



What should we consider when making a best interest determination for a foster child's school placement?

Consider the unique needs and situation of the student:

- age and grade level
- preference, when age appropriate
- attachment to the school, relationships with staff and peers
- placement of the siblings
- distance/length of time to travel
- time of academic year, academic performance
- anticipated length of time in placement, and if reunification is the goal
- number of placements to date
- maintain family relationships and engagement (including extracurricular activities)
- clinical or behavioral issues
- school climate, including safety issues
- availability and quality of the services for student's educational and social emotional needs
- availability of special education/504 services