

**Subject** Out-of-home placement plans; early childhood education and childcare

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## Summary

Under section 260C.212, for a child placed in foster care, an out-of-home placement plan must be prepared within 30 days after placement. Section 260C.212, subdivision 1, paragraph (c) specifies what must be included in an out-of-home placement plan. Under current statute, the plan must include efforts to ensure the child's educational stability while in foster care once they've reached the age for compulsory school attendance.

This bill extends that requirement to children who have not yet reached the age for compulsory school attendance, by requiring the out-of-home placement plan to include efforts to ensure educational stability if the child is enrolled in an early education or child care program. The bill also requires the plan to state specific reasons for discontinuing the child's enrollment in the same program or not seeking enrollment in a similar program, if such enrollment is not feasible or not in the child's best interests, and makes conforming changes related to the additional out-of-home placement requirement.

Section 2 of the bill adds a subdivision to section 260C.212 requiring the responsible social services agency, licensed child-placing agency, if applicable, and the child's guardian ad litem to provide information to a foster parent about:

- early education and childcare program options;
- the Northstar child care allowance; and
- eligibility and application processes for early learning scholarships and the child care assistance program.