



## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and School Enrollment

**ESSA-** Every Child Succeeds Act: The ESSA law was put in place to help keep consistency and normalcy with kids in care by keeping them in their school of origin. When a child comes into care, or is moved from one home to another what do you do? Before you register them in a new school; **STOP Call our Education Specialist; Lisa Phillips, Circuit 6 (727) 509-0939 & Irvin Denoy, Circuit 13 (813) 228-0731**

We are required by federal law to collaborate and discuss the child's school options during an ESSA staffing. **Who is invited?** Case management, GAL, Foster parent, Licensing, Placement, Child (if age appropriate). The reason for the call is to discuss best interest factors and focus on keeping the child in his/her school of origin if possible. **Why is this important?** Children's lives are impacted dramatically after change. They are no longer around family or anything familiar when entering into foster care. The goal is to keep some normalcy in their lives. Not only has staying in the same school proven to help them socially, but it has been proven to help them academically. **When are they held?** The staffings are typically held 1-3 days after a child comes into care or is placed into a new home. The notice is sent via a calendar invite and the call is scheduled for 15 minutes for each child.

**Do you need help with transportation? We can help you arrange that.**

Pinellas County; Ruth Tipton [Tiptonru@pcsb.org](mailto:Tiptonru@pcsb.org)

Pasco County; Wendy Belfield [Wbelfiel@pasco.k12.us](mailto:Wbelfiel@pasco.k12.us)

Hillsborough County; Kelli Stocker [Kelli.Stocker@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:Kelli.Stocker@sdhc.k12.fl.us)

If it is determined that changing a child's school is in their best interest you will need to have the following to enroll the child in school;

- Valid driver's license/ID
- Students shot records
- Fill out/update an emergency card at the school
- Please note; without an updated emergency card on file, bus services cannot be rendered.

**\*\*Please note that the child that the person is living with or the case manager are the only individuals that are able to enroll a child in school.\*\***