School Selection: A Checklist for Decision Making

| School of Origin Considerations | | Local Attendance Area School Considerations | |
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| | Continuity of instruction Student is best served due to circumstances that look to his or her past. | | Continuity of instruction Student is best served due to circumstances that look to his or her future. |
| | Age and grade placement of the student Maintaining friends and contacts with peers is critical to the student's meaningful school experience and participation. | | Age and grade placement of the student Maintaining friends and contacts with peers in the school of origin is not particularly critical to the student's meaningful school experience and participation. |
| | Academic strength The child's academic performance is weak, and the child would fall further behind if he/she transferred to another school. | | Academic strength The child's academic performance is strong and at grade level, and the child would likely recover academically from a school transfer. |
| | Social and emotional state The child is suffering from the effects of mobility, has developed strong ties to the current school, and does not want to leave. | | Social and emotional state The child seems to be coping adequately with mobility, does not feel strong ties to the current school, and does not mind transferring. |
| | Distance of the commute and its impact on the student's education and/or special needs The advantages of remaining in the school of origin outweigh any potential disadvantages presented by the length of the commute. | | Distance of the commute and its impact on the student's education and/or special needs A shorter commute may help the student's concentration, attitude, or readiness for school. |
| | Personal safety of the student The school of origin has advantages for the safety of the student. | | Personal safety of the student The local attendance area school has advantages for the safety of the student. |
| | Student's need for special instruction The student's need for special instruction, such as Section 504 or special education and related services, can be met better at the school of origin. | | Student's need for special instruction The student's need for special instruction, such as Section 504 or special education and related services, can be met better at the local attendance area school. |
| | Length of anticipated stay in a temporary shelter or other temporary location The student's current living situation is outside of the school-of-origin attendance zone, but his/her living situation or location continues to be uncertain. The student will benefit from the continuity offered by remaining in the school of origin. | | Length of anticipated stay in a temporary shelter or other temporary location The student's current living situation appears stable and unlikely to change suddenly; the student will benefit from developing relationships with school peers who live in his local community. |