



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Foster Care Education: Transportation

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Objectives

Participants will...

- quickly review the ESSA Title I, Part A school stability assurances
- learn more about collaborating with the child welfare agency to ensure transportation to the school of origin

Common Acronyms

- **SEA:** State Educational Agency
- **LEA:** Local Educational Agency
- **CWA:** Child Welfare Agency
- **ESSA:** Every Student Succeeds Act
- **RTC:** Residential Treatment Center
- **BID:** Best Interest Determination
- **POC:** Point of Contact
- **FAPE:** Free Appropriate Public Education



Pre-Assessment

Pre-Assessment

- 1.** The school of origin is the school the child is enrolled at when entering foster care or if already in foster care, the school the child is enrolled at the time of a foster care placement change.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Pre-Assessment

- 2. Which school should a student in foster care attend during the BID process?**
 - a. New school
 - b. School that the biological parents choose
 - c. School of origin
 - d. School that the student in foster care chooses

Pre-Assessment

- 3. The BID process should be executed when a student enters foster care or a student in foster care changes their foster care living arrangement.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Pre-Assessment

4. Which party is responsible for transporting a student in foster care to their school of origin?
 - a. School of origin
 - b. New school
 - c. School of origin & new school splits responsibility
 - d. Child welfare agency
 - e. Foster caregiver
 - f. School of origin & child welfare agency share the responsibility

Pre-Assessment

5. Transportation to the school of origin must be _____ & _____.
 - a. Prompt; Cost-effective
 - b. Easy; Convenient
 - c. Optional; Rare

Year, Make, & Model of First Car

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Setting the Stage

Definition of 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.

Children in foster care are not considered 'homeless' or McKinney-Vento eligible.

Foster Care Definition Joint Letter

Appendix A- Foster Care Scenarios

Scenario A: Student is brought to school by his grandmother who reports that DCS* is assessing her son's home, and the student will be staying with her for the time being. Is this child in foster care? **No.** Children may temporarily stay with a responsible adult such as a relative or other responsible adult while a family is participating in an assessment** if DCS agrees with the arrangement (typically for a period of up to two weeks for the purpose of DCS completing the assessment). School staff may wish to check in with DCS on the status of the assessment (i.e. to ensure nothing has changed, such as DCS taking custody).

Scenario B: Student is brought to school by his grandmother who reports DCS is working with her son, who will be released from jail in a couple of months. Her son has voluntarily agreed for his child to be in foster care for 90 days or less. She provides a Notice to Provider or "NTP." Is this child in foster care? **Yes.** The child is in DCS custody and placed with the grandmother through a temporary "Voluntary Foster Care" agreement.

Scenario C: Student is brought to school by his grandmother. She reports that her son is having some difficulty right now so her grandson is staying with her for a while. DCS is not involved. Is this child in foster care? **No.** DCS is not involved. The living arrangement is between the child's parent and grandparent.

Scenario D: Student is brought to school by his grandmother who reports that DCS and the court are involved and her son is not currently allowed any unsupervised contact. She provides a Notice to Provider or "NTP." Is this child in foster care? **Yes.** The grandmother has an NTP and DCS has been awarded placement care and responsibility by the court.

Scenario E: Student is brought to school by his grandmother who reports that DCS and the court are involved. DCS placed her grandchild with her and she has a Notice to Provider or "NTP." DCS has agreed that her son may also reside in her home, however he does not have custody and she supervises all contact between them. Is this child in foster care? **Yes.** DCS and the court are involved. DCS has custody and placed the child with the grandmother. The parent's presence in the home is not relevant to the custody of the child.

