






**Ensuring
Educational Stability for**

**Children in
Foster Care**



Key ESSA Provisions




Children in Foster Care remain in the school of origin unless there is a determination that it is not in his or her best interest.




If it is in the best interest of the child to leave the school of origin, the child must be enrolled immediately in the new school even if they don't have the required documentation. The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended to obtain the child's records.





LEAs must collaborate with Child Welfare Agencies (CWA) to implement clear written procedures for how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of a child's time in foster care.





LEA REQUIREMENTS




Appoint an LEA Point of Contact. Annually update the LEA Point of Contact on the Foster Care Plan entered in e-Gap.



Develop **written** procedures for how transportation to maintain foster youth in their schools of origin when in their best interest will be provided.



Enroll students in their new schools immediately when remaining in their school of origin is not in their best interest. This **must** be in the LEAs enrollment policy.



LEA Foster Care Plans

Each Plan Must Include:

- Number of students in Foster Care for current year and previous year
- List of Agencies in Collaboration
- Description of Policy Review and Revision
- Description of Collaboration and Coordination with Agencies
- LEA Point of Contact
- DHR Point of Contact
- Description of Procedures to Keep Student in School of Origin or Immediate enrollment
- Best Interest Determination Procedures
- Transportation Procedures
- Dispute Resolution
- Immediate Enrollment



Foster Care Data

LOZ16L P9L6 0919



Amount of
Title I Money Used to Transport
Students in Foster Care to Schools of
Origin

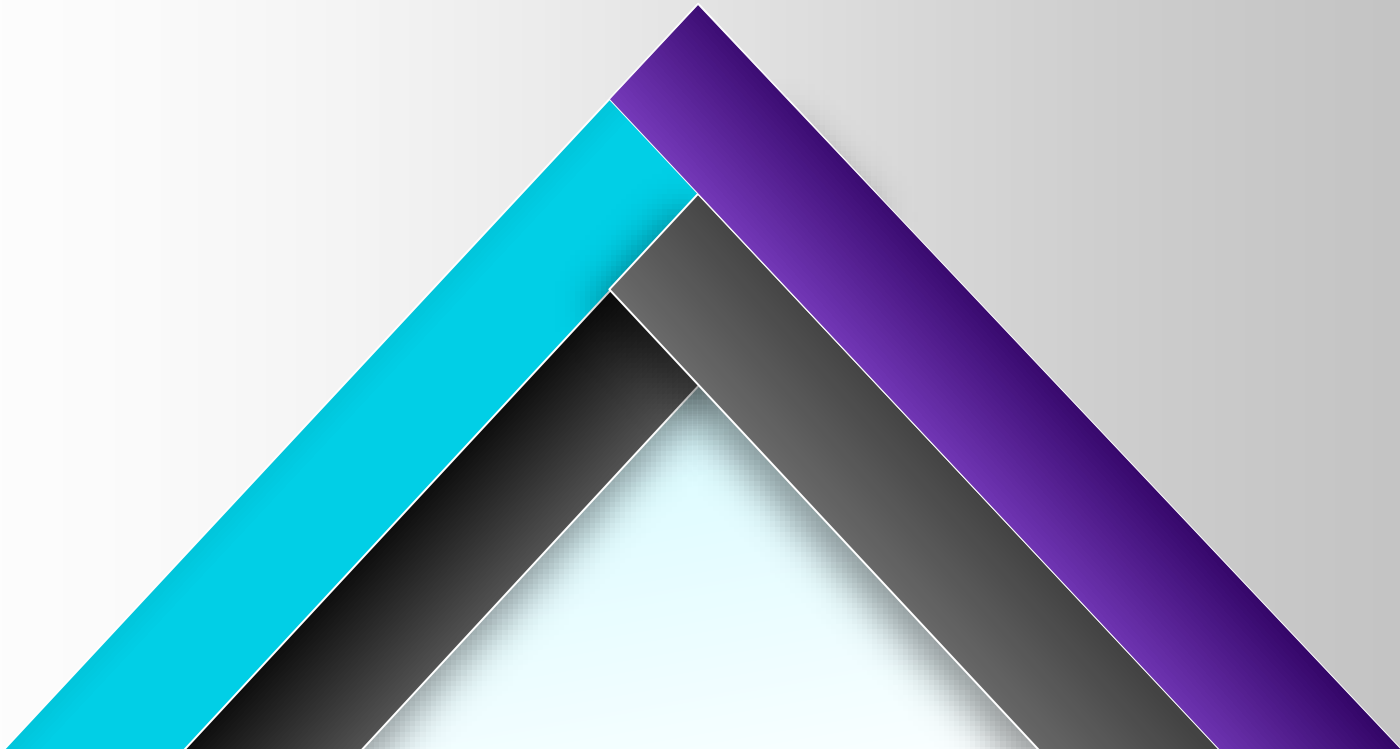
Number of Students in
Foster Care Removed
From Schools of Origin
and Reason

Number of Students in
Foster Care Transported
to Schools of Origin

Grade Levels of
Students in
Foster Care Transported
to Schools of Origin



Students in Foster Care Should Be Updated in I-Now Automatically Within Two to Three Days



If a Student in Foster Care does not update automatically in I-Now, follow the directions on the Fostering Connections tab on the ALSDE Federal Programs webpage.

- The cost of transportation cannot be a factor in determining the child's best interest.
- DHR has final say in best interest determination.
- Should a dispute arise, the LEA must provide transportation during the dispute then follow written procedures after the dispute is settled.

Develop Written Procedures for Transportation of Children in Foster Care

If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, will be provided if:

- The LEA is reimbursed by the child welfare agency;
- The LEA agrees to pay the cost;
- The LEA and the CWA agree to share the costs.



Additional Costs in Transportation

“Additional costs are the difference between what an LEA otherwise would spend to transport a student to his or her assigned school and the cost of transporting a child in foster care to his or her school of origin.”

Allowable Funds for ESSA Foster Care Provisions

- State and local funds typically available for transportation
- Child welfare Title IV-E funds (for children eligible for IV-E foster care maintenance payments)
- Title I Funds
 - **NOT** funds from the homeless set aside

Enroll students in Foster Care Immediately

- Children in Foster Care should be enrolled immediately, even in the absence of documents normally required for enrollment.
- Children in Foster Care should be added to each LEA's enrollment procedure.

Questions?
More Information?



- **State Foster Care Point of Contact**
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