



Ed Ahead, Inc. Foster Care Transportation Plan

Foster Care Point of Contact/Liaison

Local Education Agency (LEA): Educational Impact, Inc.

LEA Foster Care Point of Contact/Liaison

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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.

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 **John Penczar**

*SIGNATURE *MaryAnn Penczar*

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 the teacher to inform the school of the situation. The teacher will reach out to LEA Foster Care Liaison, and she will contact 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 will be an agreement in place for either LEA to provide full transportation at no cost (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 or reimburse the LEA for the full amount. The mode of transportation may include public city bus passes, third party transportation providers, or gas reimbursement. 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 Foster Care Liaison to evaluate if a city bus route is accessible for student (we take into account the student's age, distance from school and number buses**

needed to arrive to LEA). If this option is viable, the student can be registered immediately and start the next day. If not viable, the Foster Care Liaison reaches out to third party vendors and/or staff members to coordinate the transportation needs. This can take anywhere from 1-3 days to get arranged. During the BID process, we try to do everything we can to make sure the child can attend school as normal and not miss any class. The teacher is made aware of the child's situation and we ask them to give grace if the child struggles in class or doesn't complete homework so that their unstable housing situation doesn't cause academic interruptions. If the child is not able to attend school during the BID process, the Foster Care Liaison coordinates with the school principal and the child's teachers to send work home for the child to do at home until they return to school.

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, 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 each 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 is. If the location of the student changes, then we would proceed with the same process mentioned previously to coordinate with the school's Foster Care Liaison and the CWA to provide 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 Foster Care Liaison to discuss the possibility of using the city bus route that is accessible for child (we take into account the student's age, distance from school and number buses needed to arrive to LEA). If it is viable, the student can be registered immediately and start the next day. If not viable, the Foster Care Liaison reaches out to a third-party transportation company. This can take anywhere from 1-3 days to arrange. 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 the 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. 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 support 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 scenarios that would cause the LEA to seek reimbursement is if the LEA provides transportation by 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 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 use a free bus pass provided by the LEA to use public 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. **As a single site LEA, there is no district transportation available. If it is necessary to hire a third party transportation company, 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 8/1/2023

*NAME MaryAnn Penczar

*SIGNATURE *MaryAnn Penczar*

*Required Field