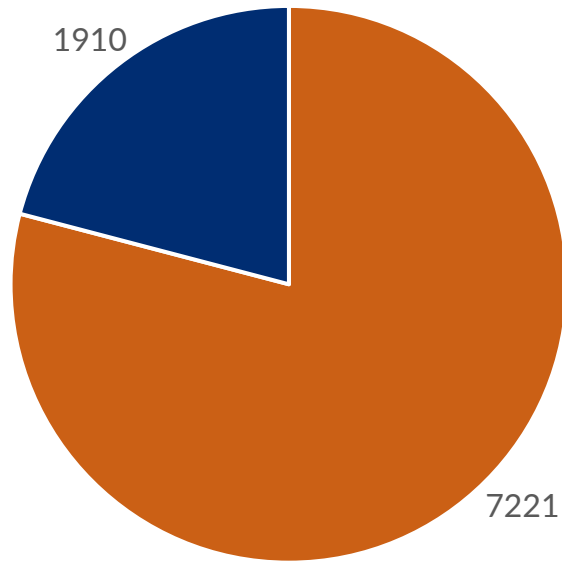
Scenario F: Student is brought to school by his grandmother. She provides paperwork showing that she has been awarded guardianship through her local county court but DCS is not involved. Is this child in foster care? **No.** The school may wish to verify with DCS whether or not they are involved. A person may be appointed as a permanent guardian through the dependency court process without ongoing involvement of DCS. A person may also petition their county court to obtain temporary guardianship of a minor child. It is always good to double check!

Scenario G: Student has turned age 18 and has been living in a foster home (or another foster care living arrangement). Is this student still in foster care? It depends. If the student signed a voluntary agreement to remain in the Extended Foster Care (EFC) program, then the student is still in foster care. If the student opted to have their DCS case closed, then the student is no longer in care. Students may reside in a foster home, group home, kinship home or be living on their own while in EFC. Please note that the federal guidance does recommend prioritizing school stability for students as they exit foster care. "For example, SEAs and LEAs should consider adopting policies that allow a child that exited foster care during the school year to continue in the school of origin through at least the end of the academic year, if appropriate."****

Scenario H: Student has turned age 18 and is participating in DCS transitional living services. Is this student in foster care? **No.** The ADCS has "aftercare" services and support available to youth 18 and older who were in foster care at age 16 or older. (If you are unsure about the student's status, just call us and check!)

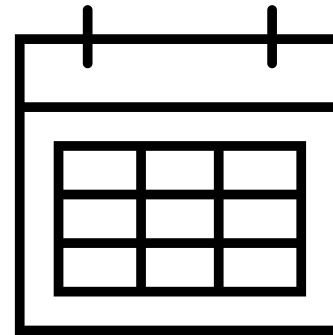
Foster Care Data

Children in DCS (Total- 9,131)

