#EachChildOurFuture

Educational Stability for Homeless and Foster Youth



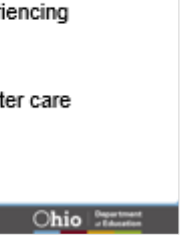
Spring 2021

Ohio Department of Education

Today's Presenters

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Overview

- ✓ Office of Integrated Student Supports
- ✓Supports for students experiencing homelessness
- ✓Supports for students in foster care
- ✓Questions and dialogue

#EachChildOurFuture

In Ohio, each child is *challenged, prepared* and *empowered.*

Vision

In Ohio, each child is ***challenged*** to discover and learn, ***prepared*** to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and ***empowered*** to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society.

Four Learning Domains

Foundational Knowledge & Skills
Literacy, numeracy and technology

Well-Rounded Content
Social studies, sciences, languages, health, arts, physical education, etc.

Leadership & Reasoning
Problem-solving, design thinking, creativity, information analytics

Social-Emotional Learning
Self-awareness & management, social awareness, relationship skills, responsible decision-making



One Goal

Ohio will increase annually the percentage of its high school graduates who, one year after graduation, are:

- Enrolled and succeeding in a post-high school learning experience, including an adult career-technical education program, an apprenticeship and/or a two-year or four-year college program;
- Serving in a military branch;
- Earning a living wage; or
- Engaged in a meaningful, self-sustaining vocation.

Three Core Principles

- Equity
- Partnerships
- Quality Schools

10 Priority Strategies

1. Highly effective teachers & leaders
2. Principal support
3. Teacher & instructional support
4. Standards reflect all learning domains
5. Assessments gauge all learning domains
6. Accountability system honors all learning domains
7. Meet needs of whole child
8. Expand quality early learning
9. Develop literacy skills
10. Transform high school/provide more paths to graduation







Office of Integrated Student Supports:

Working to Support the Whole Child

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Supporting the Whole Child

- School climate
- Social and emotional learning
- Positive behavioral intervention and supports
- Behavioral health

Supporting the Whole Child

- School-based health
- Policy for Medicaid in schools program
- Anti-harassment intimidation and bullying
- School safety
- Family and community engagement

Supports for Vulnerable Youth

- English learners
- Youth in foster care
- Homeless youth
- Migrant youth
- Justice-involved youth

Supports for Students Experiencing Homelessness

How does ESSA define *homelessness*?

Children or youth who **lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence,** including:



