IDOE Guidance for Schools to Partner with DCS in Promoting Child Welfare and Continuity of Learning

All Indiana residents, including educators, are mandatory reporters for suspected issues of child abuse and/or neglect.

**Resources:**
- IDOE Child Abuse Website
- Contact Information for Local DCS Offices in Each County

In terms of child welfare, student needs may be grouped into two categories, each having different recommendations for support:

### Students Involved With DCS

Connect With DCS Family Case Manager to Establish a Regular Method for Check-In

1. Ask DCS if a Written Crisis Plan is in place
2. Discuss with DCS if there is a need to develop a Written Crisis Plan
3. Share Existing School-Based Crisis Plans with DCS

**Best** Scenario: Touch Base With Students Every Week (Check-In, Check-Out)

**Good** Scenario: Touch Base With Students Every Other Week (Check-In, Check-Out)

Establish school protocol for what happens if contact with DCS involved students is not achieved at least every other week

### Students Who Schools Do Not Know Are Involved With DCS, But Are Most Vulnerable or on the Verge of DCS Involvement

Connect With Most Vulnerable Students Every Week

Consider various ways in which this connection might happen (i.e. food pickup, counselors, teachers)

**Best** Scenario: Touch Base With Foster Children Every Week (Check-In, Check-Out)

**Good** Scenario: Touch Base With Foster Children Every Other Week (Check-In, Check-Out)

Establish a protocol for what to do if contact with students who are most vulnerable is not happening

Schools should establish protocols for communicating with DCS when operating in an eLearning format, operating in an extended learning format, when utilizing COVID-19 waiver days, and when dismissed for breaks.

How can DCS get in touch with LEA Foster Care Points of Contact in the event DCS must move or place a foster youth, or has another emergency issue around which to connect?

IDOE has a mechanism for emergency contact with each school corporation to utilize as a last resort.

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