

**IOWA EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE
ACTION PLAN
2009**

GOALS	ACTION STEPS	STAFF LEAD	ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION	STATUS UPDATE/DATE COMPLETED
I. Fostering Connections Implementation				
A. Children remain in their same school-creation of best interest determination criteria	1. Finalize draft of criteria and circulate with Collaborative for comment	Doug Susan W. Tom S. Steve I.	April 15	Draft complete 5/01
	2. Finalize criteria and obtain approval from all entities involved	Doug Susan W. Tom S. Steve I.	Draft to DE, Court, DHS as appropriate in May. Addtl. Stakeholders in May	
	3. Embed criteria into screening tools/MOU/etc...	Doug Susan W. Tom S. Steve I.	Draft screening tool by July 1, 2009	Draft screening tool complete 5/01
	4. Implement use of criteria with staff; particularly during FTMs, pre removal meetings, among other venues.	Doug Susan W. Tom S. Steve I.	July 2009	

	Development of protocols and details of decision-making process: including training of key staff on decision-making process. Consider MOU	Doug Wolfe Pat Anderson	DHS Employee manual updates complete by July 1, 2009	
	Seek input from Dept. of Education transportation experts to explore possibility of reimbursement of school for providing transportation	Thomas Mayes Doug Wolfe	Fall 2009	Email to Thomas Mayes—has requested addtl. data
	Child welfare agency develop working group to explore possibility of IV-E dollars to help support school or origin transportation	Doug Wolfe	Initiate July 2009	
	Identification of various methods to support transportation (i.e., include in foster care maintenance payments; increased amount or separate payment especially for transportation; use to reimburse school in providing transp).	Doug Wolfe Pat Anderson— with DHS task team 3	Same as above	
	Implementation of screening tool (perhaps in pilot site first to test effectiveness and identify areas for support/training for implementation statewide)	Juv. Court/Tom S. Doug Wolfe Pat Anderson— with DHS task team 3	July 2009 pilot??	
B. Assurances of appropriateness of school placement (both when remaining in same school or moved to new school)-	1. Increase awareness by judges in state of education issues and role of court in improving education outcomes 3. Courts role in education decision making issues (see below) and access to education records (FERPA and confidentiality issues) and review of how addressed in court orders. 4. Role CIP can play to ensure education attention by court and in court process.	Tom, Doug, Susan, Steve, Gail Barber and Children's Justice Staff	May 2009	

Screening Tool				
C. Assurances of appropriate school placement- Role of the Court	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review laws in Iowa related to general and special education decision-making authority. 2. With technical assistance from LCFCE, address issues of special education decision-making. 3. Create clear protocols for who can be the special education decision maker for children in care. 	Gail Barber and Children's Justice Staff	May 2009	
D. Assurances of appropriate school placement- legal decision making authority issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address ways to ensure birth parents are involved and engaged in education decisions and process whenever possible. 	Doug Wolfe Pat Anderson w/ DHS task team 3	May 2009	
E. Assurances of appropriate school placement- birth parent involvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Empowering foster parents to serve in advocate role for child/mentor for birth parent through improved training 2. Clarification of foster parents role in special education decision making (considered the parent? Can be appointed as surrogate?) 	Susan, Tom, Doug, Steve— involves the checklist above. Also Task Team 3	May 2009	
F. Assurances of appropriate school placement- role of foster parents		Susan, Tom, Doug, Steve— involves the checklist above. Also Task Team 3. Juvenile Justice Rep.	No stakeholder panel until August— consider alternative means to involve foster parents— IFAPA? May 2009	

		Stakeholder panel		
II. Information Sharing and Data Collection	<p>1. Creation of Screen Form Cover Sheet that would be completed by child welfare worker, to provide basic information needed by the school system to appropriately address the student's education needs. Including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of foster care entry • Notification of change of living placement (if applicable) • Last school attended • Child welfare worker contact • Person identified to hold education decision making authority • Any emergency issues that need to be identified • Academic and behavioral assessments as appropriate 	Doug Susan W. Tom S. Steve I.	May 2009	Draft complete May 2009
A. Sharing of necessary Child Welfare information with Schools	<p>1. Concrete policies to address FERPA issues for children in foster care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education agency – policies that address how to handle when child is in custody of child welfare agency • Child welfare agency- consent forms for parents • Courts- orders to include release of education records <p>2. Education agency to explore professional development on issues of foster care awareness</p>	Tom, Doug, Steve, Susan	June 2009	

	and confidentiality issues			
B. Sharing of School records and information with child welfare—addressing confidentiality issues.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DHS and DE will work collaboratively to identify what information can and should be provided from the school district to the requesting caseworker or court on a particular child. 2. Pilot reporting process in one site (Orchard Place) 3. Pull together meeting of the AEA, DHS and the Courts to obtain buy-in for the use of the new screening tool and ensure all districts will share education information according to the agreement. 4. Expand to all School Districts 	Susan, Office of Attorney General, Thomas M.	May-June 2009	
C. Sharing school district records and information with child welfare- Creation of Report template to populate a Screening Form	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore possibility of doing a “data dump” of names (and what else) of children in child welfare custody to generate a report on all kids in care in the state from Data Warehouse (both aggregate and disaggregate information) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How often updated? How up to date information will be? 2. Set up meeting with Data Warehouse folks and DHS and include DHS representative at future meetings and planning of Data Warehouse. 	Susan, Doug, CW Providers, School Staff, Thomas Mayes	June 2009	Data requested by Mayes, May 2010
D. Sharing Education information- new Data Warehouse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to collect baseline data. What state or local data exist that show how children in foster care are doing educationally in Iowa now? 2. What minimal efforts could be put in place to gather some beginning data to use as baseline now before various system improvements are 	Susan and Mary	June 2009	Data requested by Mayes, May 2010

	implemented?	Jim Addie and Mary		
E. Data Scan of Current Environment		Shuxin Cui, DHS Data	May-June 09	Initated May 2009