Camping Grounds



Shelters



Public Places

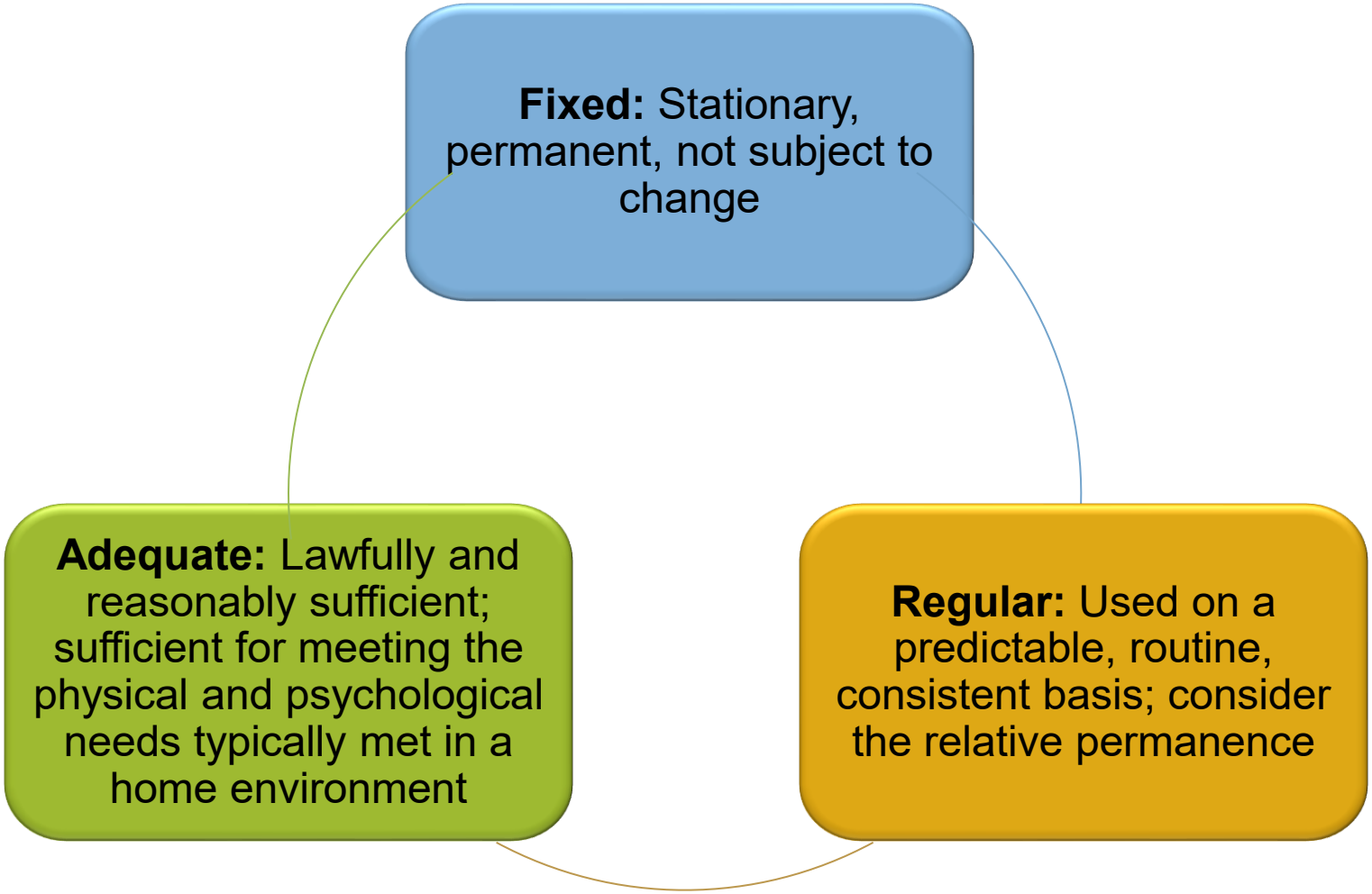


Bus and Train Stations

Shared Housing



Fixed, Regular and Adequate



Shared Housing



Legislation: "Sharing the housing of other persons ***due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason.***"

Eligibility Considerations

Why did the parties move in together? Due to a crisis or by mutual choice as a plan for mutual benefit?

How permanent is the living arrangement intended to be?

Where would the party in crisis live if not sharing housing?

Is the living arrangement fixed, regular and adequate?

School Selection

Students experiencing homelessness may attend either:

The school of origin: *The school the child attended when permanently housed; or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.*



The local attendance area school: *Any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.*

Enrollment

States and districts must develop, review and revise policies to remove barriers to the school enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth.

Enrollment Paperwork



McKinney-Vento defines *enrollment* as attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

Participation



The McKinney-Vento Act (federal law) supersedes state or local law or policy when there is a conflict (U.S. Constitution, Article VI.)

Federal Law



Homeless children and youth have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documentation normally required for enrollment.

Immediacy





School districts must provide transportation to and from the school of origin.

Based on the best interest of the student and in consultation with the parent, the district ultimately determines the mode of transportation.

Transportation

TEAM approach: Transportation director, local liaison, neighboring school district and other service providers as appropriate.

