



Foster Care Transportation Plan

Attestation of foster care transportation for duration of time in foster care

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that if transportation to the school of origin is necessary to maintain school stability for children in foster care, Educational Options Foundation (the LEA), in collaboration with the child welfare agency (CWA), will ensure that said transportation will be provided for the duration of the children's time in foster care.

Transportation during the BID process

In collaboration with the CWA, the LEA will ensure that a child in foster care remains at their school of origin throughout the best interest determination (BID) process. This is a distinct transportation plan compared to the provision of transportation after completion of the BID process as it takes place during the BID process and ensures transportation until said process is complete. This will be accomplished via the following methods: 1) For foster children in a residential placement required to provide transportation as part of their contract with the CWA, coordinate dropoff/pickup times to ensure foster children are able to attend school at all times; 2) For foster children living with a foster parent who is able to provide transportation, coordinate dropoff/pickup times to ensure foster children are able to attend school at all times and provide mileage reimbursement when such transportation presents a financial hardship; 3) For foster children living with a foster parent who is unable to provide transportation, either a) provide foster children with bus/transit passes to use for the bus/transit route nearest to the school of origin and determine bus route schedules; or b) if a bus/transit route is unavailable, arrange for a third-party transportation provider to transport the student to school, to ensure foster children are able to attend school at all times. The LEA's Foster Care Point of Contact is responsible for identifying the initial transportation need in consultation with the CWA when the BID process is initiated and for determining the most cost-effective method of transportation. The expectation is that transportation will be implemented as soon as possible, with a goal of no more than two school days. All coursework is available online during the implementation of transportation and foster children are able to communicate with school staff for support via email, text, phone, or our internal online school messaging system.

Transportation Plan for Children in Foster Care to their School of Origin

In collaboration with the CWA, the LEA will also ensure that a child in foster care has transportation to their school of origin after the best interest determination (BID) process. This is a distinct transportation plan compared to the provision of transportation during the BID process as it takes place upon completion of, and takes into account the outcome of, the BID

process. Transportation at this stage will be accomplished via the following methods: 1) For foster children in a residential placement required to provide transportation as part of their contract with the CWA, coordinate dropoff/pickup times to ensure foster children are able to attend school at all times; 2) For foster children living with a foster parent who is able to provide transportation, coordinate dropoff/pickup times to ensure foster children are able to attend school at all times and provide mileage reimbursement when such transportation presents a financial hardship; 3) For foster children living with a foster parent who is unable to provide transportation, either a) provide foster children with bus/transit passes to use for the bus/transit route nearest to the school of origin and determine bus route schedules; or b) if a bus/transit route is unavailable, arrange for a third-party transportation provider to transport the student to school, in order to ensure foster children are able to attend school at all times. The LEA's Foster Care Point of Contact is responsible for identifying the transportation needs in consultation with the CWA when the BID process is completed and for determining the most cost-effective method of transportation. The expectation is that transportation will be implemented as soon as possible, with a goal of no more than two school days. All coursework is available online during the implementation of transportation and foster children are able to communicate with school staff for support via email, text, phone, or our internal online school messaging system.

Foster care transportation additional costs

Circumstances that would trigger the LEA to seek reimbursement from the CWA.

Generally, the LEA will endeavor not to seek reimbursement from the CWA, except in circumstances when the foster child is living in a residential placement that is contractually expected to provide transportation but is unable to do so, meaning the LEA must transport the student instead. To reduce costs should such a situation arise, the LEA will first attempt to provide bus/transit passes for the foster child's transportation since the LEA does not have busses or designated student transportation vehicles available. If public transportation is not practical, the LEA will utilize a third-party transportation provider. In such cases where a third-party provider is used and expenses exceed \$10 per day, regardless of miles traveled, the LEA's Foster Care Point of Contact will send the CWA a monthly reimbursement request which provides a clear breakdown of expenses by student and transportation method.

Circumstances that would trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation.

The LEA will solely provide transportation in circumstances when the foster child is neither living in a residential placement that is contractually expected to provide transportation nor living with a foster parent who is able to provide transportation, and when expenses to transport said foster child total less than \$10 per day, regardless of miles traveled. To reduce costs in such situations, the LEA will first attempt to provide bus/transit passes for the foster child's transportation since the LEA does not have busses or designated student transportation vehicles available. If public transportation is not practical, the LEA will utilize a third-party transportation provider.

Circumstances that would trigger the LEA to agree to share the cost with the CWA.

The LEA will seek a cost-sharing agreement with the CWA to provide transportation in circumstances when the foster child is neither living in a residential placement that is contractually expected to provide transportation nor living with a foster parent who is able to provide transportation and when expenses to transport said foster child total more than \$10 per day, regardless of miles traveled. To reduce costs in such situations, the LEA will first attempt to provide bus/transit passes for the foster child's transportation since the LEA does

not have busses or designated student transportation vehicles available. If public transportation is not practical, the LEA will utilize a third-party transportation provider. Additionally, the LEA will seek a cost-sharing agreement when a foster parent who provides transportation requires reimbursement for mileage traveled due to financial hardship caused by such transportation, if such transportation exceeds 20 miles per day. In such cases where a third-party provider is used and expenses exceed \$10 per day or a foster parent's reimbursable mileage exceeds 20 miles per day, the LEA's Foster Care Point of Contact will send the CWA with a simple Cost-Sharing Agreement outlining expectations that the LEA and the CWA will each contribute 50% of the expenses. The LEA's Foster Care Point of Contact will then send a reimbursement request for 50% of any expenses incurred, which provides a clear breakdown of expenses by student and transportation method, since the LEA expects to cover costs as they arise.

Foster Care Transportation Plan Public Notice

For the purposes of collaborating with the child welfare agency, the state education agency, and all foster care education stakeholders, the approved foster care transportation plan and the contact information for the foster care point of contact has been made publicly available on the LEA website.