

BROADCAST 6625

DATE: November 23, 2010

TO: Local Department of social Services (LDSS) Directors,  
Permanency/Foster Care Supervisors and Social Workers, Licensed Child  
Placing Agencies, Resource Families

FROM: Paul D. McWhinney, Director, Division of Family Services  
Therese Wolf, Permanency Program Manager

SUBJECT: Fostering Connections to Success Educational Webinar - December 14,  
2010

TIME: 12:21 p.m.

CONTACT: Peyton McCoy (804) 726-7944 or [Peyton.McCoy@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:Peyton.McCoy@dss.virginia.gov)

On Tuesday, December 14, 2010, two information webinar sessions will be held to promote awareness on the educational components of the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. Session times are: 10:00 to 11:15 am and 1:00 to 2:15 pm. This information is relevant to local social workers, school social workers, school personnel, advocates, foster parents, and private agency staff.

Educational stability is one of the primary objectives of the Fostering Connections to Success legislation which was unanimously passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law on October 7, 2008. The Act contains language to ensure school stability for children in out-of-home care. It applies both to students eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act as “awaiting foster care placement” and those in foster care but not eligible under McKinney-Vento. The Fostering Connections Act requires that the child welfare agency coordinate with local education agencies to ensure educational stability for every child in foster care. The LDSS and the schools must collaborate in determining the school placement that is in every child’s best interest when his or her placement changes.

Pursuant to this legislation, advocates, educators, social workers, and stakeholders interested in the educational needs and outcomes of youth in foster care and older adopted youth convened to form an education work group dedicated to the implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success legislation in Virginia. The workgroup developed tools to facilitate collaborative implementation of the Act aligned with the best interest of the youth. These tools include (a) *The Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Social Services Joint Guidance on Best Interest Determination for School Placement*, (b) *The Best interest Determination for School Placement Form*, and (c) *The Immediate Enrollment of Child in Foster Care Form*. The primary purpose of the webinar is to present and explain these tools. An information packet will also be made available and will include:

- The Fostering Connections to Success Legislation
- The Virginia Code and regulations

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)
- Vignettes (i.e., snapshots of types of scenarios youth experience)
- Guidance Documents
- Department of Education Superintendent's Memo
- A transportation handout
- Helpful information prepared by the American Bar Association

Participants can register for the webinar at » [Webpage](#) and entering "education" in the search field or by contacting Peyton McCoy.