



Why Is Recruitment So Important for Educational Stability and Well-Being?

A solid [recruitment plan](#) advances educational well-being for children and youth in foster care because it leads a greater variety of resource parents in a given town.

- Having this larger pool of trained families available makes it easier to find a suitable local match for a child. This in turn will allow the child to remain in a familiar school setting where they are more likely to thrive.

When a child comes into custody, the primary focus should be to maintain as much as we can that is familiar to the child, including the people the child may have to live with.

- Placing a child with kin is a priority, but not always possible right away. Resource family recruitment continues to be a very important component of the system so that children can remain in their same school while other pieces of work may be happening.

Building strong relationships with community partners, especially schools, can help DCF staff find possible resource family options. An up-to-date [School Directory](#) helps.

- Often, school personnel are very attached to their students and want to see the child remain in their home school and stay connected to the community where the family is supported.
- Some school personnel have long standing relationships with various community members and may be able to help identify family members or other community members with whom the child has a connection. For example, there might be a previous teacher or coach, a best friend's parent, or someone else local and familiar to the child who would be capable of helping out.

[Family Finding](#) blends very nicely with our recruitment efforts in school.

- The FSD Assessment unit begins this work by asking the family members and the child who is in their family that can be supportive.
- This work continues by asking school personnel to provide FSD workers for emergency contact information which often reveals other family members or neighbors that have a connection to the child now being served by FSD.

Despite our best efforts, there are still times when we must place a child in a foster home unknown to the child.

- It is best practice to place the child in their home school district especially if they have to be with someone unfamiliar to them. A resource family in the child's own school district is likely to know the school schedule and activities and more easily accommodate the child with keeping activities and friends integrated in the child's life.
- If it is impossible to have the child reside in the same town, a neighboring town in close proximity is the next best thing to achieve the same results for the child.

