



## Foster Care Education New Child Welfare Education Liaison Guidance

### WHERE TO START?

1. Notify the State Coordinator for Foster Care Education that you are the new Child Welfare Education Liaison (CWEL) here
2. Review the New CWEL Guidance Document
3. Review the CWEL tool kit [here](#)

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 22-32-138 and [House Bill 18-1306](#), each School district and the state Charter School Institute (CSI), shall designate an employee of the school district or CSI to act as the child welfare education liaison for the district or for state charter schools. In lieu of designating an employee, a school district or the state charter school institute may contract with an individual to act as the child welfare education liaison.

- The duties of the liaison should include, need not be limited to working with child placement agencies, county departments, and the state department of human services to facilitate the prompt and appropriate placement, transfer, and enrollment in school of students in out-of-home placement.
- Attend or arrange a school district designee to attend Best Interest Determination (BID) meetings at the request of child welfare agencies. [Click here](#) for an FAQ document on BIDs.
- By August 15 of every school year, each school district and CSI shall report to the state coordinator for foster care education the name and contact information of the CWEL. Note: this name is now reported through the Consolidated Application for Federal Funding.
- There are other key parts of state law and ESSA that prohibit delaying transfer of records or enrollment because of fees owed (book fines), costs for uniforms, lab fees, etc.

Note: Effective August 10, 2017, pursuant to [HB17-1301](#), a school district shall not withhold and shall ensure that a school of the school district does not withhold records required for enrollment in another school or institution of higher education or the diploma, transcript, or grades of any student who fails to pay any assessed fine or fee, to return or replace textbooks or library resources, or to return or replace any school property



at the completion of any semester or school year.

- A school district or school in which a student in out-of-home placement is enrolled shall waive all fees that would otherwise be assessed against the student, including but not limited to any general fees, fees for books, fees for lab work, fees for participation in in-school or extracurricular activities, and fees for before-school or after-school programs. NOTE: Students in foster care are categorically eligible for free lunch and are not required to fill out a free lunch application. If they are eligible for lunch for one day, they are eligible for the entire school year.
- The school district or school shall not limit the opportunity of a student in out-of-home placement to participate in in-school and extracurricular activities and before-school and after-school programs due to waiver of the participation fees.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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