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# INDEPENDENT LIVING: EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

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§ 409.1451(3)(B) FLA. STAT. (2007), AND 65C-28, F.A.C.

*Upon turning 13 a foster child must choose an educational goal and a career path. This educational plan shall be reviewed at each judicial hearing as part of the case plan, and can be changed at any time at the request of the child.*

**Age:** Upon turning 13

## Participants

- Child
- foster parents, if applicable
- the department or community-based provider
- teacher or other school staff member
- if held during Independent Living Staffing – must meet the requirements of Independent Living Staffings (*see Independent Living Staffings Guidelines*)

## Requirements

- Set early achievement and career goals for the child's postsecondary educational and work experience.
- Convenient to the child
- The department and community-based providers shall discuss post secondary goals with child and foster parents and the coursework necessary to reach the chosen goal.
- Department shall ensure that the child's case plan includes an educational and career path based upon both the child's abilities and interests
- Services worker shall encourage the child to choose and achieve realistic goals
- The services worker shall discuss with the child his or her potential limitations, including physical, emotional, and behavioral limitations
- The service worker shall accommodate the needs of children served in exceptional education programs
  - follow the courses outlined in the district school board student progression plan -- IEP plan
- Children shall choose one of the following post secondary goals:
  - 4-year college or university, a community college plus university, or a military academy;
  - 2-year postsecondary degree;
  - postsecondary career and technical certificate or credential; or
  - Beginning immediate employment, including apprenticeship, after completion of a high school diploma or its equivalent, or
  - enlisting in the military.
- The department along with other participants (above) shall identify:

- high school participation choices and college or vocational school entrance requirements
- The core courses necessary
- Any elective courses, which would provide additional help in reaching a chosen goal.
- The grade point requirement and any additional information necessary
- Mentor: A teacher, other school staff member, employee of the department or community-based care provider, or community volunteer who would be willing to work with the child as an academic advocate or mentor if foster parent involvement is insufficient or unavailable.
- ☐ The child shall not be told that a career or educational option is unavailable unless an explanation is given and ways to overcome perceived obstacles are explored
- ☐ Information must be reduced to writing
- ☐ Signed by child
- ☐ Written report must be provided to court – attached to JR

### **Review/Accountability**

- ☐ The educational path shall be reviewed at each judicial hearing as part of the case plan
- ☐ Child may change educational path choices and a new educational plan must be developed