

MEP Boot Camp



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Educational Rights of Children in Foster Care

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Training Link

<http://bit.ly/MEP2021FC>



Definitions & Acronyms

Foster Care- 24-hour (a day) substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency (DCS, tribal, or local) has placement and care responsibility.

Definitions & Acronyms

ESSA- Every Student Succeeds Act

POC- Point of Contact

SEA- State Education Agency (ADE)

LEA- Local Educational Agency

IEP- Individualized Education Plan

SIS- Student Information System

Definitions & Acronyms

ADE- Arizona Department of Education

CWA- Child Welfare Agency (in Arizona, DCS or tribal)

DCS- Department of Child Safety

DCSS- Department of Child Safety Specialist

REL- Regional Education Liaison (DCS Staff)

ESSA FC & McKinney-Vento

Children in foster care
are NO LONGER
McKinney-Vento
(Homeless)!!!

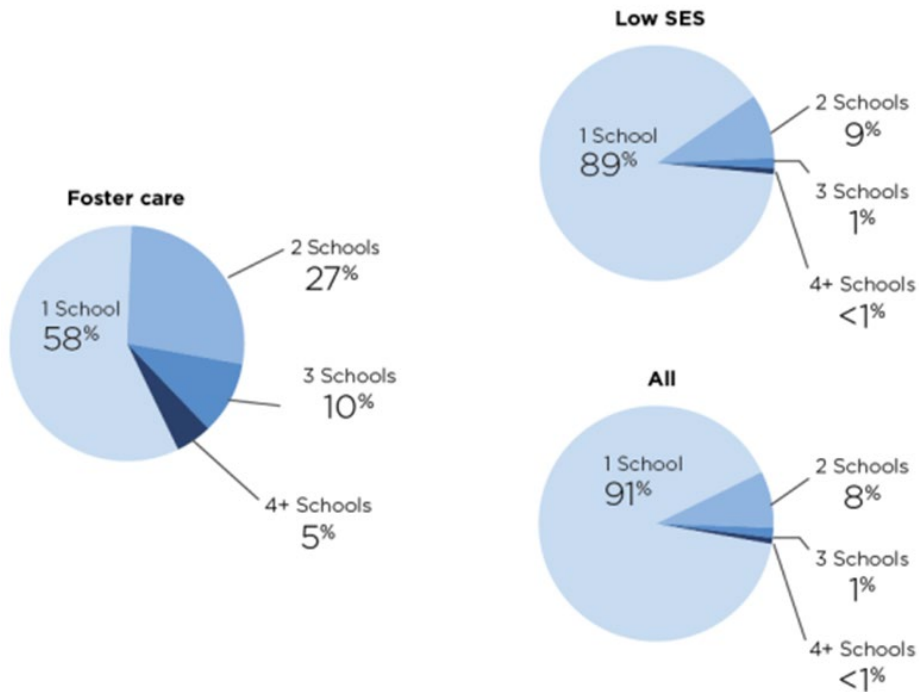


Foster Care Everywhere

- Go to www.Menti.com & use the code 31233317
- Name Movies with Family Disruptions (i.e. foster care, adoption)

School Stability

Figure 5. Number of schools attended during the 2012/13 school year, for students in foster care, low-socioeconomic-status students, and all students in Arizona public schools, 2012/13



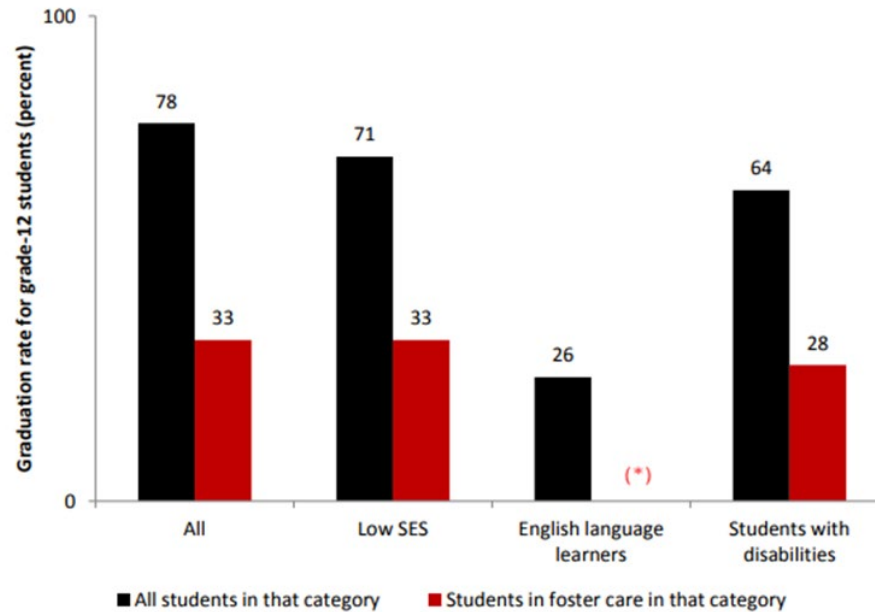
Source. Authors' analysis of linked administrative data from the Arizona Department of Education and Arizona Department of Child Safety, 2012/13.

