

## Appendix B

### Best Interest Determination Evaluation Form

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Identifier ("personally identifiable" number): \_\_\_\_\_

Current School and Supervisory Union/School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous School(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Recommendation:** Student should remain in current school *unless* consideration of the following factors indicates that *a change of school placement is in the child's best interest.*

Considerations ( <i>check only if answer is "Yes"</i> )	Yes
1. The child's permanency goal, plan and expected date for achieving the permanency support a change in school placement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The parents/prior custodians or child believe that changing schools is in the child's best interest. <i>If so, state why:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The length of the commute to return to the current school would negatively impact the child.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The child's current school environment is negatively impacting the child ( <i>e.g., bullying, etc.</i> ) and the child wants to change schools. <i>If so, state why:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The child has only attended the current school for a short time or is not attached to the school. <i>Consider:</i> What are the child's ties to his or her current school, including significant relationships and involvement in extracurricular activities?)	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Safety considerations favor a change in school placement. <i>If so, state why:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Transferring schools will positively impact the child's <i>social, emotional, behavioral well-being</i> , and/or <i>academics</i> ( <i>e.g., the child's siblings attend the new school</i> ). <i>Consider:</i> Trauma affects learning, including, attention, concentration, mood, interpersonal trust, and communication. A child who has experienced trauma can benefit immensely from remaining in their same classroom and school, even when they move to a new home or a new part of town.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The new school will better meet the child's academic needs. <i>Consider:</i> How is the child performing academically in the current school? What are the child's academic/career goals? Does the child's new school have programs and activities that address the unique needs or interests of the student that the current school does not have?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Considerations ( <i>check only if answer is "Yes"</i> )	Yes
9. The new school will better meet the child's special education needs. <i>Consider:</i> Is the child receiving any special education services from his or her current school? Does the child participate in other specialized instruction (e.g., gifted program, technical program) that would be impacted by a school move?	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Changing schools will <i>NOT</i> undermine child's ability to stay on track to graduate. <i>Consider:</i> How would changing schools affect the student's ability to earn full academic credit, participate in sports or other extra-curricular activities, proceed to the next grade, or graduate on time? Does the new school have programs and activities that address the unique needs or interests of the student that the prior school does not have?	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. The timing of the school transfer will <i>NOT</i> undermine school success. <i>Consider:</i> Would the timing of the school transfer coincide with a logical juncture in the child's academic or personal progress (e.g., after an event that is significant to the child or end of the school year)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Were the child, child's biological parent and child's school informed of meeting, invited to attend and/or to provide information about decision?	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Did you ask youth their opinion? Where does the child/youth want to go to school and why?	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Documentation and Records

Which of these were used for BID? *Check all that apply and include in chart:*

- |   |                                      |                                    |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report cards     | <input type="checkbox"/> IEP         | <input type="checkbox"/> Emails or |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Progress reports | <input type="checkbox"/> 504 Plan    | correspondence                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Achievement data | <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinated | from individuals                   |
| (test scores)                             | Services Plan (or                    | consulted                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance data  | Act 264 Plan)                        |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____     |                                      |                                    |

### Best Interest Determination Recommendation

- ☐ *The student shall remain in the same school where the child is currently enrolled.*

School: \_\_\_\_\_ SU / SD: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Transportation will be paid for by what agency? \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ *Based on the best interest determination, a change in school placement is needed.*

School: \_\_\_\_\_ SU / SD: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual responsible for enrolling child in school: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: If a change in educational placement is needed, enrollment should take place immediately with all education records provided to the new school.**