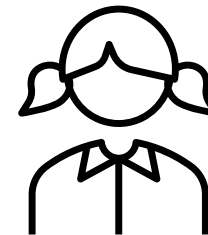


■ Students ■ Non-Students

Foster Care Mobility



20,300 Moves a year
55.58 Moves a day



2.19 Moves per child



Quick Overview

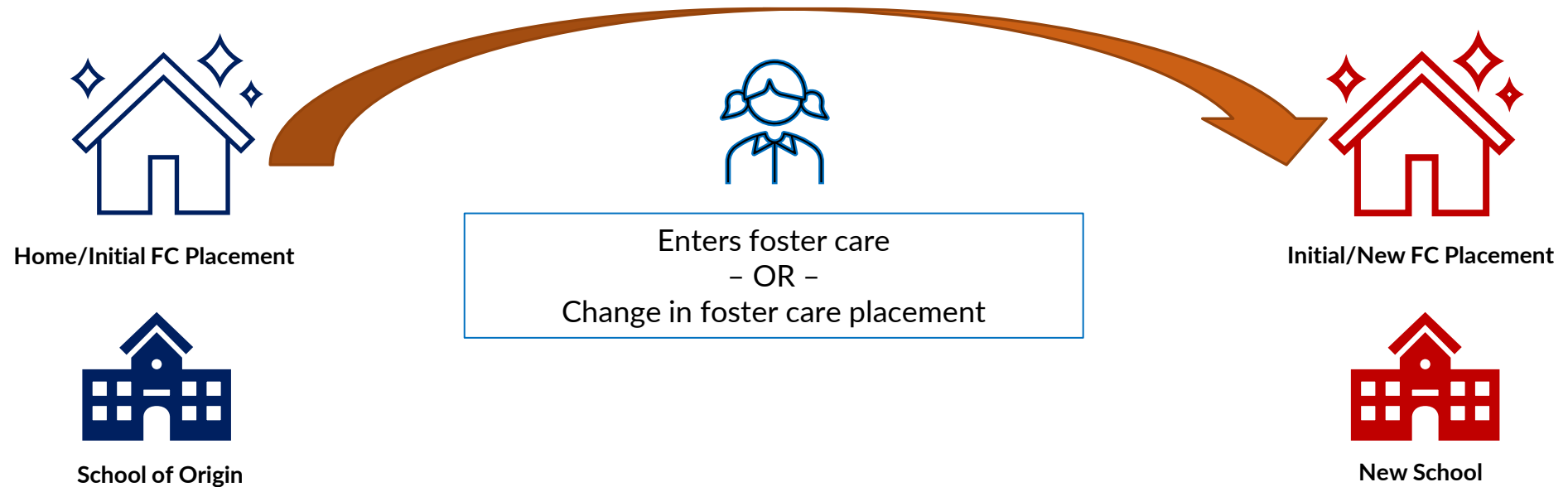
School Stability

Children in foster care have the right to remain in their school of origin.

*“(i) any such child enrolls or remains in such child’s school of origin, unless a determination is made that it is **not** in such child’s **best interest** to attend the school of origin, which decision shall be based on all factors relating to the child’s best interest, including consideration of the **appropriateness of the current educational setting** and the **proximity** to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement;” -- [1111\(g\)\(1\)\(E\)\(i\)](#)*

School of Origin

A child in foster care is to enroll or remain in the school of origin



School of Origin

- The school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care, including preschool
- OR -
- The school in which the child is enrolled at the time of change in foster care placement

Points of Contact

- LEA Points of Contact
- DCS Points of Contact
- Tribal Foster Care Points of Contact

“(5) **collaborate** with the State or local **child welfare agency** to—

“(A) designate a **point of contact** if the corresponding child welfare agency notifies the local educational agency, in writing, that the agency has designated an employee to serve as a point of contact for the local educational agency”

20 U.S.C. § 6312 (c)(5)(A)

Best Interest Determination

A holistic assessment to determine whether the **child in foster care** should **remain** in their **school of origin**, or if it is **not in the best interest** to remain in the school of origin, to ensure the student is **immediately enrolled** in the new school

The student should remain at the school of origin during the BID process

Transportation

Transportation to school of origin is **prompt & cost-effective**. The LEA & the child welfare agency share the responsibility.

“(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)); and” --1112(c)(5)(B)(i)

Immediate Enrollment

If the **school of origin** is not in the **best interest** of the student, they should be **immediately enrolled** into a **new school**.

“(ii) when a determination is made that it is not in such child’s best interest to remain in the school of origin, the child is immediately enrolled in a new school, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment;”
-- [1111\(g\)\(1\)\(E\)\(ii\)](#)

Foster Care School Stability Steps

Student enters foster care or has a change in foster care placement

Student remains at the school of origin while the LEA & child welfare agency execute the BID process

BID

BID Outcome: Stay in School of Origin

BID Outcome: Do Not Stay in School of Origin

LEA & child welfare agency collaborate on transportation

The new school immediately enrolls the student, even without all paperwork.



Foster Care Education



Prep for BID Process

BID Prep Form

School of Origin BID Preparation Form

Date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Information

LEA Name: _____

School Site: _____

LEA Foster Care Point of Contact: _____ Email: _____

School Address: _____

Child in Foster Care Information

Child Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ State Student ID: _____

Date of FC Move: _____ Grade: _____

Residence School Address: _____

School of Origin Input for BID

- **How well connected is the child to the school and/or school staff?**
(i.e., how long attending the school, positive relationships with school staff, any sense of belonging or fitting in, etc.)

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

- **How is the child performing academically?**
(i.e., passing/failing classes, reading/writing/math at grade level, etc.)

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

5 Days for BID Process

Within 5 days of a foster care move, determine if it is in the best interest to remain in the school of origin.

“A. Within five days after a child enters foster care or if a child's placement changes, the child, if appropriate, the child's caseworker, the child's parent, guardian, custodian, caregiver or foster parent and representatives from the local education agency or the child's school of origin shall determine if it is in the child's best interest to remain in the child's school of origin. The decision shall be based on all factors relating to the child's best interest, including consideration of the child's unique educational needs, appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement. The department shall ensure transportation for the child during the best interest educational placement determination process. If it is determined that the school of origin is not in the best interest of the child, the new educational institution shall be included in the determination process.” -- [ARS 8-530.04\(A\)](#)

Arbitration Process

ADE & DCS adopt an arbitration process to resolve disputes regarding transportation to school of origin.

“A. The department of child safety and the department of education shall adopt a clear, written arbitration process for prompt resolution of disputes between the department of child safety, local educational agencies and the department of education regarding the arrangement for and funding of a child's transportation to a school determined to be in the best interest of the child pursuant to section 8-530.04.

B. The arbitration process shall include provisions to ensure transportation to the school of origin or current educational placement if a prior best interest determination has been made until the dispute is resolved.

C. A decision resolving a dispute pursuant to this section shall be made within ten business days after receipt of the dispute.” -- [ARS 8-530.05](#)



DCS BID Process Document

Instructions

The Every Student Succeeds Act/ESSA directs that youth experiencing foster care are to be maintained in their school of origin unless it is in the student's best interest to enroll in a new school. The school of origin is the school in which a student is enrolled at the time of entry into foster care. When the foster care living arrangement changes and the student (after a best interest determination is made) enrolls in a new school, the new school becomes the school of origin. Discuss and summarize the following topics with the student, parent, IDEA or surrogate parent (if assigned), school of origin, and caregiver. Discuss concerns and make efforts to reach consensus by the conclusion of the BID. Representatives from a proposed new school may be invited when circumstances indicate a higher potential for a change in school enrollment. Examples include when the student is entering or returning from an out-of-state living arrangement, entering a prospective permanent living arrangement, or exiting a juvenile justice or behavioral health setting. Note: Additional space available for comments on page four (4).

Participants Invited

	Attendance	
Student Name (Last, First, M.I.) *PLEASE PRINT*	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Current School _____ Grade _____ School Address _____ City State ZIP _____ _____ _____ Date Entered the Home _____ Meeting Date _____ *LEA Foster Care POC is the designated point of contact at the District or School level. Additional school staff (current or proposed school, including ESS staff as appropriate) may be listed as "Other."
DCS Specialist	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
LEA Foster Care POC (School of Origin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Parent(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
IDEA Parent (if different from Parent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Current Caregiver Relationship	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Other (LEA Foster Care POC School of Residence)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Discussion

1 Living Arrangement: Describe the permanency of the current living arrangement. (Include the anticipated length of stay, whether or not the caregivers are anticipated to be temporary or permanent, time to reunification or another permanency plan, etc. Provide the Notice to Provider form as needed.)

2 Student Input: Describe the preference(s) of the student. Describe how the current school setting impacts the student's safety (physical environment, peer relationships, sibling connections, etc.), and how a change in school enrollment will better support safety.



Transportation

Transportation Plan

Clear, written procedures to ensure transportation to the school of origin will be provided, arranged, & funded for the duration of time in foster care.

“(B) by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Every Student Succeeds Act, develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the time in foster care, which procedures shall—

“(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));...” --[1112\(c\)\(5\)\(B\)](#)

Additional Costs

If additional costs, either **CWA reimburses LEA** or **LEA pays** or **LEA & CWA agree to share the cost.**

“(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;” --[1112\(c\)\(5\)\(B\)](#)

Foster Care Transportation Procedure

Foster Care Transportation Procedure Document

Once a child in foster care is identified, the Local Educational Agency's (LEA) Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) shall be notified. The LEA Foster Care POC will execute the procedure for ensuring children in foster care that need transportation to their 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)) & how that transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded. Transportation to the school of origin for children in foster care is a shared responsibility between the child welfare agency & the school of origin. This collaboration requires great partnership, creative problem-solving skills, and a student-focused mindset so children in foster care would be affirmingly supported by all foster care education stakeholders.

