



Foster Care Transportation Plan

Task Instructions

In this task, the LEA will submit its most updated Foster Care Transportation Plan. The submission of the LEA's Foster Care Transportation Plan demonstrates that the LEA is prepared to implement the ESEA Foster Care School Stability Provisions, which includes the following: attestation of transporting students to their school of origin for the duration of time they are in foster care, clear procedures for the LEA to determine how it will collaborate with the child welfare agency to provide transportation to the school of origin before and after the BID process, how they will address additional costs that may arise when transporting students in foster care to their schools of origin, and posting the foster care transportation plan.

Legal Background

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

"An LEA must collaborate with the State or local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the child's time in foster care..." (Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care)

Transportation during the BID process

"An LEA must ensure that a child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved. (See ESEA sections 1111(g)(1)(E)(i) and 1112(c)(5)(B)(i))." (Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care).

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

Public Law 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5)(B)(i) '(i) ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(4)(A)); ...

Foster care transportation additional costs

Public Law 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5)(B)(ii) "(ii) ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the local educational agency will provide transportation to the school of origin if— (I) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the local educational agency for the cost of such transportation; (II) the local educational agency agrees to pay for the cost of such

transportation; or (III) the local educational agency and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation; ..." The LEA will ensure transportation to the school of origin should there be additional costs. "Additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin should reflect 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." (Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care).

Foster Care Transportation Plan Public Notice

The LEA will post their approved foster care transportation plan exported form from EMAC, along with the contact information for the foster care point of contact, on their website.

List of Fields to Complete

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

*If transportation to school of origin is necessary to maintain school stability for children in foster care, this 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? YES

*NAME Tabitha Frable

*SIGNATURE [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Transportation during the BID process

*Children in foster care must remain at their school of origin throughout the best interest determination (BID) process. Describe how the lea, in collaboration with the CWA, will provide, arrange, and fund transportation to the school of origin during the bid process.

The foster caregiver that has custody of the student should be communicating immediately with either the front office and/or the teacher to inform us of the situation. The office and/or teacher would then reach out to LEA Foster Care Liaison, and he/she would get in contact with the caregiver or case worker to gather necessary information to understand the student's needs. The case worker is also reaching out to the Foster Care Liaison for the same reason, to communicate any necessary information and discuss the student's immediate needs as well as schedule a BID meeting.

Transportation will be provided the same before and after the BID process so that the student doesn't experience any interruption to their education. The difference will be how it is funded. Before the BID process, in the case that LEA has to acquire all costs we will ask CWA for reimbursement. After the BID process, there should be an agreement in place for either LEA to provide full transportation at no cost (either school bus or public bus) or in the case that we need to pay for private transportation, the CWA would agree to split the cost in half with LEA. The mode of transportation includes LEA school buses, LEA school 15-passenger van, public city bus passes, third party transportation providers (EverDriven or HopSkipDrive). Once a student is identified as needing transportation, the first step is for the Foster Care Liaison to confirm with caregiver the home address and talk to the LEA Transportation Coordinator to evaluate if we already have an existing bus route that the scholar can take. If not, they discuss the possibility and cost of either adding a stop to a route or finding a city bus route that is accessible for scholar (we take into account the

student's age, distance from school and number buses needed to arrive to LEA). If any of these options are viable, the student can be registered immediately and start the next day. If none of these options are viable, the Foster Care Liaison reaches out to either EverDriven or HopSkipDrive to coordinate the transportation needs and waits for them to assign a driver. This can take anywhere from 1-3 days to get a driver assigned. During the BID process, we try to do everything we can to make sure the scholar can attend school as normal and not miss any class. The teacher is made aware of the student's situation and we ask them to give grace if the student struggles in class or doesn't complete homework so that their unstable housing situation doesn't cause academic interruptions. If the scholar is not able to attend school during the BID process, the Foster Care Liaison coordinates with the school principal and the scholar's teachers to try and send work home for the child to do.

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

*Describe how the LEA, in collaboration with the CWA, will provide, arrange, and fund transportation to the school of origin after the BID process.

