

Re-entry and Finding School Success

Tips for Parents, Guardians, and Youth

It is important to know your legal rights when leaving out-of-home placement and re-entering your community and school. There are also many simple things that you can do as a parent, guardian, or youth to advocate for yourself or your child at school.

Before Leaving Out-of-Home Placement

- ✓ Participate in the school program in your out-of-home placement.
 - Ask if your courses follow the standard curriculum. Ask how credit transfer will work back to your home school. If interested, ask about vocational opportunities.
- ✓ Participate in any meetings – such as Child and Family Team meetings and school meetings – about your discharge from the out-of-home placement, including conversations about your return to school.
 - In whatever way you are able, always be “at the table” (i.e. in person, via phone, etc.) when decisions are being made about you or your child.
 - Ask how staff in your out-of-home placement or from the court will help your transition back to your home school district
- ✓ Ask if appropriate supports (ex. special education, LEP services) are being provided in the out-of-home placement.
- ✓ Speak up about what you want and need in your school transition. Speak up about your strengths.
- ✓ Take notes during meetings and phone calls.
- ✓ If necessary, ask for an interpreter and/or translation of documents.
- ✓ Ask questions if you do not understand something.

Immediately After Re-Entering Your Community

- ✓ Work with court counselors, as needed, to immediately re-enroll in your home school district. Advocate for appropriate credit transfer and enrollment.
- ✓ Carefully read all documents sent to you by the school. Call the school if you do not understand something. If necessary, ask for translation of the documents into another language.
- ✓ When asking something of the school, put it in writing and keep a copy.
- ✓ Request a meeting with the school if you believe the supports you need (ex. special education) are not being provided.

Moving Forward:

- ✓ Know your school rights.
- ✓ Read the student-parent handbook, which is usually found on the school district’s website and/or at your student’s school.
- ✓ Choose at least one trusted contact person at your new school who can be a support to you. Remember that re-entry is a process, and it is normal to need support.
- ✓ Ask teachers or community volunteers for free tutoring or resources.
- ✓ If possible, get involved with the school by joining a school organization or going to school events.
- ✓ Bring someone with you to any meetings who can help support you and help take notes (family member, friend, mental health provider, mentor, etc.).
- ✓ **Ask for legal help when you need it.**

Advocates for Children’s Services of Legal Aid of North Carolina

For additional resources: www.legalaidnc.org/acs

To apply for legal services: 1-866-219-5262



The information included here is not legal advice and does not cover all rights and remedies, or apply in every situation