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**Q:** Why do judges need to

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ne. These laws require child welfare age  
some cases school districts, to ensure th  
care attend school, that they remain in th  
when their living placement changes unde  
their best interests, and that they are enroll  
comply with all of their school records w  
in schools occurs.

## children’s educational outcomes in various jurisdictions have good models.

A: Children’s educational needs are reviewed, systematically and for each child enters care; at each stage of care and whenever a placement change occurs. A number of states, including California, New York, Oregon, and Pennsylvania have rules or statutes that require judicial inquiries, findings, and orders.

For example, Judicial Rules in Pennsylvania 2011 require juvenile courts to conduct inquiries and issue appropriate orders around each stage of the judicial process – from initial hearing to the permanency hearing. Various issues: a child’s educational progress, whether school change is appropriate and whether the child has an authorized decisionmaker.

### Q: What judicial tools or checklists are available?

A: In 2011, the Family Court version of a

[checklist](#). Jurisdictional checklists for Iowa, New Jersey, and Washington as well as Washington checklists to guide courts. For example, [checklist](#).  
[http://www.familycourts.org/research=att11](#)

The Legal Center for Foster Care worked collaboratively with Hamilton County Court and the Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati to enhance how education issues are handled in Cincinnati, Ohio. Through a project called “School Rule!,” Hamilton County Juvenile Services has committed two education specialists to help support the education needs of children in Cincinnati Public Schools. Through the “Education Court Report” form was developed as a supplement to the court report submitted by the student’s case worker. This Education Court Report provides detailed information about the child’s educational needs, performance, and participation in school.

[checklist](#)

[checklist](#)

### Q: How can courts track educational outcomes and respond appropriately?

[checklist](#)

### Q: Where can I find out more about this topic?

A: The Legal Center for Foster Care provides training on a number of tools on our website to [Education Advocates](#).

[checklist](#). Contact us with questions or to request your jurisdiction’s



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