Dispute Resolution

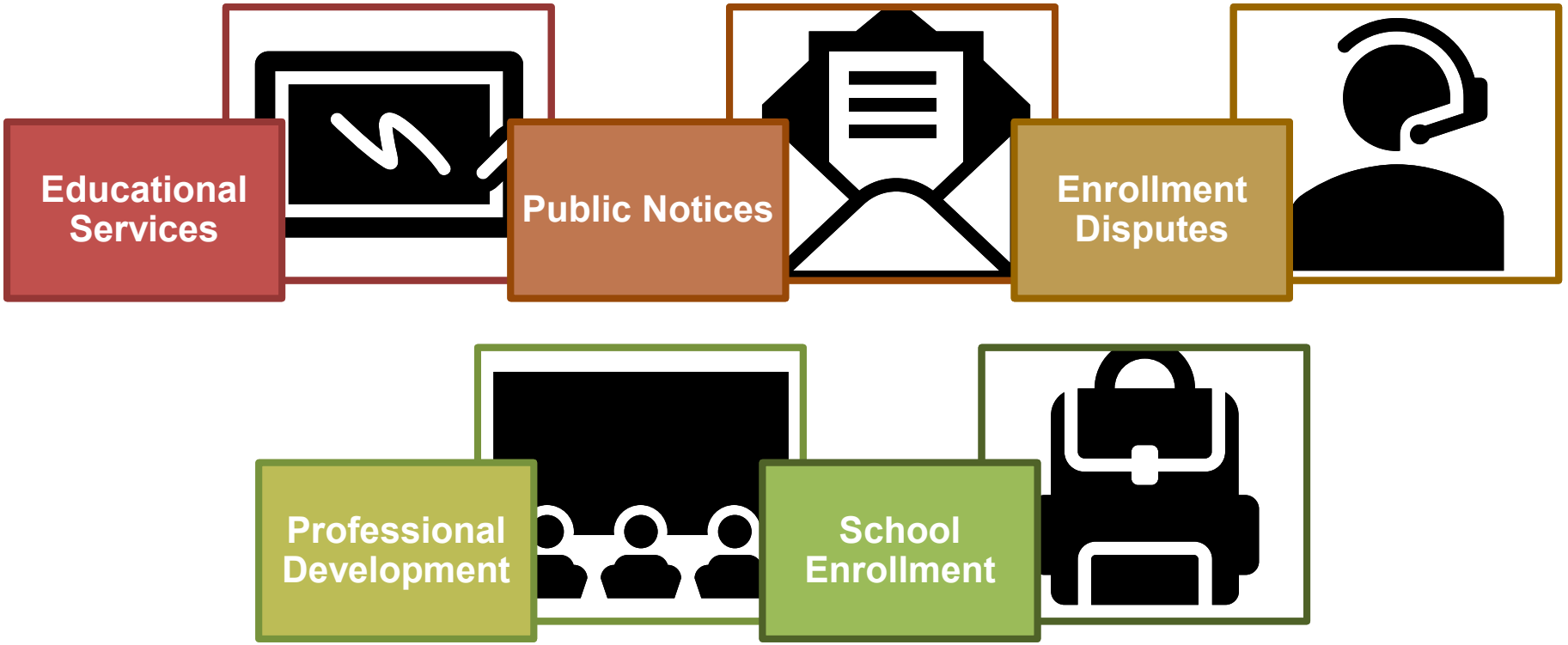
If a disagreement occurs, the district must:

- Provide a written explanation of its decision, including the right to appeal the decision.
- Refer the parent/caretaker/youth to the local liaison.

While the dispute is in process, students must be:

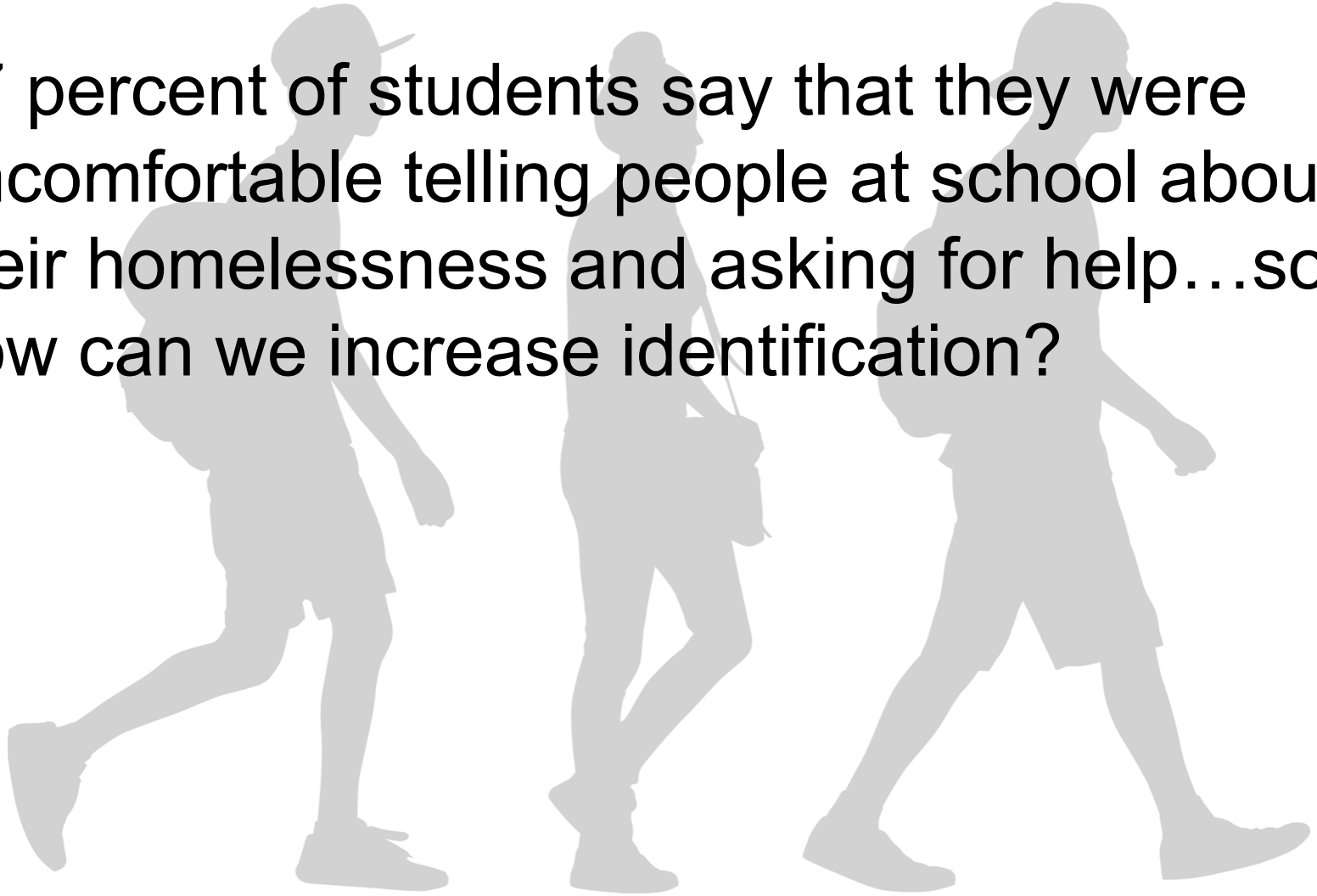
- Enrolled immediately in the school in which enrollment is sought.
- Provided with school of origin transportation if requested.

McKinney-Vento liaisons must ensure:



Identification Strategies

67 percent of students say that they were uncomfortable telling people at school about their homelessness and asking for help…so how can we increase identification?



How can schools identify McKinney-Vento students?



Supports for Students in Foster Care



In December 2015, Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act.

