- How is this need being addressed?
- Which psychotropic medications are currently being prescribed?
- Has the youth's need for the medication been clearly explained to him/her?
- How will the medication affect the youth's educational experience?

Emotional Issues

- Does the youth have any emotional issue that impairs the youth's ability to learn, interact appropriately, or attend school regularly? If yes, what is the emotional issue?
- How is the emotional issue impacting the youth's education?
- How is this need being addressed?
- Is the youth experiencing any difficulty interacting with the other youth at school (e.g., does s/he have a network of friends? Has s/he experienced difficulty with bullying?

SERVICE REFERRALS

- Is the youth eligible to receive services or accommodations for a physical, mental or learning disability as required by the American with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or Section 504?
- Is the youth eligible to receive assistance under McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?
- If the youth is receiving services, are they appropriate?

TRANSITIONING (HIGH SCHOOL)

- Does the youth have an independent living plan?
- Does this plan reflect the youth's goals?
- Does the youth have a CARS (Contractual Agreement for Residential Support) in place?
- Is the youth provided with information and assistance in applying for financial aid, including federally-funded education and training vouchers?

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & TALENTS

- Which extracurricular activities is the youth involved in? Are efforts being made to allow the youth to continue in his/her extracurricular activities (e.g., provision of transportation, additional equipment, etc.)?
- What are the youth's identified talents? What efforts are being made to encourage the youth to pursue these talents?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO ASK PARENTS, YOUTH AND FAMILY MEMBERS

- Ask the youth (if present) or the youth's attorney and parent: What information do you want the court to know about your (the youth's) educational and extracurricular goals, achievements, and challenges?
- Are the youth's appointments and court appearances being scheduled to minimize the impact on his/her education? Are efforts being made to ensure the youth is not penalized for school time or work missed because of the court or child welfare case activities?
- Do you understand what happened here today?
- Do you have any questions for the court?