

Transitioning Schools: Enrollment & Extracurricular Activities

Adult & Child

Therapeutic Foster Care Licensing
Program

Do Some Research

- School Options – District, Magnet, Charter, Private
 - School Data & Accountability
<http://www.doe.in.gov/accountability/find-school-and-corporation-data-reports>
 - Indianapolis Schools Enrollment Info
<http://www.greatschools.org/indiana/indianapolis/enrollment/>
 - K-12 School Websites
<http://mustang.doe.in.gov/dg/schools/welcome.html>
 - Scholarships for Choice Schools (Private Vouchers – foster youth qualify) <http://doe.in.gov/choice>

What to Bring With You

- Birth certificate*
 - K = IN eligibility is 5YO on or before August 1
 - Continuity of Services
- Immunization records*
- Proof of residency*
- Proof of legal guardianship (from DCS)
- Your own ID

*Foster youth cannot be denied enrollment if their personal documents are not immediately available.

Enrollment Packets

- You will be asked to complete a registration form that generally includes:
 - Basic demographics of student (birthdate, race, gender, last school, etc.)
 - Guardian information (contact #s, address, etc.)
 - Family information (siblings w/ age/gender)
 - Home language & residency information
 - Emergency contact information
 - Immunization data (CHIRP, records)
 - Medical conditions, alerts, current medications, hospital preference
 - Releases for internet use and photographs/video
 - Transcript or educational records request

Information to Obtain - Day 1

- School calendar
 - Daily times, dates of non-school days
 - Grading periods, other school events
- Student handbook
 - Policies for attendance, discipline, homework, textbooks, uniforms, etc.
 - Map or tour of building
- Access to Student Information System (SIS)
- Contact information (teacher, attendance, etc.)

Information to Obtain - Throughout the Year & As Needed

- Student progress:
 - Grades
 - Benchmark assessment data
 - DIBELS, mCLASS, NWEA, Acuity
 - Standardized test calendar
 - IREAD 3, ISTEP+, WIDA, NAEP, ECAs, PSAT, ACCUPLACER, AP exams, ACT/SAT
- School-sponsored opportunities
 - Extracurricular activities; tutoring, remediation, & enrichment options; before- & after-school programs

Extracurricular Activities

- **Athletics**
 - Seasonal: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling
- **Clubs**
 - Academic Bowl, Art, Band, BPA, Cheerleading, Chess, Choir, Debate, Drama, DECA, Foreign Language, FFA, LGBTQ, Newspaper, Pep, Robotics, SADD, STEM, Tech, Yearbook, etc.
- **Student Leadership/Government**
 - Student Council, National Honors Society, School Ambassadors, etc.
- **Volunteer/Community Service Organizations**
 - Habitat for Humanity, Junior League, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Key Club International, Kids Against Hunger, etc.
- **Community- & Church-based Activities**
 - Gleaner's Food Bank, Optimist's League, United Way, YMCA, Youth Group, etc.
 - <http://indywithkids.com/>, <http://www.aroundindy.com/>

Benefits of Participating in Athletics

- **Physical Gains:**
 - Reduced risk of obesity
 - Increased cardiovascular fitness
 - Healthy growth of bones, muscles, ligaments and tendons
 - Improved coordination and balance
 - A greater ability to physically relax and, therefore, avoid the complications of chronic muscular tension (such as headache or back ache)
 - Improved sleep
 - Mental health benefits, such as greater confidence

Benefits of Participating in Athletics

- **Personal Development:**
 - Builds self-esteem, self-respect and dignity
 - Provides social interaction with peers and adults
 - Helps develop talents
 - Teaches sportsmanship and how to control emotions
 - Teaches teamwork
 - Shows kids how to play within the rules
 - Teaches kids how to deal with adversity by showing them it is all right to make a mistake
 - Instills self-discipline and an awareness of the value of preparation
 - Teaches kids how to deal with criticism
 - Provides leadership opportunities
 - Fosters a sense of community by providing a sense of belonging or to be part of a group
 - Teaches time management and the value of planning ahead
 - Develops skills for handling success and failure
 - Provides a stress relief from academic and social pressures

Importance of Getting Involved

- Participating in extracurricular activities protects young men and women from risky behaviors and delinquency.
 - While it was previously believed that participation in sports would decrease delinquency in boys, it actually did not have a significant protective effect. However, the reverse was true for **girls, whose risk for delinquent behavior was reduced significantly if they took part in sports.** Other activities, such as **church and after-school community activities, decreased the risk of delinquency in boys, but not for girls.**

