



Advocacy Tips and Checklist

Education for Children and Youth in Foster Care

Enrollment, School Stability & Class Placement

- Is your client enrolled in school?
- Is school stability an issue (how many schools has your client attended? Is changing schools in your client's best interests?)
- Is your client being educated in the most appropriate school setting?

Surrogate Parent

- Is your client committed to DCF?
- Does your client receive special education? If not, do you think your client might qualify for special education?

Academic Progress and Need for Interventions

- Have you gained access to your client's educational records (including attendance and discipline data)?
- How are your client's grades? How many credits does s/he have?
- Does your client need additional supports to be more successful in school? (e.g. tutoring, remedial, summer school, mental health services)
- What would help your client to engage more in school? (e.g. areas of interest, clubs, subjects, extracurricular activities, job training)
- Are there school discipline or attendance issues that need to be addressed?

Special Education Services & 504 Accommodations

- Is there evidence that your client needs to be evaluated for special education?
- Does your client have a physical or mental health issue that qualifies him/her for accommodations under a 504 plan at school? (e.g. asthma, diabetes, ADHD)
- Is the current IEP/504 plan enabling your client to make meaningful progress?
- Is the school following the IEP/504 plan?
- Does your client need to be re-evaluated?
- Does your client have an appropriate transition plan for life after high school?

Graduation & Transition Planning

- Is your client on track to graduate on time? How many credits are needed?
- If your client is a special education student should s/he defer acceptance of diploma to participate in additional services?
- Is there a transition plan for your client? Does it adequately address his/her goals and needs?

Post-Secondary Planning

- Does your client know about post-secondary options like college, trade school, vocational training and DCF's policy on PSE expenses?
- Who will assist your client with accessing post-secondary opportunities?
- Has your client completed the FAFSA?