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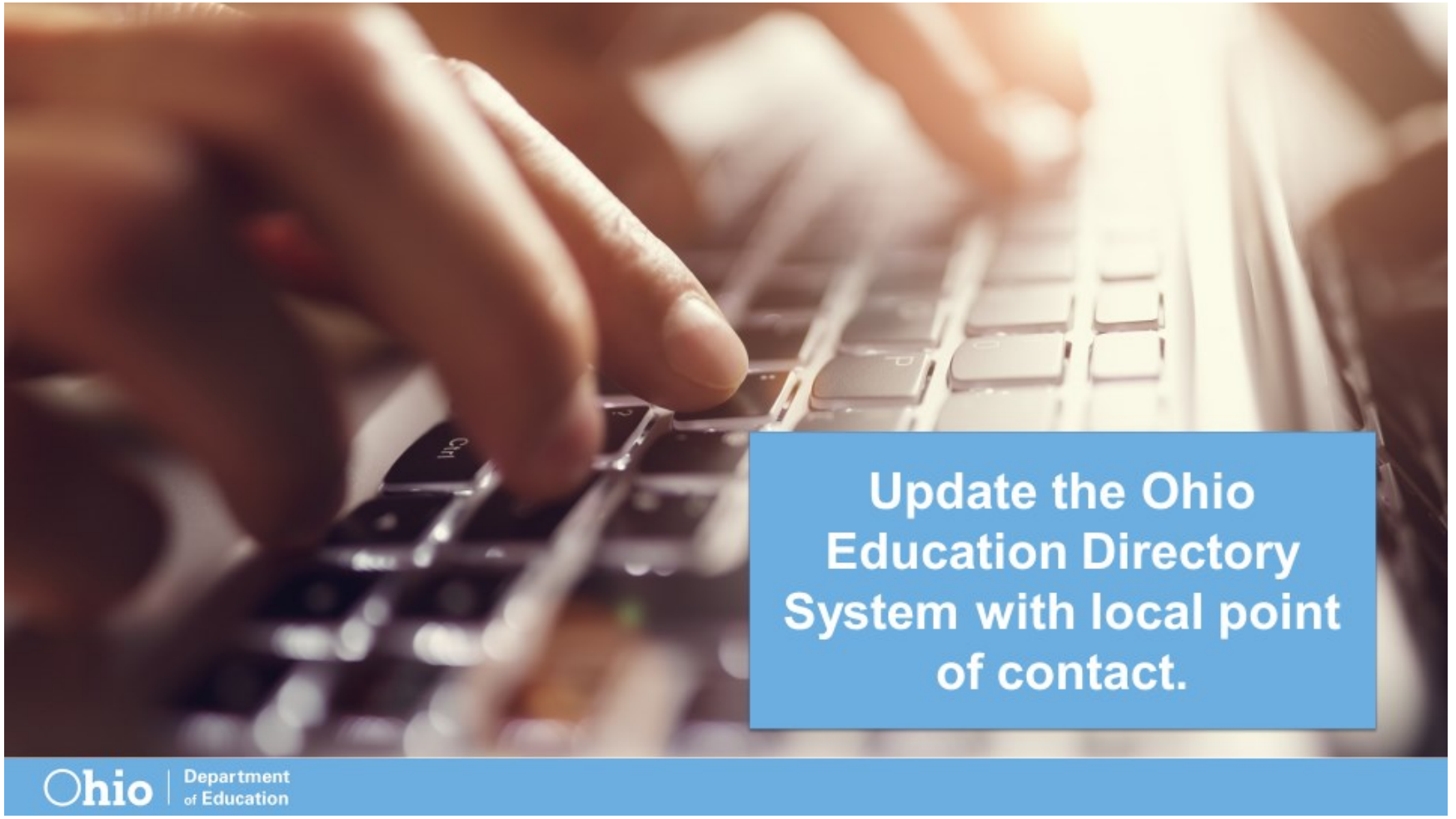
New guidelines and resources to support children in foster care effective on Dec. 10, 2016.



Foster Care Educational Stability Provisions

- Local Point of Contact
- Best Interest Determination
- Immediate Enrollment and Records Transfer
- Transportation to and from the school of origin