Importance of Getting Involved

- **Involvement in church and non-school activities, for both young men and women, significantly protected them from serious delinquent behavior**, which includes fighting, carrying a weapon or violence. However, it did not protect them from risky behavior, such as drinking, smoking or drunk driving.
- The researchers also found that **how students feel about their school environment also impact their risk of delinquent and risky behavior**. Students who view their academic environment as positive are less likely to be involved in serious delinquency or risky behavior. The converse is also true – when students feel negatively about their school, they are more likely to exhibit negative behavior.
 - Northeastern University. "Can Involvement In Extra-curricular Activities Help Prevent Juvenile Delinquency?." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 23 March 2008.
www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080321174211.htm.

More Reasons to Get Involved

- Participation in extra-curricular activities will foster creative, social and physical skills that are desirable qualities to colleges and future employers. Colleges care:
 - How you've made a meaningful contribution to something
 - What your non-academic interests are
 - Whether you can maintain a long-term commitment
 - Whether you can manage your time and priorities
 - What diversity you'd bring to the student body
- Involvement can strengthen self-esteem, build lasting friendships, and create a lifetime of memories.

More Reasons to Get Involved

- Students who are involved in extra-curricular activities earn better grades, have better attendance, and aspire to loftier goals than students who are not.
 - The American College Testing Service compared the value of four factors in predicting success after high school. The one measurement that could be used to predict later success in life was **achievement in school activities**. Not useful as predictors were high grades in high school, high grades in college or high ACT scores.
 - The College Entrance Examination Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) was examined in much the same way. It was found that having a high SAT score did not necessarily indicate success in a chosen career. The best predictor of later success, the study showed, was a **person's independent, self-sustained venture. Teens who were active in school activities were found to be most likely to succeed.**
 - Besides higher grades, participation in activities helps students have a better attitude, according to a study conducted at the request of the Utah State Board of Education. In the study, students, parents, teachers and administrators agreed that being part of such activities serves not only as an incentive to do well in academic work, but it relieves tension and increases self-confidence.

What Kids Can Learn From Volunteering

- **A sense of responsibility.** By volunteering, kids and teens learn what it means to make and keep a commitment. They learn how to be on time for a job, do their best, and be proud of the results. But they also learn that, ultimately, we're all responsible for the well-being of our communities.
- **That one person can make a difference.** A wonderful, empowering message for kids is that they're important enough to have an impact on someone or something else.
- **The benefit of sacrifice.** By giving up a toy to a less fortunate child, a child learns that sometimes it's good to sacrifice. Cutting back on recreation time to help clean up a beach tells kids that there are important things besides ourselves and our immediate needs.

What Kids Can Learn From Volunteering

- **Tolerance.** Working in community service can bring kids and teens in touch with people of different backgrounds, abilities, ethnicities, ages, and education and income levels. They'll learn that even the most diverse individuals can be united by common values.
- **Job skills.** Community service can help young people decide on their future careers. Are they interested in the medical field? Hospitals and clinics often have teenage volunteer programs. Do they love politics? Kids can work on the real campaigns of local political candidates. Learning to work as a team member, taking on leadership roles, setting project goals — these are all skills that can be gained by volunteering and will serve kids well in any future career.
- **How to fill idle time wisely.** If kids aren't involved in traditional after-school activities, community service can be a wonderful alternative.

Things to Consider

- Cost
- Sustainability
- Time
- Commitment (length)
- Priorities
- Interest
- Purpose

Things to Consider

- DCS Permission/Acceptance
 - The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will partner with the resource family of a child in out-of-home care to allow the child to participate in extracurricular activities.
 - DCS will ensure that the activity is age-appropriate, reasonably safe, provides appropriate supervision, and has limited or no risk of harm or injury.
 - DCS will require that the resource family of a child in out-of-home care notify the child's Family Case Manager (FCM) in writing (email is acceptable) or by phone of any extracurricular activities that the child will participate in.
 - DCS will ensure that the child's parent, guardian, or custodian and the court are informed of all extracurricular activities that the child will participate in.
 - DCS retains the right to deny the child's participation in an extracurricular activity if it is deemed not to be in the best interest of the child.