

NWF Health Network Policy & Procedure

Series: 400: Child Welfare Services

Policy Name: School Stability for Children in Out-of-Home Care

Policy Number: 426

Origination Date: 06/21/2018 **Revision:** Board Meeting of 09/05/2024

Regulation: Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (2008)
Every Student Succeeds Act (2015)
65C-28.018, F.A.C.

Policy

It is the policy NWF Health Network (NWFHN), to ensure that every child in out-of-home is afforded the opportunity for stability in their educational environment. A best interest determination must be made for all children in out-of-home care regarding changing their school or leaving them in their school of origin. It is the procedure of NWFHN to ensure that all agencies work collaboratively to ensure children in out-of-home care are in the best educational setting to meet their needs.

Procedure

- A. The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 defines “school of origin” as the school the child is currently attending. The law requires that a best interest determination be made in order to keep the child in their school of origin or move them to another school.
- B. Each placement of a child in foster care needs to take into account the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is currently enrolled at the time of placement.
- C. Every school aged child placed into out-of-home care or who has a subsequent change of placement will have a best interest determination for school placement decisions.
- D. The Well-Being Specialist in each Circuit has established procedures to ensure school stability in collaboration with the Case Management Organization and the school district.