



Children's Commission.

For Judges Handling Child Protective Services Cases

April 7, 2017

Transition Planning in CPS and Special Education – Encouraging Coordination and Collaboration to Promote Better Outcomes

According to data exchanged between the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), children and youth who experience foster care are almost three times as likely to receive special education services compared to the statewide student population. The child welfare and education systems are charged per state and federal law with helping older youth transition to adulthood, and this is especially true for students with disabilities. While each system has extensive transition planning policies and procedures, the processes often work in parallel, but not in coordination with each other. The new [*Transition Planning Guide for Students in Foster Care Receiving Special Education Services*](#), which is on the Children's Commission's website, clarifies the similarities and differences in the transition planning processes in the child welfare and special education systems. The guide also includes best practices and recommendations for improved coordination between systems to better support youth with disabilities who are in the foster care system during the transition to adulthood. Please feel free to share this announcement and these links with attorneys, parents, caregivers, CASA volunteers, and anyone else who might benefit from this resource.

Clarifying Confidentiality: New Guidance on Sharing Information about the Education of Children and Youth in Foster Care

Children and youth in foster care often face unique educational challenges but child welfare and education system stakeholders can work together to improve outcomes for these children and youth through communication and collaboration. To accomplish these goals, everyone needs a clear understanding about confidentiality and privacy about when and how information is appropriately shared. The Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Supreme Court Children's Commission developed a new guide entitled, [*Information Sharing Between Child Welfare and Schools: Maintaining Privacy and Promoting Educational Success*](#). The guide addresses confidentiality requirements in both the child welfare and education systems and clarifies how teachers, caseworkers, caregivers, advocates, and others can share and receive information about children and youth in foster care while maintaining and respecting their privacy.





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