

DCF Local Office

Understandably, it's a very difficult time for your child when he/she enters foster care.

School Stability for Children in Resource Home Care



DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
DIVISION OF YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
www.nj.gov/dcf

Information for Parents



When a child is temporarily removed from their family to ensure their safety, they may also be separated from everything that is familiar, including their school and friends. However, under a new law children can remain in their home school if it's in their best interest to do so. Studies show that children who remain in their home school do better academically, behaviorally and socially. They also can continue to be involved with their after school activities and keep their classmates and favorite teachers. Please remember that it is our goal to return your child home as soon as it is safe to do so.

When your child enters out-of-home placement your caseworker will make a decision if your child should remain in his/her current school. This very important decision is not made alone. The worker will talk to people involved in the

case including parents, the child's attorney (law guardian) and the child.

Your worker makes this decision based on "best interest" factors such as:

- **Safety considerations**
- **Distance of the current school to the foster family**
- **Child's age and grade level**
- **Child's needs and preference**
- **How the child is doing in their current school and their involvement**
- **Child's special education needs**
- **Point of time in the school year**
- **How long the child may be in the foster home**

The worker will make a decision within five business days. During this time, your child will continue to attend his/her current school. It is the responsibility of the worker to arrange for transporting your child to school during this time.

If a decision is made to move your child to the foster parent's school district, you will be notified, in writing, explaining why it is necessary. If you disagree, you have five days to ask the court to reconsider the decision. You will receive further information about this process in the decision notification.

At any time, if the circumstances surrounding your DYFS case change, you can ask the court to review your child's school placement.

If you have any questions, please contact your worker or the Educational Stability Liaison at your Local Office.