

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 7: In-Home Services Section 06: Educational Services	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 9

POLICY OVERVIEW

Children do better in school when their home life and well-being are safe and stable. School help is given to the child and family through a plan to support the child's learning goals.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will work with the Indiana Department of Education (DOE), local school, and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to make sure a child receiving in-home services get the educational services that meet their needs. If a child is expelled from school, DCS will assist the parent, guardian, or custodian in identifying an alternate education plan.

DCS will make sure every school-age child receiving in-home services is enrolled in school unless one (1) of the following situations exists:

1. The youth is working on the High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma;
2. The school has suggested a different learning plan;

Note: If this plan is part of the Dispositional Order or the main reason DCS is helping, the plan should be submitted to the court for approval.

3. The youth have already finished high school or have earned their HSE Diploma;
4. The child is enrolled in a home school program and is learning at the same age and grade level as a child in a public school; or

Exception: Education through an accredited school is the best in most situations. However, home school or private school education may best meet the child's educational needs in some situations. The decision to pursue home school or private school education shall be decided in a Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting and agreed on by the parent, guardian, or custodian.

5. A doctor says the child has a health condition that keeps them from going to school.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 20-33-2: Compulsory School Attendance](#)
- [IC 21-12-6-5.5: Identification and notification of eligible students](#)
- [IC 21-12-6-6.7: FAFSA](#)
- [IC 31-34-15-4: \(Case Plan\) Form; contents](#)
- [511 IAC 7-32 through 511 IAC 7-49: Special Education](#)
- [20 USC 1232: Regulations](#)