

Student in Foster Care Policy

The School shall provide an educational environment that treats all students equally. Every student in foster care shall have access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not in foster care. This commitment to the educational rights applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

The School shall designate a staff member to be the foster care point of contact (“POC”). The contact information of the POC shall be entered into the Ohio Educational Directory System.

School as the School of Origin

Upon receiving notification from the custodial agency regarding a student’s placement into foster care, the School shall immediately update the student’s status in the student database.

If there is no potential change to the student’s school, no further action is required by the School.

If there is a potential change in school, the student will remain in the school of origin until a best interest decision is made. The School shall work with the local custodial agency within five business days to determine the best interests of any potential change to the student’s school.

Appendix A, the Model Best Interest Determination Form shall be completed for each student in foster care who is facing a potential change in school.

If it is determined that it is in the best interest for a student to change schools, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the new school (see “School as the Enrolling School” section for enrollment procedures). The School shall respond to records requests from the enrolling school within one school day.

Within five school days of the best interest determination, the School shall collaborate with the custodial agency to develop a plan for transportation for the student. Interim transportation must be arranged until permanent transportation is in place. The School shall follow all transportation procedures as identified in Appendix B.

School as the Enrolling School

Upon the enrollment of a student in foster care, the School shall send a records request to the school of origin the same day as enrollment. The School shall follow enrollment procedures for the student, including updating the student’s status in the student information system and placing the student in a class. Under no circumstances, shall the enrollment of a student in foster care be delayed due to lack of records.

The School shall work with the school of origin to determine all credit or partial credit the student should receive for full or partial coursework. If the School does not know the student’s grade level, the School may utilize grade-level assessments to determine a student’s placement until the School receives the relevant records.