



Vannessa L. Dorantes
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor

Memorandum

To: Licensed Caregivers
From: Debra Borzellino, Statewide Director of Foster Care
CC: Tina Jefferson, Chief of Child Welfare
Date: August 28, 2020
Subject: **2020/2021 Foster Family School Decisions**

In consideration of children and caregivers' safety along with various school hybrid schedules, the Department of Children and Families is empowering our caregivers to make decisions regarding in-person/distance learning plans on behalf of the children in their care, based upon the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard outlined below:

The standard is characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the child's health, safety, and best interests while at the same time encouraging the child's emotional and developmental growth, that a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in out-of-home care to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, social and cultural activities.

Caregivers must use a Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard to determine if the child can participate in age-appropriate activity considering:

- ✚ The child's age, maturity and developmental level
- ✚ Activities comply with child's case plan
- ✚ Best interest of the child
- ✚ Importance of child's emotional & developmental growth
- ✚ Family-like living experience
- ✚ Behavioral history of the child & child's ability to safely participate in activity

When making the decision whether to send the child in your care to school for in-person learning or opting exclusively for distance learning, please make sure you take the following factors into consideration:

1. As caregivers, meeting the educational needs of the children in your care is paramount. Distance learning is a time commitment that requires patience, oversight and personal involvement.
2. If you decide to send the children in your care to school, children are required to wear masks (unless documented underlying medical issue) during transportation and in-person learning, in compliance with the school's requirements, as well as follow, all other recommended CDC guidelines.

Transportation:

As a reminder, we are encouraging our foster parents to provide transportation to and from school for children without an IEP and natural supports. The department will reimburse foster parents at the rate of \$15 per hour plus mileage.

We are grateful for your continued partnership, dedication and willingness to care for Connecticut's children. If you have questions, please feel free to contact your CPS Social Worker and /or FASU Support Social Worker.