Note. Percentages are computed for 1,108,795 students ages 5–17, including 10,770 students in foster care and 535,681 low-socioeconomic-status students. Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100. Numbers and percentages are presented in appendix table B2.

SES = socioeconomic status.

School Stability

Figure 12. Percentage of grade-12 students who graduated in 2013, for students in foster care, other at-risk student subgroups, and all students in Arizona public schools, 2012/13



Source. Authors' analysis of linked administrative data from the Arizona Department of Education and Arizona Department of Child Safety, 2012/13.

Note. Percentages are computed for 66,794 students age 17 or younger enrolled in grade 12; 500 students in foster care; 26,243 low-socioeconomic-status students; 470 English language learners; and 5,147 students with disabilities, of which 139 were students in foster care. Numbers and percentages of grade-12 graduates, by student subgroups, are provided in appendix table B7.

(*)The number of students in foster care classified as English language learners in grade 12 was too low for reporting the graduation rate.

SES = socioeconomic status.

The Every Students Succeeds Act: Foster Care Provisions

ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

Two Parts:

- Part 1- SEA Portion
- Part 2- LEA Portion



ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

Part 1- SEA Portion



Basically...



SEA/CWA/LEA
Collaborate



FC children should
remain in their school
of origin

School of Origin

School of Origin- 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.



School of Origin

When a child enters foster care, even though they live here...



FC Placement



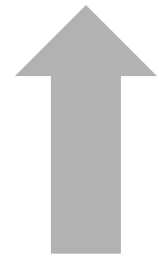
New School



Bio Family



School of Origin



...they have the right to attend school here!

School of Origin

When a child changes placement, even though they live here...



New FC Placement



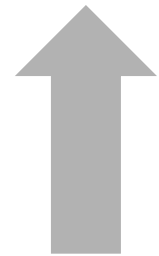
New School



Old FC Placement



School of Origin



...they have the right to attend school here!

Basically...



If not in the best interest of the child to remain, immediately enroll in new school.

Enrolling school shall immediately obtain records from previous school.

Best Interest Determination

BEST

Best Interest Determination

Factored into the best interest determination should be:



Best Interest Determination

- The safety of the child
- The wishes of the parent, caregiver, and child

Best Interest Determination

- The toll of the commute, distance, and time for the child to travel to and from the school
- Projected duration of out-of-home placement

Best Interest Determination

- The child's academic, developmental, and socialization needs
- The effect a school change will have on the child's learning and any potential for loss of credits*

– *Taken from the Department of Child Safety Open Discussion on ESSA Foster Care PowerPoint



School of Origin

A child in foster care will only attend here...

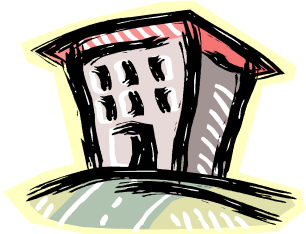


Bio Family



School of Origin

...if it is not in their
best interest to
attend here!



FC Placement



New School

ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

Part 2- LEA Portion



Basically...



