

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
West Virginia Department of Education and Children's Home Society of West Virginia
PROVIDING FOR THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

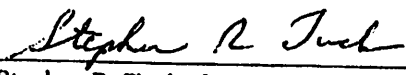
Overview. West Virginia's county school systems, hereinafter referred to as the local education agency (LEA), each have a uniquely designed mission to successfully educate children in their home communities. The Children's Home Society of West Virginia (CHS) has the mission to "promote the well-being of children. CHS's current efforts are directed at helping children find lifetime families, protecting and nurturing children, and helping preserve and strengthen families." The two organizations share a common interest in ensuring that children in foster care have educational stability and achieve their educational goals.

Intent. Building on a current relationship that benefits West Virginia's children, the two organizations have therefore agreed to further work together in partnership as follows:

- CHS will provide case management services for the foster child, working together with the foster family to achieve the child's permanency plan. When the permanency plan is reunification, CHS will work with biological family members. CHS is accountable to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) who is the child's custodial agent.
- LEA will fulfil their role as educator and ensure school personnel maintain the confidentiality of the child's information.
- CHS and LEA will coordinate and collaborate to maintain school stability for the child in the areas of attendance, achievement, daily functioning, and behavior.
- CHS and LEA will strive for timely and appropriate enrollment and transfer of foster children when moves occur. CHS will assist in obtaining previous school records.
- LEA and CHS, along with the child's foster parents, will support needed testing, educational planning, and support services.
- LEA and CHS, in partnership with the child and their foster parents will participate in foster youth's educational transition planning, beginning at age 14.

Key legislation supporting these actions includes the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (2008) and West Virginia House Bill 4092 regarding Foster Care (2020). The Foster Child Bill of Rights is included within House Bill 4092.

General Provisions. While this document expresses our desire and intent to continue working together for the benefit of West Virginia's children, it is not a legally binding document. ♦ Nothing in the MOU will be deemed, construed, or implied by any party, or by any third party, as creating the relationship of principal and agent, partners, or joint ventures between the parties. ♦ No employee, or any party to this MOU, shall become an employee of any of the other parties by virtue of this MOU. ♦ This MOU can be amended only in writing signed by both parties. ♦ Any party may terminate this agreement with a written, thirty (30) day notice. ♦ If any part of this MOU is contrary to any federal, state, or local law, it would then be considered not applicable and invalid.



Stephen R. Tuck, CEO
Children's Home Society of West Virginia

10/27/2020

Date

County School System Name

Signature, County School Representative
Printed Name: _____

Date