

DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Child Protection and Safety

Vision, Commitments and Education Operations Plan

2015-2019

OUR VISION:

Through ongoing collaboration and cross-system coordination we can and will improve the educational outcomes and well-being of students in the Child Protection System.

OUR COMMITMENTS:

1. Children's access to a supportive and quality education system is a gateway to improved outcomes for adulthood.
2. We respect and value parent's education decision-making rights.
3. We value working in collaboration with schools to ensure school programs gain an awareness of the complex set of issues facing children in the Child Protection System.
4. Child welfare professionals have a responsibility to advocate for the educational rights of our children.

Strategy Key Code	
	In Process
	Slow Start
	Reconsider Strategy
	Has Not Started Yet
	Completed

*Entire sentences highlighted in yellow indicate a strategy obtained from the DCFS Operations Plan

CHAPTER 1: EDUCATION STABILITY FOR STATE WARDS

(Fostering Connections Act Education 2008)

OUTCOME STATEMENT: CHILDREN IN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM ARE ENTITLED TO MAINTAIN EDUCATION STABILITY

GOAL STATEMENT #1: 100% of children will have a court report that includes an Education Stability Plan.

MEASURE: Report to be developed.

Strategies	Lead(s)	Start Date	Completion Date	Status
1. Early Intervention				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess Service Array for children 0-5 children in out of home care, explore Evidence Based Practice's, connection to Alternative Response 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, N. Simmons, V. Maca	Fall 2014		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a process to monitor data to ensure that 100% of children birth to 3 years, that are placed in foster care, have received a developmental screen through the Early Development Network 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, D. Beran	January 2015		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research school readiness assessments for children 3 to 5 years for children placed in out of home care. 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver	January 2015		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research barriers to the delivery of early intervention services to children ages 3 to 5 years who have been identified with a disability or developmental delay 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver	January 2015		
2. Assess a Trauma Informed Schools pilot program in 5 Nebraska School Districts	T. Kingsley, I. Bloom	September 2014		
3. Education Court Report				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using data, evaluate Education Court Report pilot (Supreme Court Commission recommendation) to improve educational success for children {FCRO Annual Report 12-2013} 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver & V. Maca	August 2014		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Education Court Report statewide 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, K. Stolz, C. Heathershaw-Risko	September 1, 2014		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate Education Court Report into NFOCUS court report 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, D. Beran, S. Haber, V. Maca, L. Bryceson	March 2015		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess ways to utilize the Education Court Report data 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, D. Beran & V. Maca	July 2015		
4. Design training curriculum with CCFL and implement the components of the Education Stability Plan for Children and Family Services Specialists Case Management training	T. Kingsley, S. Johnson, K. Roebke, C. Lewis	July 2014		
5. Provide direct case consultation on education related matters to CFS workers on Alternative Response cases, Non-court cases, and Court involved families	T. Kingsley	Ongoing		
6. Implement the new Superintendent letter statewide	T. Kingsley	July 2013	July 2014	
7. Incorporate Child Well-Being indicator from CFSR #21 (Educational Needs of the Child) into the CQI data packet	D. Beran	May 2014	May 2014	
8. Develop a focused Education Operations Plan with system partners to improve educational outcomes for children and address Fostering Connections Act	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, D. Beran & V. Maca, Ed System Team	August 2014		

9. Identify the policies and procedures of PRTF's and other Alternative Education Programs regarding assessing youth for Special Education and maintaining current IEP's.	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, Nebraska Department of Education	December 2014		
---	--	---------------	--	--

GOAL STATEMENT #2: 75% of children will remain in their home school unless it is not in the child's best interests.

MEASURE: Report to be developed.

Strategies	Lead(s)	Start Date	Completion Date	Status
1. Utilize NFOCUS data for the purposes of placing children in or closer to their home school district.	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, J. Allen, N. Simmons, D. Beran	May 2015		
2. Change of Placement Notice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Change of Placement notice (Supreme Court Commission recommendation), which includes notification of a change of school placement and best interest determination when a school change is necessary. 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, K. Stolz, C. Heathershaw-Risko, Ed System Team	February 2015		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a process to monitor the number of school placement changes and reason for school placement changes at the child level-integrate into CQI {FCRO Annual Report 12-2013} 	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, D. Beran & V. Maca	July 2015		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a training curriculum with the CCFL and develop a distribution plan necessary addressing the steps to make best interests decisions for school placement 	T. Kingsley, S. Johnson, K. Roebke, C. Lewis	July 2014		
3. Establish a Fostering Connections workgroup to identify ways to enhance cross-system collaboration with the implementation of the Fostering Connections Education Act	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver	March 2015		

CHAPTER 2: DESIGNATED STAFF RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

(Fostering Connections Act 2008)

OUTCOME STATEMENT: DESIGNATED STAFF RESOURCES WILL RESULT IN EFFECTIVE EDUCATION ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN THAT ARE STATE WARDS

GOAL STATEMENT: Children have consistent adult support to advocate and make education decisions.

MEASURE: Question to be added to the Annual 1160 Survey.

