

## Youth should be Involved and Engaged in All Aspects of Their Education and Educational Planning and Are Empowered to Be Advocates for Their Education Needs and Pursuits

Encouraging youth to be engaged in education decision making and planning helps them take an active role in their educational future and gives direction and guidance to the professionals and adults advocating on their behalf. Participation in court proceedings, school meetings, the special education process, and transition planning for postsecondary education or jobs allows youth to become **advocates on their own behalf**.

### BENCHMARKS THAT SHOW PROGRESS TOWARD THIS GOAL:

- A. Youth are routinely asked about their educational preferences and needs, including their view on whether to change schools when their living situation changes.
- B. Youth receive training about their educational rights commensurate to their age and developmental abilities.
- C. Youth are given the opportunity to participate in court proceedings, and their engagement is supported with transportation and accommodations to decrease the impact on school attendance and schoolwork; attorneys, guardians ad litem, CASAs, and judges are trained on involving youth in court, and encourage youth participation.
- D. Youth participate in school and child welfare meetings and planning about their education and their future.
- E. Youth are surrounded by school, foster parents and child welfare professionals with appropriate training and strategies to engage youth in education planning.
- F. Youth with disabilities actively participate in the special education process, especially in transition planning for post-school education and employment and are provided with the supports necessary to effectively participate.