Education for Homeless Children and Youth

**EDUCATION BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION FORM**

**Student’s Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The <insert school district> makes school placement determinations on the basis of the “best interest” of the child or youth experiencing homelessness.

In determining a child’s or youth’s best interest, it is presume that keeping the homeless child or youth in the school of origin (the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed), or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool, is in the child’s or youth’s best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.

Student-centered factors, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of children and youths experiencing homelessness, giving priority to the request of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth. School placement of siblings must be considered when making this determination.

**Instructions:**

This form is to be completed jointly between the Homeless Liaison, the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth, and any other individuals with insight to the child’s educational best interest are encouraged to attend the Best Interest Determination Meeting.

Information from relevant meetings may be used when making an educational best interest determination. (i.e., IEP or school related meetings affecting the child’s education and well-being)

**Current Name of School and School District:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**List Any Previous Schools Attended:**

**Current Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Best Interest Determination Meeting:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Participant Name:** **Participant Role/Title** **Phone/Email**

**1. 1. 1.**

**2. 2. 2.**

**3. 3. 3.**

**4. 4. 4.**

|  |
| --- |
| **CONSIDERATIONS**  **Directions: Use bullet points to guide discussion. Write down key factors pertaining to each consideration.** |
| 1. What is the child or youth’s preference in school?   * Consider social interactions, bullying, privacy issues, safety, academics, or extracurricular activities.   *Key Factors:* |
| 2. How many changes in schools has the child or youth experienced? (*In their lifetime)*   * Is there a history of school transfers and how those transfers have impacted the child?   *Key Factors:* |
| 3. What are the preference of the child’s parent or educational decision maker?  *Key Factors:* |
| 4. Are the child or youth’s siblings placed at the same school?   * How does this affect the child or youth’s education outcomes and overall well-being?   *Key Factors:* |
| 5. Are there current and potential safety considerations if the child remained in his or her current school?  *Key Factors:* |
| 6. Are there activities, clubs, or sports the child may be involved in?  *Key Factors:* |
| 7. Are quality services available in the current school to meet the child’s educational and socioemotional needs?   * Consider how the child is performing academically in current school. * Consider the effect of trauma on learning including attention, concentration, mood, trust and communication.   *Key Factors:* |
| 8. Would the length of commute negatively impact the child, if placed outside of his or her school district?   * Consider the child’s age and developmental stage.   *Key Factors:* |
| 9. Is the child a student with a disability under the IDEA who is receiving special educations/related services or a student with a disability under Section 504 who is receiving special education or related aids and services?  If so, the availability of those required services in a school other than the school of origin?  *Key Factors:* |
| 10. Is the child an EL and receiving language services?  If so, the availability of those required services in a school other than the school of origin? |

**EDUCATION BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION RECOMMENDATION:**

🞏 The student will remain in the same school where he or she is currently enrolled.

Current School Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Transportation will be provided by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Transportation will be paid for by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

🞏 Based on the best interest determination, a change in school placement is needed.

Current School Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of School Child being transferred to: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Transfer Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*If it is determined that it is not in the child’s or youth’s best interest to attend the school of origin or school requested by the parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth, the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth will be provided with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination and information regarding the right to appeal.*