



BHS PROVIDER UPDATES

2015-8



EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES AND CHILD AND FAMILY TEAMS

A youth's education is something that will affect the youth for years to come. Often, schools may be the only familiar place for a youth involved in the child welfare system. A Guiding Principle of California Assembly Bill 490 is that, *"Educators, social workers, probation officers, caretakers, advocates, and juvenile courts must work together to serve the educational needs of students in foster care."* Additionally, AB 490 notes that each Local Education Agency must designate an educational liaison for foster youth. Strengthening the connections between education representatives and child welfare and behavioral health services providers may result in long term educational benefits for the ***Pathways to Well-Being*** Enhanced youth.

As always a decision about team membership is done with the youth and family/caregiver with the utilization of the Authorization to Use or Disclose Protected Health Information. An education letter template has been developed for BHS providers to use as one way of inviting education representatives to join the Child and Family Team (CFT) and the CFT meeting. Please use the attached template to invite an education liaison to the CFT meeting. The information and insights provided by education staff can be a very beneficial support for the ***Pathways*** youth whose goal is to successfully transition out of the child welfare system.