



# Clark County Family Services

## School Stability Rights for Children in CCFS Care for Caregivers

Under current law, when a child enters foster care or changes placements while in foster care, the child has the right to remain in the current school (called the “school of origin”) even if the child has moved out of the school’s attendance zone. Under the Law, it is presumed that the child should stay at their School of Origin unless it is no longer in their best interest to attend it. **Data has shown that each school move can put a child in foster care between 4-6 months behind in their education and that school stability is a key factor in the after-school success of children in foster care.**

**The Clark County Family Services (CCFS) is required to decide whether it is in the child’s best interest to remain at the school of origin or enroll in a new school.** If CCFS decides it is in the best interest of a child to enroll in a new school, it must provide written notice of its decision to every interested party as soon as practicable and ensure the enrollment of the child in the new school immediately.

### **If it is Decided that it is in the Best Interest for the Child to Continue to Attend the School of Origin, the Child has the Right to Reasonable Transportation Provided to and from School**

If it is decided that the child should remain in the school of origin, CCFS must contact the school district to set up transportation. Transportation should be reasonable for the child to get to/from school and should involve the caregiver’s input. While the transportation plan is being arranged, CCFS is responsible for setting up interim transportation using a variety of options which may include: CCFS partnering with the child’s caregivers, relatives, and fictive kin to provide interim transportation; transporting the child using CCFS available transportation; arranging alternative transportation; and/or partnering with CCSD to provide transportation.

### **If it is Decided that it is in the Best Interest for the Child to Enroll in a New School, the Child has the Right to Immediate Enrollment in that School**

If it is in the best interest of the child to enroll in a new school, CCFS must work with the new school to ensure the child is immediately enrolled and attend school even if the child is missing necessary documents. Documents can be obtained while the child attends school. **A child should not be unenrolled from the school of origin until a plan is set up to ensure the child can attend the new school and be transported there.** It may be in the best interest of the child for the school and child welfare team to meet to discuss a transition plan from the old school and discuss what supports are needed for the child at the new school before the child begins attending school. If a meeting is requested by the school or child welfare team, this meeting should take place within a reasonable time before the child begins attending school. It is also possible that if the



# Clark County Family Services

child has an IEP, the child may not be able to attend the new school if there is not a program available at the school or there is not a program with space available for the child to attend at the school. If that occurs, the school district must find a school close to the child's home to attend within a reasonable amount of time and will provide transportation to that school. However, the child should not be out of school for more than a few days before the meeting or a new school assignment takes place. **If the child is out for more than a few days after they are enrolled in school while waiting for a meeting to take place or waiting for the new school assignment, please contact your CCFS Caseworker.**

## **What You Can Do as a Caregiver to Support the Above Rights**

- When you receive a child in your home, ask your child's CCFS Caseworker what school the child will be attending and what the transportation plan is for the child
- Contact your child's CCFS Representative for the following issues:
  - Transportation is not being provided or is not working for you or your child
  - You or your child believe it is no longer in the best interest for the child to attend the School of Origin
  - Your child's school does not allow your child to attend school for any reason and/or the child has been waiting to attend school for the past a few days of them being enrolled in a new school

**Thank you for your help in ensuring your child's school stability  
and educational success!**