MASSACHUSETTS DEFAETMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

DCF places student in Foster Care
OR
DCF changes student's Foster Care placement

DCF Initiates Best Interest Determination (BID)
Goal: BID Completed within 5 school days

The BID should include meaningful consultation with individuals who understand the student's unique needs.

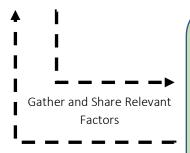
DCF Point of Contact (POC) or designee

- Student
- Social Worker
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- Foster Parent(s)
- Attorney
- Educational Decision Maker (EDM) (court appointed)
- Special Education Surrogate Parent (SESP)

POCs Gather and Share Relevant

District of Origin (DOO) POC

- POC
- Teacher(s)
- Guidance
- Special Education
- School Adjustment Counselor



Local School District (LSD) POC

As soon as there is an indication of possible local enrollment, DCF must include the LSD (where student lives in foster care) in the BID process to ensure the LSD:

- Understands the needs of student
- Provides input on available program/services, etc.

Gather and Share
Relevant Factors

Upon Completion of the BID:

• DCF Shares School Selection and Provides Notice to LEA

Remain in School of Origin (SOO)

DCF and DOO Develop Transportation Plan(s):

- a. Short term for 1-2 weeks while long term plan is developed
- b. Long term for duration of foster care OR until all grades in SOO are completed OR until BID will be revisited

Immediately Enroll in LSD

Transfer Records:

- a. LSD POC request from DOO on the day of enrollment
- b. DOO transfer within 2-3 days

BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION FOR FOSTER CARE SCHOOL SELECTION – WORKSHEET Completed by: LEA DCF

STUDENT:						
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):				GRADE LEVEL:		
Does the student have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)? (Yes/No)	Is		signed? (Yes/No) 'es, indicate by whom			
Does the student's IEP include transportation as a related service? (Yes/No)			student have a 504 Plan?			
SCHOOL (& DISTRICT) OF ORIGIN:				L		
DISTRICT OF ORIGIN POINT OF CONTACT (POC):						
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (LSD): (where student is living in foster care)						
LSD POC:						
DCF Area Office:						
DCF POC, Social Worker and Education Coordinator:						
	FACTOR:	s cons	SIDERED			
The following multiple factors related to the student's unique needs should be considered when making the BID. Additional factors may be considered and should be included under Other Factor(s). Check all factors considered and make notes below for documentation. Attach other relevant documents as appropriate (e.g., IEP, 504 Plan, Report Cards, Progress Reports, etc.)						
\square Student's preference (when age appr	opriate)		Permanency and goal(s) of plants	acement (e.g.,		
\square Preferences of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or			reunification; adoption, etc.)			
EDM(s)			·	ionships to school staff and peers		
☐ Distance/duration of travel to/from school			Engagement in extracurricular activities			
 Anticipated duration of time in placement 			Current educational goals and services			
☐ Number of placements			Clinical/behavioral issues			
☐ Duration of time in the current school		_	Availability and quality of educational and SEL services			
☐ Time of academic year			Immediate availability of serv	ices to meet needs of		
☐ Maintenance of family relationships			IEP or 504 Plan			
☐ Placement and/or school(s) of sibling(s) (provide			Individual skills, needs, and social connections			
names of sibling(s) and school(s) attending in			School climate and safety issues on student			
BID notes section)			Academic performance and s	KIIIS		
			Other Factor(s)			
NOTES:						

- The cost of transportation may not be factored when conducting the BID.
- Financial or programmatic responsibility for a student's special education services are separate from enrollment and the BID process. After the best interest determination, requests for clarification of school district responsibility for a student's special education services can be directed to DESE's Office of Special Education Policy and Planning.

BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION FOR FOSTER CARE SCHOOL SELECTION – WORKSHEET **Completed by:** □ **LEA** □ **DCF BID NOTES COLLABORATORS IN THE BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION** ☑ Check box if attaching any relevant correspondences/comments. DATE(s) and METHOD(s) **RELATIONSHIP TO** NAME & CONTACT INFORMATION **OF ENGAGEMENT IN BID** STUDENT ☐ Call Date(s): ☐ Email ☐ Attachment ☐ Face-to-Face ☐ Call Date: ☐ Email ☐ Attachment ☐ Face-to-Face ☐ Call Date: ☐ Email ☐ Attachment ☐ Face-to-Face ☐ Call Date: ☐ Email ☐ Attachment ☐ Face-to-Face ☐ Call Date: ☐ Email ☐ Attachment ☐ Face-to-Face ☐ Call Date: ☐ Email ☐ Attachment ☐ Face-to-Face ☐ Call Date: ☐ Email ☐ Attachment ☐ Face-to-Face ☐ Call Date:

☐ Email

☐ Face-to-Face

☐ Attachment

BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION FOR FOSTER CARE SCHOOL SELECTION − WORKSHEET Completed by: ☐ LEA ☐DCF

Upon completion of conversations with ALL individuals who understand the unique needs of the student, the following is the resulting BID. The student will:						
☐ REMAIN ENROLLED IN SCHOOL OF ORIGIN. DCF will provide Notice to LEA to DOO.						
If any specialized transportation is needed, please describe:						
Short-Term Transportation Plan: (How will the student get to school while a permanent plan is established?)						
□ DCF:						
☐ District:						
☐ Other (describe):						
Long-term Transportation Plan: (How will the student get to school?)						
Plan to revisit BID? ☐ Is there a plan to revisit the BID? If so, describe the factors to be revisited, person responsible for follow-up, etc.						
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Person responsible for follow-up:						
Approximate date to revisit:						
 □ ENROLL LOCALLY (where the student is living in foster care). □ DCF provides Notice to LEA and initiate immediate enrollment. □ Records transfer requested by LSD POC (on the day of enrollment.) □ DOO complete records transfer as soon as possible (within 2-3 days.) 						
Checkmarks below indicate acknowledgement that the BID process occurred, has been completed and is accurately represented in this document.						
		NAME	Ø	DATE		
DCF Representative:						
DOO POC:						
LSD POC:						