Every district must appoint a foster care point of contact.
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Update the Ohio Education Directory System with local point of contact.
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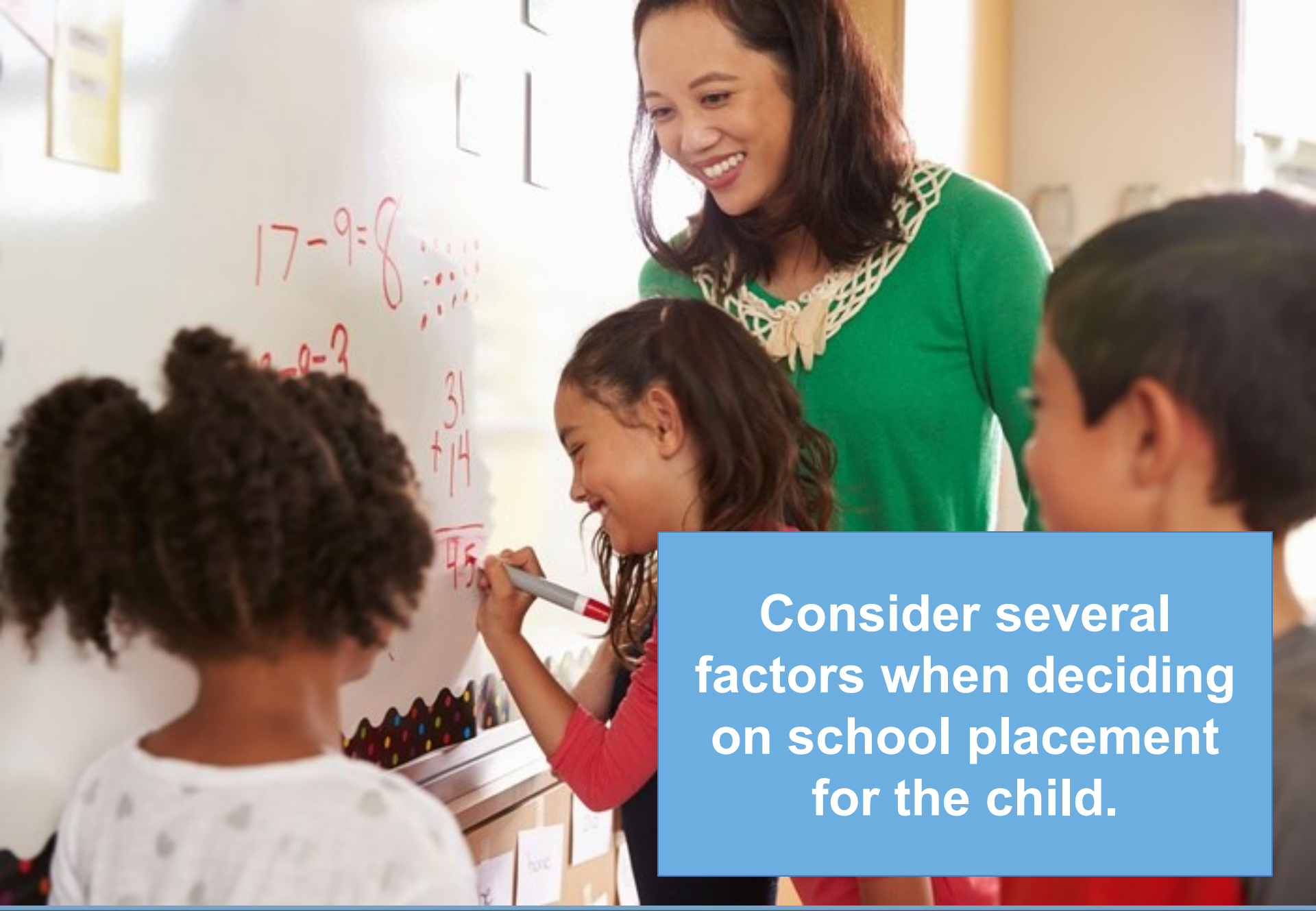
The school of origin is the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care.

A child should remain in the school of origin unless it is determined to not be in his/her best interest.

