

## Best Interest Determination Evaluation Form

*This document shall be kept in child's case file.*

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Identifier ("personally identifiable" number): \_\_\_\_\_

School and District of Current Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous School(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Best Interest Determination Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

### Factors Considered

**The student shall remain in the current school *unless* consideration of the following factors indicates that a change of school placement is in the child's best interest. (Check all that apply.)**

- The child's permanency goal, plan and expected date for achieving the permanency supports a change in school placement.
- The parents/prior custodians or child believe that changing schools is in the child's best interest. If so, state why?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The length of the commute to return to the current school would negatively impact the child.
- The child's current school environment is negatively impacting the child (*e.g.*, bullying, etc.) and the child wants to change schools. If so, state why  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The child has only attended the current school for a short time or is not attached to the school. (*Consider:* What are the child's ties to his or her current school, including significant relationships and involvement in extracurricular activities.)
- Safety considerations favor a change in school placement. If so, state why  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Transferring schools will positively impact the child emotionally, socially or academically. (*e.g.*, the child's siblings attend the new school).
- The new school will better meet the child's academic needs. (*Consider:* How is the child performing academically in the current school? What are the child's academic/career goals? Does the child's new school have programs and activities that address the unique needs or interests of the student that the current school does not have?)

- The new school will better meet the child’s special education needs. (*Consider:* Is the child receiving any special education services from his or her current school? Does the child participate in other specialized instruction? (e.g., gifted program, career and technical program) that would be impacted by a school move?)
- Changing schools will NOT undermine the child’s ability to stay on track to graduate. (*Consider:* How would changing schools affect the student’s ability to earn full academic credit, participate in sports or other extra-curricular activities, proceed to the next grade, or graduate on time? Does the new school have programs and activities that address the unique needs or interests of the student that the prior school does not have?)
- The timing of the school transfer will not undermine school success. (*Consider:* Would the timing of the school transfer coincide with a logical juncture in the child’s academic or personal progress? (e.g., after an event that is significant to the child or end of the school year)

**Documentation and Records**

Attach any supporting documentation used in making this determination of best interest. (The following is checklist of sample documents that may be considered. The list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

- Report cards
- Progress reports
- Achievement data (test scores)
- Attendance data
- IEP or 504 Plan
- Emails or correspondence from individuals consulted
- Were child, child’s biological parent and child’s school informed of meeting, invited to attend and/or to provide information about decision?
- Caseworker \_\_\_\_\_ reviewed the child’s education records?

**Determination**

- The student shall remain in the same school where the child is currently enrolled. Name of School and District: \_\_\_\_\_. Transportation to be provided by: \_\_\_\_\_
- Based on the best interest determination, a change in school placement is needed. The student shall be enrolled in the new school of current residence. Name of School and District: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Note:** If a change in educational placement is needed, enrollment should take place immediately with all education records provided to the new school. Individual responsible for enrolling the child \_\_\_\_\_.