Understandably, it's a very difficult time for children when they enter foster care.

They are away from their home and family and 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 foster 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.

Evidence suggests that school stability will have a positive e ect on education outcomes including increase in grade-point-average (GPA) and standardized test scores, reduction in failure and grade repetition, and an increase in high school degree attainment.

Q ic Fac:

80% of children who enter foster care in New Jersey are reunited with their parents

On average, school age children are reunited with their families within 6-12 months of their initial placement.

For more information

If you have any questions, please contact the Educational Stability Liaison at your CP&P Local O ce.

DCFLocalOffce

School Stability for Children in Resource Home Care









Determining "best interest"

When a child enters out-of-home placement the Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) caseworker will make a decision if the 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), school sta and the child.

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



School placement decision and appeals

The CP&P worker will make a decision within ve business days. During this time, the child will continue to attend his/her current school. It's also the responsibility of the worker to arrange for transporting the child to school during this time. Once a nal decision is made, CP&P will immediately notify both school districts. The "district of residence" (the district where the parent or guardian resides) must arrange and pay for transportation to whichever school the child attends.

If a decision is made to move the child to the resource parent's school district, the parent and child's law guardian will be noti ed, in writing, explaining why it is necessary. If a parent or law guardian disagrees, they have ve days to ask the court to reconsider the decision. During the appeal process, the child's school will not be changed.

If neither the parent nor law guardian objects to the decision within ve days, the decision is considered nal.

At any time, if the circumstances surrounding the CP&P case change, a parent, law guardian or child can ask the court to review the child's school placement.

School district of residence responsibilities: