

Foster Care Education



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Training Link

bit.ly/OIEFosterCare2021



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.



ESSA FC & McKinney-Vento

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



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

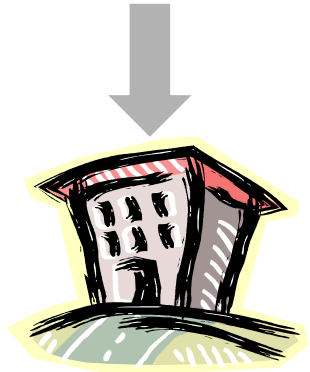
When a child enters foster care, even though they live here...



Bio Family



School of Origin



FC Placement

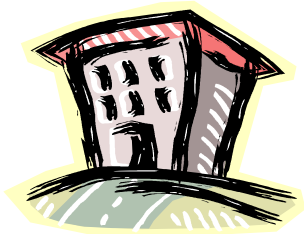


New School

...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

The LEA & CWA should collaborate in determining the best interest of a child in foster care. The CWA is the final decision maker regarding a foster child's school selection if any conflict cannot be resolved.

The cost of transportation **CANNOT** be considered when determining the best interest of the child!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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
- The toll of the commute, distance, and time for the child to travel to and from the school



Best Interest Determination

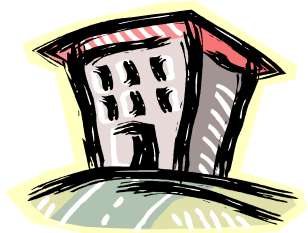
- Projected duration of out-of-home placement
- The child's academic, developmental, and socialization needs
- The effect a school change will have on the child's learning and any potential for loss of credits*

– *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...



**FC
Placement**



**New
School**



**Bio
Family**



**School of
Origin**



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

ESSA Foster Care Legal Text

Part 2- LEA Portion



Basically...



SEA/CWA/LEA
Collaborate



CWA & LEA establish
POCs

LEA Foster Care Liaisons







Home / Foster Care / Welcome to Foster Care

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



Transportation

BOTH the **LEA & CWA** share the **responsibility** of school stability and transporting these children to their school of origin.



Transportation

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



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