National Data Toolkit:
MOU Data Elements

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LEGAL CENTER FOR
FOSTER CARE & EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION:

Data sharing and collaboration between child welfare and education agencies promote positive educational outcomes for students in foster care. These students often experience frequent moves and educational challenges. Agencies must work together to provide coordinated support to facilitate smooth school transitions, identify educational needs, manage attendance and disciplinary issues, ensure student engagement, and help them graduate. To ensure youth in foster care receive comprehensive educational support, including opportunities for higher education, states must securely connect essential foster care and K–12 data.

MOUs should outline which data points will be collected and shared by which party. At the individual level, a more comprehensive list of data points can give agencies a better picture of a student's background and needs. At the aggregate level, it can promote accountability and demonstrate areas for improvement.

Below are some of the possible student-specific data elements that could be shared.

Student Identifying Information
(Typically Ed & CW)

- Name
- Date of birth
- Unique Student Identification number *(Ed only)*
- Contact information
- Demographics (sex, gender identify, race/ethnicity)
- ELL status (Ed only)

Student Placement Information
(CW)

- Foster care status
- Caregiver(s)
- Address
- Placement history

Caseworker Information (CW)

- Name
- Contact information
- Previous caseworkers
- Names/contact information of others who work with the student

School Information (Ed)

- Current school
- Type of school (i.e. neighborhood district, charter, residential, etc.)
- Type of education setting (i.e. traditional classroom, virtual, self-contained classroom)
- School district of residence
- School of origin
- School enrollment history
  - Reason for previous school moves
  - Include preschool/early education

Educational Decision Maker (Typically CW)

- Whether parent(s) has retained EDM rights
- Whether there's another person or people designated as the student's EDM and their information
- Whether student has other designated Education Advocate and their information *(Ed or CW)*

Other (Ed)

- Participation in academic support programs or extracurriculars
- English language learner status
- Higher education application/enrollment/completion status

Credits/Graduation Progress/Grades (Ed)

- Grade level
- Transcripts
- Report cards/progress reports
- GPA
- Graduation Plan
- Participation in education tracks, i.e.:
  - Career/technical education
  - Gifted/talented education
  - AP/IB/college dual-enroll

Attendance (Ed)

- Number of absences
  - Excused/unexcused absences
- Truancy status/history

Standardized Test Scores (Ed)

- Statewide testing
- College prep testing (i.e. ACT/SAT)

Discipline (Typically Ed)

- Disciplinary incident history
- Suspensions/days missed due to suspension
- Expulsions
- Truancy referrals *(could be CW or other agency)*

Special Education (Ed)

- Evaluations
- IEP/504 plans (current and previous)
- IEP progress reports
- Records related to services provided

AGGREGATE-LEVEL DATA ELEMENTS
(for comparison with general student rates)

- Enrollment rates (broken down by grade, school type, race/ethnicity, etc.)
- Graduation rate: 4-year and 6-year
- % meeting academic proficiency standards on state assessments

- Suspension/expulsion rates
- Chronic absentee rate
- College attendance rate
- % who have an IEP
- % enrolled in AP/IB classes
- % in gifted/talented programs