INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

Report to
The Indiana Legislative Council
on
The 21st Century Scholars Program

November 2010

Per IC 31-25-2-4.5, once every twelve (12) months, the Department of Child Services (DCS) shall submit a report to the Legislative Services Council that provides the following information:

1. data and statistical information regarding the number of individuals receiving foster care who are notified of the twenty first century scholars program under IC 21-12-6 and IC 21-12-6.5, including the percentage of individuals receiving foster care who are notified.
2. information regarding how the department notifies individuals in foster care of the twenty first century scholars program under IC 21-12-6 and IC 21-12-6.5.

Background

During the 2009 legislative session, the General Assembly added IC 21-12- 6.5 Eligibility for Twenty-First Century Scholars Program for Foster Care Youth as a part of HEA 1681. This chapter makes all foster youth eligible for the Twenty- First Century Scholars Program provided they sign up prior to high school graduation.

Notification of the Twenty- First Century Scholars Program

As a result of the changes made by HEA 1681, DCS updated three of its existing policies and created one new policy, all with an effective date of July 1, 2010. On June 16, 2010 the DCS Policy Division notified all DCS staff via e-mail of the changes made to the following policies:

- 8.20 Out-of-Home Services: Educational Services,
- 7.6 In-Home Services: Educational Services,
- 11.10 Independent Living: Education and Training Voucher Program and,
- 11.15 Independent Living: Post-Secondary Education (***New Policy)**

Per DCS policy 7.6 and 8.20, all DCS wards (foster children) in the 6th through 12th grade will be provided information about the Twenty-First Century Scholars Program by their Family Case Manager (FCM). In addition to providing the foster child with information about the program, the FCM is also required to ensure that the foster child completes and submits the application for the Twenty- First Century Scholars Program. The FCM is responsible for:

1. Assisting the youth in completing the application,
2. Signing the application to verify the youth is in foster care, and
3. Ensuring the youth and caregiver sign an Acknowledgement of Receipt of Information about Various Educational Programs (see attached). The FCM will provide the youth and caregiver with a copy and place the original in the youth's case file.

Data and Statistical Information

DCS is able to document that the each foster child has received information about the Twenty-First Century Scholars Program with the Acknowledgement of Receipt of Information about Various Educational Programs form. The foster child and caregiver must sign the form acknowledging that they have received information about the Twenty-First Century Scholars Program and a signed copy of the form is kept in the child's DCS case file. Through the implementation of policy DCS is able to ensure that 100% of foster children in the 6th through 12th grade receive information about the Twenty-First Century Scholars Program.

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Acknowledgement of Receipt of Information about Various Educational Programs

Child's Name: _____ ICWIS #: _____

Section A: This section is to be completed for children in 7th or 8th grade.

I/We acknowledge that the Department of Child Services (DCS) has provided us with information about applying for the 21st Century Scholars program during 7th or 8th grade.

_____ _____
Signature of Child Date

_____ _____
Signature of Caregiver Date

I affirm that I have presented the above child and caregiver with information about the 21st Century Scholars Program.

- ☐ The child has completed the application for the program on _____.
- ☐ The child has not completed the application for the program.

_____ _____
Signature of Family Case Manager (FCM) Date

Section B: This section is to be completed for all children in grades 9 – 12.

I/We acknowledge that the Department of Child Services (DCS) has provided us with information about applying for the 21st Century Scholars program during 9th - 12th grade.

_____ _____
Signature of Child Date

_____ _____
Signature of Caregiver Date

* See page 2 for required FCM signature. *

Note: A copy of this form must be provided to the child and to the child's current caregiver. The hard copy of this form must be placed in the child's case file.

I affirm that I have presented the above child and caregiver with information about the 21st Century Scholars Program if they were not already enrolled in the program.

- ☐ The child was already enrolled in the program.
- ☐ The child has completed the application for the program on _____.
- ☐ The child has not completed the application for the program.

_____ _____

Signature of Family Case Manager (FCM) Date

Section C: This section is to be completed for all children at their Transition Planning Case Conference which must be held at age 17.

I/We acknowledge that the Department of Child Services (DCS) has provided us with information about each of the following:

- ☐ Pell grants
- ☐ Chafee grants
- ☐ Federal supplemental grants
- ☐ The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- ☐ State Student Assistance Commission.

I/We understand the deadlines for each of the programs listed above and know who to contact for further information about each one.

_____ _____

Signature of Child Date

_____ _____

Signature of Caregiver Date

I have presented the above child and caregiver with information about each of the following:

- ☐ Pell grants
- ☐ Chafee grants
- ☐ Federal supplemental grants
- ☐ Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- ☐ State Student Assistance Commission.

I have informed the child and family about College Goal Sunday and have talked with them about the deadlines for each program listed above.

_____ _____

Signature of Family Case Manager (FCM) Date

Note: A copy of this form must be provided to the child and to the child's current caregiver. The hard copy of this form must be placed in the child's case file.