GUIDANCE FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE: FEES AND ABSENCES

This document was created to provide guidance on school fees and absences for students in foster care. The information provided in this document comes from house bill 18-1306 and Colorado revised statute 22-32-138. Please note that the guidance from these sources is not mandated by law, but provides options for education providers to be flexible in assessing fees and absences for youth in foster care.

Fees:

An education provider in which a student in out-of-home placement is enrolled shall waive all fees that would otherwise be assessed against the student, including but not limited to any general fees, fees for books, fees for lab work, fees for participation in in-school or extracurricular activities, and fees for before-school and after-school programs. The education provider shall not limit the opportunity of a student in out-of-home placement to participate in in-school and extracurricular activities and before-school and after-school programs due to waiver of the participation fees.

A school district or school shall not delay the transfer of the education information and records of a student in an out-of-home placement for any reason, including but not limited to the existence of any unpaid fees or fines that the student may have outstanding at the school from which the student is transferring.

Absences:

A student in an out-of-home placement shall receive an excused absence from the school district or school in which the student is enrolled for any time the student is out of school due to a required court appearance or participation in court-ordered activity, including but not limited to family visitation or therapy. The assigned caseworker should contact the school to excuse these absences. It's important to note that school attendance is important to continuity in course instruction as well as student engagement; therefore it is a best practice to schedule appointments outside school hours or make prior arrangements with teachers to receive assignments to ensure the student keeps current and does not fall behind.