Local Educational Agency [[Click here to enter text.](#)]

- School (Name and Contact Info): [[Click here to enter text.](#)]
- LEA Foster Care POC (Name and Contact Info): [[Click here to enter text.](#)]
- Transportation Office contact (Name and Contact Info): [[Click here to enter text.](#)]
- Student(s) (Name and DOB): [[Click here to enter text.](#)] Grade: [[Click here to enter text.](#)]
- Placement/Caregiver (Name and Contact Info): [[Click here to enter text.](#)]
- Child Welfare Agency (CWA) POC (Name and Contact Info): [[Click here to enter text.](#)]
- CWA Specialist (Name and Contact Info): [[Click here to enter text.](#)]
- CWA Specialist's Supervisor (Name and Contact Info): [[Click here to enter text.](#)]

Foster Caregiver Address: [[Click here to enter text.](#)]

School Address: [[Click here to enter text.](#)]

Procedure

Is the child in foster care placed in this LEA's district boundaries (if applicable)?

YES **NO**

- If yes, this LEA shall transport this child in the same manner as the rest of their students. If this LEA does not have boundaries or does not transport their students continue with this procedure.
- If no, continue with this procedure.

Transportation Existing Options

Transportation already
provided by other programs
or already being paid for-

- SPED
- Title IV-E
- Federal Programs
- Group home state contract

Transportation Low to No Cost

Transportation that can be provided at low or no-cost-

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

Foster Parent

Family Foster Home 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...

AAC R.21-6-316.

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.

Foster Group Home Scope of Work

DCS Group Home Scope of Work 01.09.2024 RFP (Contract)

https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2024/07/DCS_Congregate_Care_RFP_Scope_of_Work_01.09.2024.pdf

4.0 General Requirements: The contractor shall:

4.11 Assist the child(ren) with locating a spiritual or religious place of worship and provide **transportation** to and from that place of worship, and support the youth in finding connections within the community as requested by the youth with approval from the ADCS Specialist.

4.15 Support the child's **educational** activities by attending parent-teacher conferences, participating in Individual **Education** Plan (IEP), 504 plan or other evaluations, recognition events or acknowledging the receipt of an achievement.

5.0 Specific requirements: The contractor shall, but not be limited to the following:

5.2 Intake Process for each child(ren) within twenty-four (24) hours:

5.2.4 Clothing

5.2.4.2 Contractor shall provide an adequate supply of clean, like-new clothing that is age-appropriate, well-fitting, of suitable size, culturally suitable, and appropriate for the current season. This includes, but is not limited to:



Transportation Methods

Rank Order Transportation Methods

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Post-Assessment

Post-Assessment

1. The school of origin is the school the child is enrolled at when entering foster care or if already in foster care, the school the child is enrolled at the time of a foster care placement change.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Post-Assessment

- 2. Which school should a student in foster care attend during the BID process?**
 - a. New school
 - b. School that the biological parents choose
 - c. School of origin
 - d. School that the student in foster care chooses

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 - a. True
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Post-Assessment

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 - a. School of origin
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Post-Assessment

5. Transportation to the school of origin must be _____ & _____.
 - a. Prompt; Cost-effective
 - b. Easy; Convenient
 - c. Optional; Rare



Closing & Next Steps

Feedback Survey & Certificates

Feedback survey

- Must complete survey to receive PL certificate in APLD Blackboard & receive credit for attending the mandatory training

Recording and slides

- The recording & slides will be posted on ADE's [Foster Care webpage](#)

Survey Link



<https://forms.office.com/r/KDZWaDEcDt>

Thank You!



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