

Foster care children and their families shall be provided equal access to the educational services for which they are eligible comparable to other students in the district including:

- Educational services for which the student in foster care meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or similar State and local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency;
- Preschool programs;
- Programs in career and technical education;
- Programs for gifted and talented students;
- School nutrition programs; and
- Before- and after-school programs.

The district shall provide transportation services for children in foster care consistent with the procedures developed by the district in collaboration with the State or local child welfare agency. These requirements apply whether or not the LEA already provides transportation for children who are not in foster care.

In order for a student in foster care to remain in his/her school of origin, when in his/her best interest, transportation services shall be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the child's placement in foster care. The district's transportation services will provide that:

- Children in foster care needing transportation to their schools of origin will promptly receive that transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with Section 475(4) (A) of the Social Security Act; and
- If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the district shall provide such transportation if 1) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the district for the cost of such transportation; 2) the district agrees to pay for the cost; or 3) the district and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost. (ESEA 1112(c) (5) (B)).

Since foster care placements may occur across district, county, or State boundary lines, coordination among multiple agencies may be necessary. The district will work with appropriate State and local agencies to address such placement and transportation issues that arise. The district shall provide or arrange for adequate and appropriate transportation to and from the school of origin while any disputes are being resolved.

Initial Adoption: 6/20/22

Final Adoption: 7/11/22

No Board policy, administrative procedure, or practice will be interpreted or applied in such a way as to inhibit the enrollment, attendance, or school success of children and youth in foster care.

LEGAL REF:

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