

**Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services  
(CCDCFS)  
Policy Statement**

**Policy Chapter:** Substitute Care  
**Policy Number:** 6.01.08  
**Policy Name:** Socialization and Education of Children in Substitute Care

**Original Effective Date:** 01/30/1999  
**Revision Date(s):** 02/01/2013, 09/21/2009, 04/17/2000  
**Current Revision Date:** 04/01/2016  
**Approved By:** Thomas D. Pristow

**PURPOSE:** To establish procedures for and outline the rights of children in out-of-home care as they relate to socialization, school enrollment/ attendance and participation in school and community activities in accordance with state laws and rules governing out-of-home care.

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to all staff of the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS), all foster parents (CCDCFS and non-CCDCFS), all private foster care agencies that provide contracted services to CCDCFS and relative caregivers who provide care for children in the custody of CCDCFS.

**POLICY**

- A. It is the responsibility of the caregiver to ensure that the children for whom they are providing substitute care attend school and are given the opportunity to take part in activities.
- B. It is the responsibility of the child's Worker of Record (WOR) and the Resource Manager (RM) to ensure that every caregiver understands and adheres to this policy.

**PROCEDURES**

- A. A caregiver will allow privileges and assign responsibilities to a foster child which are similar to those which would be assigned to a family member who is of similar age and functioning level as the foster child.
- B. A caregiver will make arrangements with CCDCFS for each school-age foster child to attend a public school which complies with the minimum standards as prescribed by the State Department of Education and ensure that the foster child attends school in accordance with the Individual Child Care Arrangement (ICCA). Director approval is required for enrollment in any alternative educational program such as charter/religious, private or non-public school.
- C. CCDCFS does not permit home schooling for a foster child except for extraordinary situations as determined on a case by case basis. The agency Director's approval is required for enrollment in any alternative educational program such as charter schools, religious schools, private and non-public

schools. A caregiver who provides home schooling to the foster child may do so only with the prior approval of CCDCFs as granted by the Director. Any home schooling program must be approved by the caregiver's home school district.

- D. CCDCFs staff will work in collaboration with the caregiver, school and other stakeholders to ensure that every child is provided the opportunity to achieve his/her full educational potential.
- E. In an effort to optimize the child's educational experience, the caregiver will, as appropriate, actively participate in the child's educational development. Caregivers are expected to attend school open houses and/or conferences, assist with homework and support the child's participation in extra-curricular activities.
- F. The caregiver will encourage and arrange for a foster child to participate in community, school, recreational activities and cultural heritage activities which are appropriate to his/ her age and functioning level and will, as is necessary and reasonable, arrange appropriate transportation for the child to attend such activities. When making these decisions, the caregiver will use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard: "The standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain a 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 the care of the caregiver to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities" (ACYF-CB-IM-14-03, 2014; ORC 5103.162, 2014)
- G. The caregiver will, as appropriate, teach the foster child tasks and skills required for life in the community.
- H. Caregivers will ensure that each foster child placed in their home who is not capable of meeting his/ her own personal hygiene needs is clean and groomed daily. Clothing and footwear is to be clean, well-fitting, seasonal and appropriate to the child's age and sex. Foster children capable of meeting their own personal hygiene needs will be provided with adequate personal toiletry supplies appropriate to the child's age, sex, race and national origin. Caregivers will provide each foster child instruction on proper habits of personal care, hygiene, and grooming appropriate to the child's age, sex, race, national origin and need for training.

**SEE ALSO:**

Ohio Administrative Code Section 5101:2-5  
Ohio Administrative Code Section 5101:2-7  
Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.315  
Ohio Revised Code Section 5103.162

Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services Policies and Procedures Manual:

Policy 6.01.03 Placement Into Out of Home Care Setting  
Policy 6.01.07 Religious Practices and Participation of Children in Substitute Care