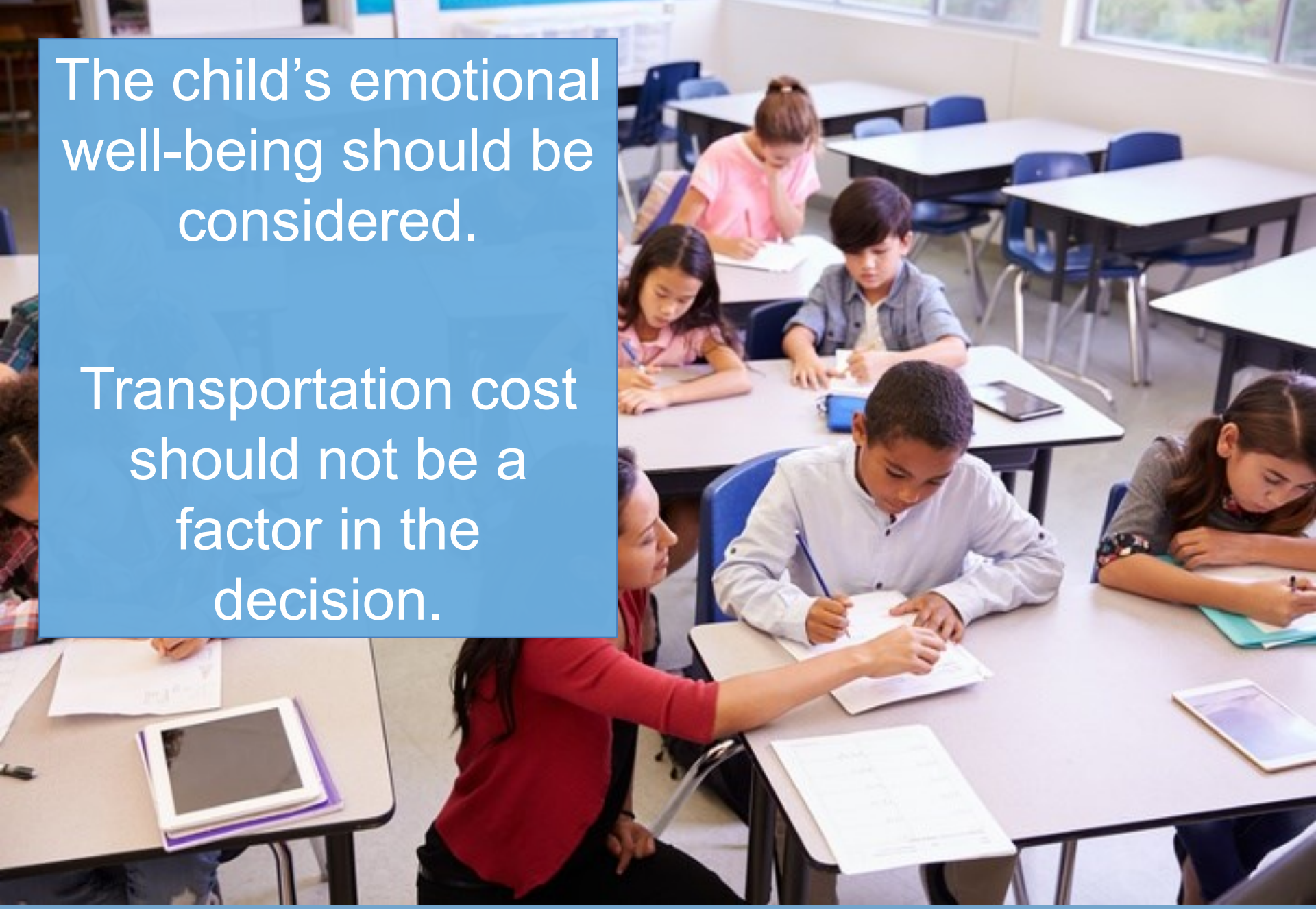




Districts and child welfare agencies should meet with a team of individuals representing the child.



Consider several factors when deciding on school placement for the child.



The child's emotional well-being should be considered.

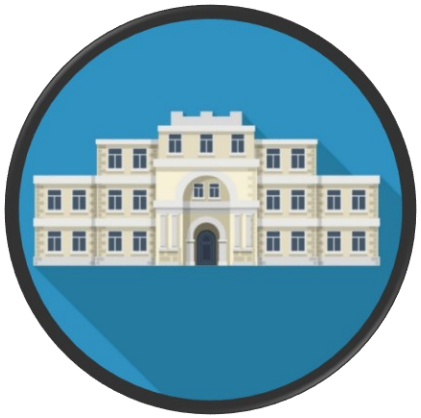
Transportation cost should not be a factor in the decision.

The student should attend his/her school of origin until a best-interest determination is made.



If it is not in the student's best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child should be immediately enrolled in the new school.





Do not wait for student records.



School of Origin

Enrolling School

- IEPs
- Student Success Plans
- Transcripts
- Course of Study



Collaborate for the Best Decision

School District and Child Protection Agency	If a decision cannot be reached…
Establish guidelines to be used in the decision-making process	Child protection agency should decide the best educational placement for the child



Plan for how transportation will be provided, arranged and funded for the duration of the time in foster care.

Children who are eligible under Title IV-E can be eligible to have a portion of transportation costs drawn down.