SEA/CWA/LEA
Collaborate



CWA & LEA establish
POCs

DCS Regional Contacts

State level POC: Barbara Guillen, Barbara.Guillen@azdcs.gov

The 5 **CWA Regional POCs** are:

- **Northwest Region** (Mohave, Coconino, Yavapai, & La Paz Counties): Caryn Wagner, Caryn.Wagner@azdcs.gov
- **Maricopa West Region** (Western Maricopa County): George Johnson, George.Johnson@azdcs.gov
- **Maricopa East Region** (Eastern Maricopa County): Pamela Harris, Pamela.Harris@azdcs.gov
- **South Region** (Pima, Yuma, Santa Cruz, & Cochise Counties): Czarina Valadez, Czarina.Valadez@azdcs.gov
- **Northeast Region** (Pinal, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, & Apache Counties): Rebekah Guillory, Rebekah.Guillory@azdcs.gov



LEA Foster Care Liaisons



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

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Welcome to Foster Care

ADE Foster Care Ed. COVID-19 Update

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains key provisions to promote educational stability and success for students in foster care.



Children in foster care should remain in the school they attended before entering foster care or before a placement change (school of origin).



The transportation of a child in foster care, to their school of origin, is a shared responsibility between the LEA (public school district or public charter) & the child welfare agency.



The only reason a child in foster care would have to change schools is that it is in their best interest to go to a new school.



If it is in the best interest of a child in foster care to go to a new school, the new school would need to immediately enroll that child, even without relevant paperwork.

Law ▾

Guidance ▾

Training ▾

Resources

Contact Us

News Blog

Foster Care Liaisons

www.azed.gov/fostercare



Basically...



Plans to Transport FC
children to their school
of origin.

