

KEYSTONE OAKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy Guide



Policy No. 255

Section PUPILS

Title EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Adopted SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Last Revised _____

	POLICY NO. 255 EDUCATIONAL STABILITY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE	
Section 1	<u>Authority</u> To ensure the educational stability of children in foster care, the Board requires the District to collaborate with the local children and youth agency and other school districts.	20 U.S.C. 6311, 6312 42 U.S.C. 675
Section 2	<u>Definitions</u> Additional costs means the difference between what the District spends to transport a resident student to their assigned school and the cost to transport a child in foster care to their school of origin. Foster care means twenty-four (24) hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes. A child is in foster care in accordance with this definition regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and payments are made by the state, tribal or local agency for the care of the child, whether adoption subsidy payments are being made prior to the finalization of an adoption, or whether there is federal matching of any payments that are made.	45 CFR 1355.20

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School of origin is the school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. If a child’s foster care placement changes, the school of origin would then be considered the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of the placement change.

Section 3

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board designates the Director of Pupil Services to serve as the District's point of contact for children in foster care.

The District's point of contact shall coordinate with:

1. Local children and youth agency to:
 - a. Establish formal mechanisms to ensure that the district is promptly notified when a child enters foster care or changes foster care placements.
 - b. Develop a protocol on how to make best interest determinations; and
 - c. Develop and coordinate transportation procedures.
2. Other school districts on issues of transfer of records, transportation and other inter-district activities.

20 U.S.C. 6311

Section 4

Guidelines

Enrollment/Placement

A child in foster care shall continue to be enrolled in their school of origin unless there is a determination that it is not in their best interest to attend the school of origin.

20 U.S.C. 6311

Best Interest Determination -

The best interest determination shall be made in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, court orders, and established local procedures.

20 U.S.C. 6311

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Education Records

The District may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student without written consent of the parent(s) or the eligible student if the disclosure is:

1. To comply with a court order authorizing the disclosure of education records in a case where a parent is a party to a proceeding involving child abuse or neglect or a dependency matter.
2. To an agency caseworker or other representative of a state or local child welfare agency, or tribal organization, who has the right to access a student's case plan, as defined and determined by the state or tribal organization, when such agency or organization is legally responsible, in accordance with state or tribal law, for the care and protection of the student, provided that the education records, or the personally identifiable information contained in such records, of the student will not be disclosed by such agency or organization, except to an individual or entity engaged in addressing the student's education needs and authorized by such agency or organization to receive such disclosure and such disclosure is consistent with the state or tribal laws applicable to protecting the confidentiality of a student's education records.

20 U.S.C. 1232g
Pol. 113.4, 216

Transportation

The District shall ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to their school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner.

20 U.S.C. 6312
Pol. 810

To ensure that transportation for children in foster care is provided, arranged, and funded, the District shall collaborate with the local children and youth agency to develop a local transportation plan.

20 U.S.C. 6312

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The transportation plan shall address the following:

20 U.S.C. 6312

1. The procedure the District and local children and youth agency will follow to:
 - a. Promptly provide transportation for children in foster care;
 - b. Promptly arrange transportation for children in foster care; and
 - c. Ensure transportation is funded in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with Section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act.

2. How transportation costs will be covered if additional costs are incurred. Options include:

20 U.S.C. 6312

- a. The local children and youth agency agrees to reimburse the District;
- b. The District agrees to pay for the cost;
- c. The District and the local children and youth agency agree to share the costs; or
- d. The District of origin, the District of current residence, and the placing children and youth agency agree to share the costs.

3. Dispute resolution procedures to ensure that any disagreements regarding the cost of transportation are resolved promptly and fairly, and do not impact a student's ability to remain in the school of origin during the dispute resolution process.

34 CFR 299.13

The District shall submit the local transportation plan, including any updates or revisions, to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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Transportation shall be provided to children in foster care in accordance with the local transportation plan regardless of whether transportation is provided to District students.

20 U.S.C. 6311,
6312

Training

The District’s point of contact for children in foster care shall provide professional development and training to school staff on the Title I foster care provisions and education needs of children in foster care, as needed.

References:

Every Student Succeeds Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6311, 6312

Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act– 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g

Title 34, Education – 34 CFR Sec. 299.13

Title 42, Public Health and Welfare – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 675

Social Security Act – 45 CFR Sec. 1355.20

Board Policy – Pol. 113.4, 200, 202, 206, 216, 810