Ensure all children promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner.
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Prioritize the child's educational stability.

Ensure transportation is provided through the end of the school year.



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If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the school district will provide such transportation if:

The local child protection agency agrees to reimburse the district for the cost of such transportation.

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If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the school district will provide such transportation if:

The district agrees to pay for the cost; or

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If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the school district will provide such transportation if:

The district and local child protection agency agree to share the cost.

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District must provide transportation to and from the school while any disputes are being resolved.
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- Overview of foster care provisions
- Information about the district point of contact
- Information about transportation
- Local collaboration

Contact Information

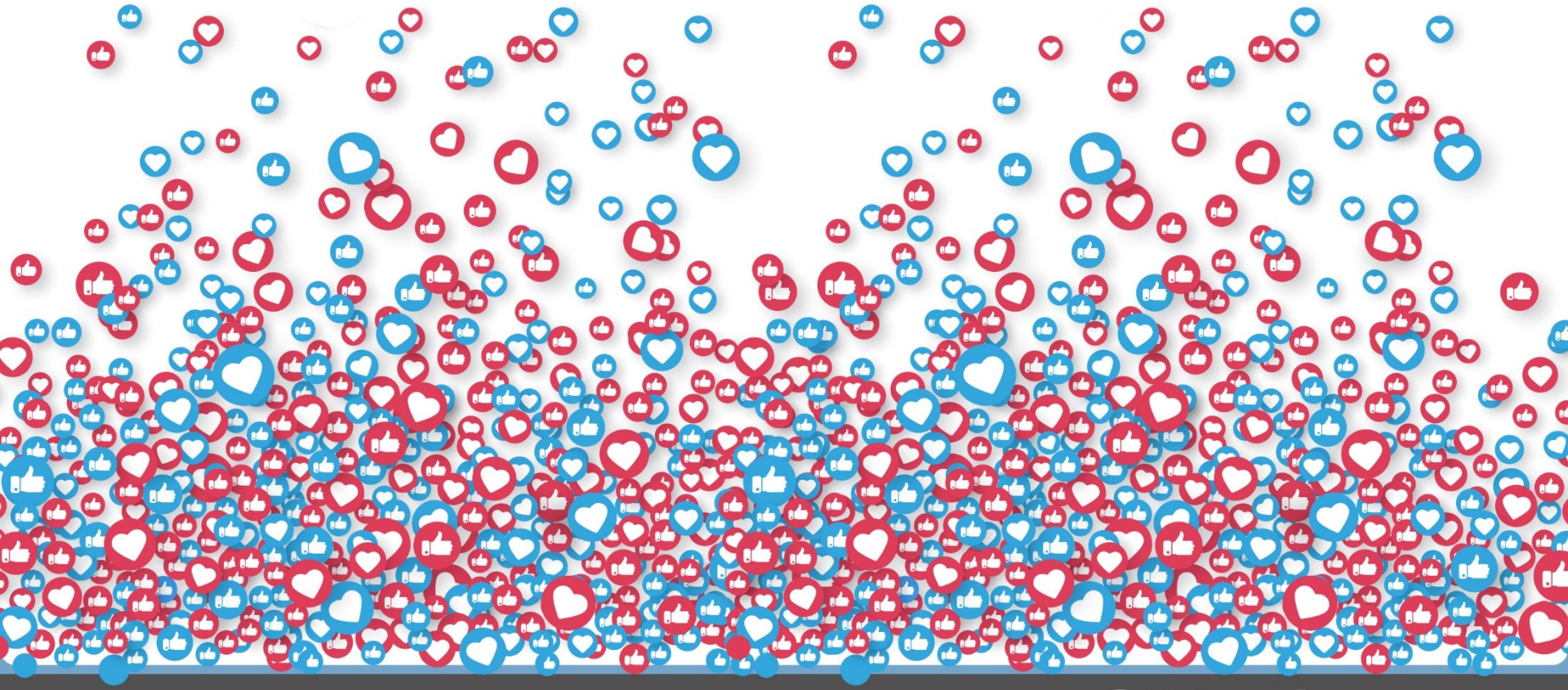
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Celebrate educators!

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