The most effective way for the LEA to recognize and address the potential long-term need of transportation is during the BID meeting/s with all of the necessary parties. This allows all parties to discuss the current need of the student and possible solutions and best options that would most benefit the child. The LEA will only know the transportation needs by meeting with the student's case worker and caregiver to understand their housing situation and location and what transportation the CWA can provide. The transportation provided to the student after the BID outcome may or may not differ, depending on the unique situation. If the student is to stay in the same foster home as they were during the BID process and transportation has already been established, then it would continue as so. If the location of the student changes, then we would proceed with the same process mentioned previously to coordinate with the school's Transportation Coordinator and the CWA to provide either the school bus, school van, public city bus, or private transportation (as well as the foster family or group home who might also provide transportation). As stated previously, our process to provide transportation to the student is as follows: Once a student is identified as needing transportation, the first step is for the Foster Care Liaison to confirm with caregiver the home address and talk to the LEA Transportation Coordinator to evaluate if we already have an existing bus route that the scholar can take. If not, they discuss the possibility and cost of either adding a stop to a route or finding a city bus route that is accessible for scholar (we take into account the student's age, distance from school and number buses needed to arrive to LEA). If any of these options are viable, the student can be registered immediately and start the next day. If none of these options are viable, the Foster Care Liaison reaches out to either EverDriven or HopSkipDrive to coordinate the transportation needs and waits for them to assign a driver. This can take anywhere from 1-3 days to get a driver assigned. Once the BID process is complete and it is evident what the student's permanent housing situation will be, the LEA and CWA can determine how they will split the cost of transportation and what would be most cost-effective. The preferred method is always school bus and after that, public city bus if it is safe and viable for the student. If free options are not viable and there is a cost to the transportation, the LEA and CWA will split the cost by splitting AM/PM rides. For example, maybe the foster caregiver drives the student to school in the morning and the school drops off the student with the school van in the

afternoon. The mode of transportation will continue to be LEA School buses, LEA school 15-passenger van, public city bus passes, third party transportation providers (EverDriven or HopSkipDrive) Devising transportation within the school is quick and easy. The Foster Care Liaison simply speaks with the LEA Transportation Coordinator on the phone or via email to evaluate if we already have an existing bus route that the scholar can take. If not, they discuss the possibility and cost of either adding a stop to a route or finding a city bus route that is accessible for scholar (we take into account the student's age, distance from school and number buses needed to arrive to LEA). If any of these options are viable, the student can be registered immediately and start the next day. If none of these options are viable, the Foster Care Liaison reaches out to either EverDriven or HopSkipDrive to coordinate the transportation needs and waits for them to assign a driver. This can take anywhere from 1-3 days to get a driver assigned. For both of these third-party vendors, the Foster Liaison has access an online portal to keep all student information (address and pick-up times as well as contact info) and see live updates of drivers. After the BID meeting and determining that LEA would be the permanent school for the student, the Foster Care Liaison works with the principal and teachers to ensure that the student has all of the necessary supports to catch up or keep up academically. This can include: teacher holding small group with student, teacher creating personal learning goals, student participating in intervention pull-out groups, or after school tutoring.

Foster care transportation additional costs

*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to seek reimbursement from the CWA.

The only scenario that would cause the LEA to seek reimbursement is if the LEA provides transportation from either our school van or a third-party transportation company before the BID meeting in order to provide students an education without any interruption. This means that perhaps the CWA and LEA and current caregiver haven't had a chance to coordinate and the LEA incurred all transportation costs. In the case that at the BID meeting they determine it necessary to split transportation costs between the LEA and CWA, the LEA would ask for reimbursement for the transportation they had previously provided during the BID process. However, paid transportation is the last resort and in the case that we are able to use a school bus, public city bus or other free option, then reimbursement would not be necessary. The LEA does not calculate cost or reimbursement cost based only on miles. Miles are only calculated in the case we use a third-party transportation company; however, if the CWA is to split transportation they can choose to either pay half of the invoice from that company or provide their own transportation to the student for the half of the rides (either AM or PM). There is currently no limit on dollars spent before requesting reimbursement. It is determined in the BID process.

*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation. Transportation would be solely provided by the LEA if the student is able to take the school bus on one of our six bus routes or if the student is able to use a free bus pass provided by the LEA to use public transportation. It is also an option that the school provide private transportation using the 15-passenger van (however, this would incur a cost that the LEA would request to be split with the CWA) in which case a staff member

would be able to drive student both to and from school. The mileage of the student's house to the school doesn't matter in this case because if it's close to the school it is most likely that the school bus or public bus would be a viable option. There is currently no set number of miles that trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation. There is also no set dollar amount that would trigger the LEA to incur all costs of any foster student transportation needs. In the case that there is any additional cost above what has already been approved for the school's transportation needs for the school year, the LEA would request that CWA split any extra costs.

*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to agree to share the cost with the CWA.

The circumstance that would trigger the LEA to share the cost of transportation is only if the cost does not exceed what the LEA would normally pay to transport a student. For example, LEA already provides free school bus transportation to students K-8 and free public transportation passes to students 9-12 (high school). If it is necessary to hire a third-party transportation company or pay a staff member an additional stipend to pay for the foster child's transportation, the LEA would ask that the CWA either cover the cost or split the cost. In the case that the LEA and CWA split transportation, it is typically preferred by both parties that they each agree to transport child either in the morning or afternoon. There are currently no requirements or set number of miles or dollars spent that trigger anything different than previously mentioned.

Foster Care Transportation Plan Public Notice

*Question: 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 will be made publicly available on the LEA website?

Yes

No

*DATE May 10th, 2024

*NAME Tabitha Frable

*SIGNATURE [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

*Required Field

