



**WYOMING**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities  
for Students to Keep  
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**Jillian Balow**

Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Dicky Shanor**

Chief of Staff

**Brent Bacon**

Chief Academic Officer

**Lisa Weigel**

Chief Policy Officer

**Dianne Bailey**

Chief Operations Officer

**Cheyenne Office**

Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor  
2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne WY 82002-2060  
Phone: (307) 777-7675  
Fax: (307) 777-6234

**Riverton Office**

320 West Main  
Riverton, WY 82501  
Phone: (307) 857-9250  
Fax: (307) 857-9256

**On the Web**

edu.wyoming.gov  
wyomingmeasuresup.com

## MEMORANDUM NO. 2016-123

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Building Administrators  
Transportation Supervisors

**FROM:** Brent Bacon, Chief Academic Officer

**DATE:** October 17, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

## LEA "BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION" AND FOSTER CARE LIAISONS

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1112, requires Local Education Agencies (LEA/school districts) to implement a plan to ensure educational stability for children in foster care by December 10, 2016. This requirement is that the child stay in the school of origin, unless it is determined by the team that a placement change is in the best interest of the child's educational program. School districts must also appoint a foster care liaison who is responsible for collaborating and partnering with the state's local child welfare agencies to determine best educational programming for students placed in foster care.

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), along with the Department of Family Services, Child Justice Project, Guardian Ad Litem Program, and other entities, is devising a template or sample plan for districts. It is important to note that this plan must be in place per regulation by December 10, 2016.

ESSA requires all districts have a foster care plan that includes documentation on who was in attendance at the meeting and determination of whether it is in the best interest of the child's educational programming to remain in the school of origin. Although most districts currently have processes and practices in place regarding education and foster care, this required step formalizes the process.

The 2017-18 Consolidated grant application will require foster care plan documentation.

A sample LEA plan for best interest determination of education for foster youth will be made available under separate copy.

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*For more information, please contact Jo Ann Numoto at 307-777-7222, [jo-ann.numoto@wyo.gov](mailto:jo-ann.numoto@wyo.gov) or Jon Lever at 307-777-6216 or [jon.lever@wyo.gov](mailto:jon.lever@wyo.gov).*