Strategies	Lead(s)	Start Date	Completion Date	Status
1. Utilize the Fostering Connections workgroup to identify ways to enhance school transitions through the use of designated staff resources at the agency level, school level, and/or DCFS level	T. Kingsley	March 2015		
2. Evaluate the use of CASA volunteers as Education Surrogates for children who are in Special Education and do not have an identified Education Parent	T. Kingsley, D. Rockey	August 2014		
3. Utilize the Fostering Connections workgroup to identify ways to enhance Education Surrogate's knowledge of Education and Special Education rights through an Education Surrogate Manual.	T. Kingsley	May 2015		
4. Develop and implement a process for CFS Specialists to notify the Education Program Specialist upon the use of seclusion and restraint for a state ward.	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver	September 2014		
5. Develop and implement a training curriculum with the CCFL identifying the components of General Education and Special Education necessary for CFS Specialists to advocate for the needs of their wards.	T. Kingsley, S. Johnson, K. Roebke, C. Lewis, J. Walters	September 2014		
6. Identify what community level education data we give/ receive from the schools and the Nebraska Department of Education	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver & V. Maca	October 2014		
7. Identify educational interventions (school-based EBP's current and gaps) to potentially fund/work with NCFE/connect to Alternative Response	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver & V. Maca	March 2015		
8. Explore pilot with CFS, DBH and Special Education representatives to review complex cases	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, L. Bryceson & V. Maca	August 2015		

CHAPTER 3: REIMBURSEMENT FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

(Fostering Connections Act 2008)

OUTCOME STATEMENT: Children that are IV-E eligible utilize IV-E funding to remain in their home school

GOAL STATEMENT: 100% of case managers have knowledge of this funding via the intake packet and the ability to access this funding.

MEASURE: Report to be developed.

Strategies	Lead(s)	Start Date	Completion Date	Status
1. Work with the IV-E team to evaluate the Foster Parent Transportation Travel Log data	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, D. Kreifels	April 2015		
2. Expand the use of IV-E funding for transportation to keep children in their home schools when it is in their best interests	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, D. Kreifels	April 2015		
3. Identify protocol for the use of IV-Funding for eligible youth in foster care so foster care agencies can access additional funds to maintain a child in their home schools	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, D. Kreifels, N. Simmons, J. Allen	April 2015		
4. Educate system partners of the criteria for the use of IV-E funding requests to maintain children in their home school district	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, D. Kreifels	April 2015		
5. Monitor percentage of State Wards remaining in their home school district through data collected on RBA measures	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, N. Busch	April 2015		

CHAPTER 4: ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOLS

(Fostering Connections Act 2008)

OUTCOME STATEMENT: State Wards are enrolled in school

GOAL STATEMENT: Children are enrolled in school within 2 school days when a change in school occurs

MEASURE: Report to be developed

Strategies	Lead(s)	Start Date	Completion Date	Status
1. Develop "enrollment packets" for the 30 largest school districts in Nebraska to expedite enrollment when a school change is warranted	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver	January 2015		
2. Work with Nebraska Department of Education to assess the feasibility of implementing a "2 day enrollment process"	T. Kingsley, P. Wathen	February 2015		
3. Identify and train CFS Specialists on the "2 day enrollment process"	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver	May 2015		

CHAPTER 5: TRANSFER OF EDUCATION RECORDS

(Fostering Connections Act 2008)

OUTCOME STATEMENT: When a change in schools is warranted, the new school receives the child's education records

GOAL STATEMENT: 100% of CFS Specialists will request a transfer of education records within 24 hours of the decision to change school placement.

MEASURE: Report to be developed.

Strategies	Lead(s)	Start Date	Completion Date	Status
1. Research the use of Education Portfolios and assess the potential use in Nebraska for school-aged foster children	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, Ed Systems Team	Spring 2015		
2. Research the impact of the McKinney Vento homeless status for foster children in other states	T. Kingsley	June 2014	June 2014	
3. Utilize the Fostering Connections workgroup to identify the potential pros and cons of McKinney Vento including foster children in the homeless status	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver	March 2015		
4. Update Administration/Policy Memos (Uninterrupted Scholars Act, FERPA, Superintendent Letter, Excessive Absenteeism)	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, N. Busch	January 2015		

CHAPTER 6: STATE WARD EDUCATION FUND

OUTCOME STATEMENT: School programs receive funding for the education costs for youth that are State Wards and Wards of the Court as outlined in Nebraska Revised Statute §79-215.

GOAL: The Division of Children and Family Services will ensure that 100% of schools being reimbursed from the state ward education fund comply with guidelines.

MEASURE: Conduct random invoice checks.

Strategies	Lead(s)	Start Date	Completion Date	Status
1. Develop and implement a State Ward Education Program Manual for Schools	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, N. Boyer	June 2014		
2. Develop a cooperative system of checking the probation status for youth along with the youths' dates in out of home placement.	T. Kingsley, J. Bennett (Probation), J. Braddner (Probation)	September 2014	September 2014	
3. Address rate establishment for the Detention Centers.	T. Green, T. Kingsley	July 2014		
4. Collaborate to address educational concerns and issues.	T. Kingsley, Nebraska Department of Education	August 2014		
5. Evaluate the process of school districts placing regular education children in Interim Program Schools or Special Purpose Schools	T. Kingsley, Nebraska Department of Education	July 2014		
6. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of returning the State Ward Education Fund to the Nebraska Department of Education.	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver, M. Alley	January 2015		
7. Complete programmatic audits of approved Interim-Program Schools and Accredited Special Purpose Schools that receive funds from the State Ward Education Fund	T. Kingsley, R. Moses (NDE)	July 2014		
8. Evaluate current language in regulation and policy	T. Kingsley, N. Busch, N. Boyer, E. Kluver, J. Hegr	January 2015		
9. Identify the Special Education procedures implemented by Interim-Program Schools and Accredited Special Purpose School that receive funding from the State Ward Education Fund.	T. Kingsley, E. Kluver	September 2014		