IDOE Guidance for Schools on supporting the welfare of students with DCS:

- All Indiana residents, including educators, are mandatory reporters for suspected issues of child abuse and / or neglect
- Indiana Abuse & Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556
- Link to resources on IDOE Child abuse website:
- Link to DCS webpage with map and contact information for local DCS offices in each county
  - https://www.in.gov/dcs/2372.htm
- Two “groups” of students:
  - Those students schools know are involved with DCS
  - Those students schools don’t know are involved with DCS but are most vulnerable / on verge of DCS involvement
- Recommendations on supporting students in these two categories
  - Those involved with DCS
    - Connect with DCS Family Case Manager to establish regular method for check-in
    - Ask DCS if there is written crisis plan in place for student
    - Discuss with DCS if there is a need for a written crisis plan to be developed for student
    - Share with DCS any school based crisis plans already in place
    - Best scenario: Touch base with students every week (“check-in, check-out”)
    - Good scenario: Touch base every other week with students at a minimum (“check-in, check-out”)
    - Establish school protocol for what to do if contact with DCS involved students is not achieved at least every other week
  - Those most vulnerable outside DCS
    - Connect with most vulnerable every week
    - Consider all ways this connection may happen (i.e. food pickup, counselors, teachers)
    - Work with / ask family to develop plan to stay in contact
    - Establish protocol for what to do if contact with most vulnerable is not happening.
- Schools should establish protocols for how DCS can connect with them if needed:
  - When schools are operating in an e-learning format
  - When schools are operating in an extended learning format
  - When schools are out utilizing Covid-19 waiver days
  - When schools are out for Spring break
  - How can DCS get in touch with LEA Foster Care Points of Contact if DCS must move / place a foster youth, or has some other emergent issue around which to connect?
- IDOE has mechanism for emergency contact with each school corporation to utilize as last resort
  - Contact IDOE through Jeff Wittman (jwittman@doe.in.gov, or at 317-234-5704) and / or Alicia Ward (award1@doe.in.gov, or at 317-233-9619).