Foster Care & Education Checklist

School Readiness

- ☐ Children up to 3 years old assessed for Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services. 34 C.F.R. Part 303
- ☐ Children ages 0-5 enrolled in Early Head Start, Head Start, or Pre-Kindergarten. 45 C.F.R. § 1305.2; Tex. Educ. Code § 29.153(b)

School Stability

- ☐ Child remains enrolled in and has transportation to the school the child attended prior to removal. Tex. Educ. Code § 25.001(a)
- ☐ Child remains in the school where the child is currently enrolled unless it is not in their best interest, regardless of additional placement changes. Tex. Educ. Code § 25.001(g), (g-1)
- ☐ School changes occur at the end of grading periods. **(Best Practice)**
- ☐ School changes do not conflict with standardized testing or final exams. **(Best Practice)**

Education Decision-Making

- ☐ DFPS has conservatorship and designated an Education Decision-Maker (EDM). Tex. Fam. Code § 153.371
- ☐ Parent retains or other person given specific education-related rights as appropriate. Tex. Fam. Code §§ 153.073, 153.371
- ☐ DFPS provided EDM Form 2085-E to child's school and information regarding the EDM filed with court. Tex. Fam. Code § 263.004
- ☐ Surrogate parent appointed to make decisions regarding special education if a foster parent is unwilling or unable to fulfill that role. Tex. Fam. Code § 263.0025

School Enrollment

- ☐ Child must attend their current school or be enrolled in a new school within three school days. Tex. Fam. Code § 264.115
- ☐ Education record or credit transfer issues addressed by court as necessary. Tex. Educ. Code § 25.007(b)

School Placement and School Success

Tex. Fam. Code §§ 263.306(G), 263.5031(J)

- ☐ Have the child's preferences regarding school placement and educational goals been discussed and considered?
- ☐ Child is enrolled in a school placement that meets their educational needs and is consistent with school stability requirements.
- ☐ Child academic progress is monitored, and supports are in place if the child is not performing at grade level.
- ☐ Additional school supports addressed as needed.
- ☐ Child involved in extracurricular activities.
- ☐ Discipline issues addressed (truancy, suspension, expulsion, restraints).
- ☐ Caregiver has completed any required documentation regarding the prohibition of corporal punishment in school. Tex. Educ. Code § 37.0011

Foster Care and Education Checklist

continued

Post-Secondary Education

Tex. Fam. Code §§ 263.306(G), 263.5031(J)

- ☐ If the youth is at least grade 9, personal graduation plan created and graduation endorsement chosen (this is in addition to the Foundation High School Program in STEM, Business & Industry, Public Services, Arts & Humanities, or Multi-Disciplinary Studies). Tex. Educ. Code § 28.025

Post-Secondary Education

- ☐ Youth has identified postsecondary education, training, employment, military, or career goals and a plan to achieve them. **(Best Practice)**
- ☐ Child and caregiver know about high school graduation requirements and how to prepare and apply for post-secondary education. 42 U.S.C. § 677; Tex. Educ. Code §§ 54.366, 54.367
- ☐ Child and caregiver know how to contact the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) coordinator and have information about the Tuition and Fee Waiver. Tex Educ. Code § 54.366

Special Education

34 C.F.R. Part 300

- ☐ Primary purpose is to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) that emphasizes special education and related services tailored to their unique needs.
- ☐ If needed, child evaluated for special education services.
- ☐ If eligible:
  - Date of child's last Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee meeting.
  - Child has Individualized Education Program (IEP) that is current, appropriate, and in place.
  - ARD committee meets at least one time annually.
  - If child transfers schools, previous IEP implemented or a new IEP is developed and approved by ARD committee.
  - Transition planning is included in the IEP and is coordinated beginning no later than the age required under applicable federal and state special education requirements.