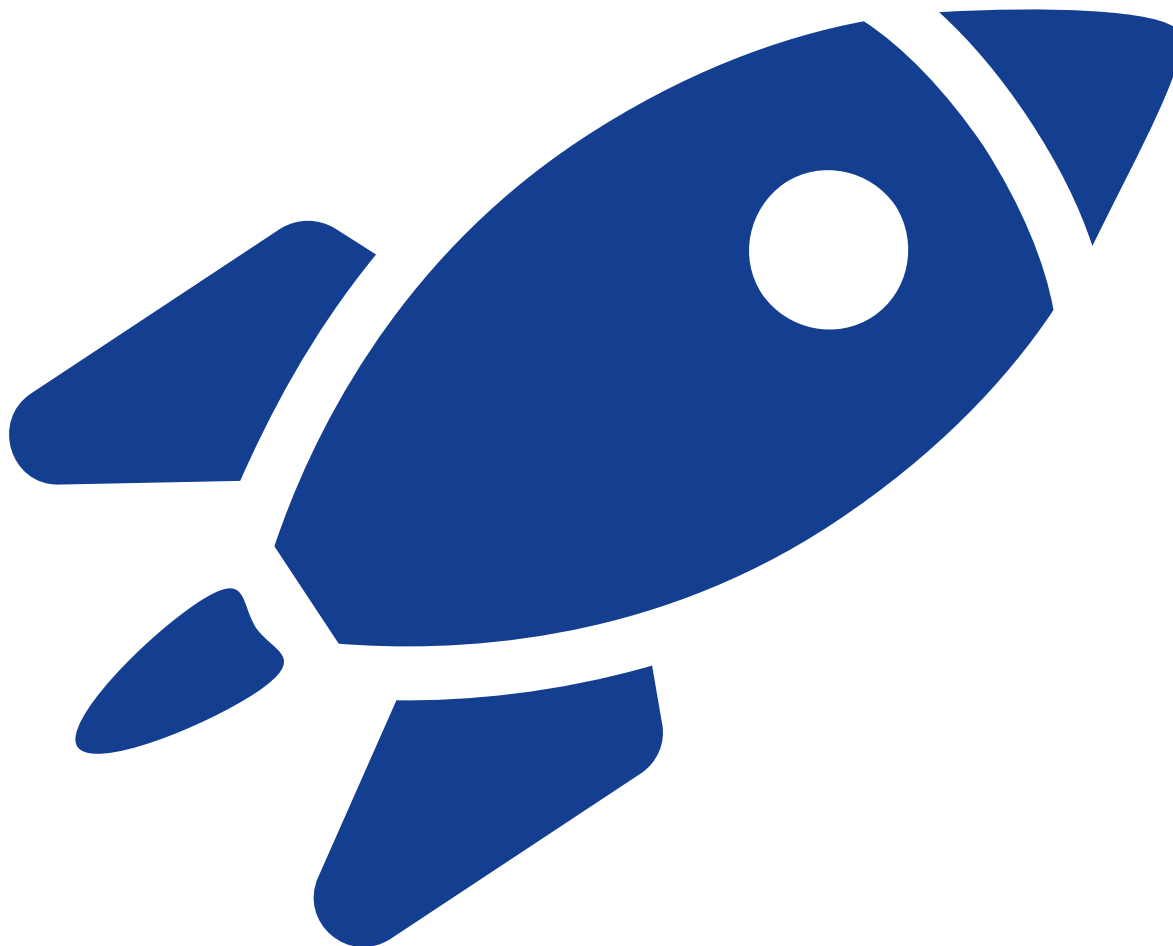


Additional costs- I
pay, you pay, or we
pay.

Transportation



Individual Procedure



Transportation

The LEA should first pursue **existing & low or no-cost** options for transportation.

Transportation

Existing options could include:

- Transportation already provided by other programs (i.e. if a child in foster care has an IEP that requires they be transported; that transportation would already be covered by IDEA or if the child qualifies for Title IV-E funds)
- If a child is placed in a foster group home, the group home is **contractually obligated to transport**; after 50 miles one way, they are eligible for mileage reimbursement.

Transportation

Low or no cost options could include:

- Caregiver provides transportation to school or existing bus routes; CWA may be able to provide mile reimbursement to the caregiver
- Amending current bus routes
- Public transportation, if appropriate



Foster Parent Agreement

2.7. Accept, encourage and support the child's individual lifestyle, including the arrangement and facilitation for the child to receive an education based upon his or her ability and within the school district of their origin when appropriate...

Foster Parent Transportation

R21-6-316. Transportation Responsibilities

A. A foster parent shall *provide or arrange appropriate local transportation* to meet the routine *educational*, medical, recreational, social, religious, and therapeutic needs of a foster child.

IEP



IDEA Parent Succession

- Bio Parent
- Foster Parent
- Guardian Generally Authorized
- Individual Acting in Place
- Surrogate Parent

IEP & DCS

DCS *may* attend IEP meetings.

DCS *may not* sign IEPs, act as the IDEA Parent, or officially request an evaluation.

School Fees

What AFFCF Can Consider Funding

Auxiliary Payments and Special Allowances/Supplemental Financial Supports

Service Group: Allowances

Service Type Category	Service Type Description	Uses, Maximum Amounts and Qualifiers. Approval levels are designated in CHILDS.
EMRG CLTH ALLOW	Emergency Clothing	\$150 maximum per state fiscal year. Independent Living Subsidy program youth are <i>not</i> eligible for this allowance.
EMRG CLTH EXTRA	Emergency Clothing – Extra	\$100 maximum per state fiscal year. (examples: Fire, Flood, Theft). Independent Living Subsidy program youth are <i>not</i> eligible for this allowance.
BOOKS/EDUCATION	Books Education Expenses	\$82.50 maximum per school year for all dependent children. For books, supplies, course fees, student services and physical education fees/equipment. May be approved for special pre-school and college level, technical and vocational classes.
SUPP SCH TUIT	Supplemental Extra School Tuition and Fees	\$165 maximum per session. For use during summer sessions or interim sessions at year round schools.
GRADUATION	Graduation Expenses	\$220 maximum. Available for High School only for cap, gown, ring, yearbook, and other graduation related fees.
SPECIAL NEEDS	Special Needs Allowance	\$22.50 maximum per state fiscal year. Available to assist foster parents with expenses such as holidays, birthdays, and special occasions. Independent Living Subsidy program youth are <i>not</i> eligible for this allowance.
CAMP AND VACATION	Camp and Vacation Allowance	Suspended.
PASSPORT	Passport Allowance	Reimbursement for the actual cost of obtaining a passport book or card. Receipts are required. Effective 1/1/09 and is a one-time reimbursement per child.
DIAPERS-SPECIAL	Diaper – Special	\$62.50 maximum per month. This allowance must be authorized monthly. Available with medical documentation for children who require additional funds for diapers.

Auxiliary Payments and Special Allowances/Supplemental Financial Supports are available to licensed family foster care providers and unlicensed kinship and non-relative providers.



Whew!



Contact Information

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