



FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Bremen City Schools

Superintendent Name David Hicks

Mailing Address 501 Pacific Avenue

Physical Address (if different from above) _____

City Bremen

Zip 30110

Foster Care Point of

Contact (POC) Name Bill Garrett

POC Email bill.garrett@bremencs.com

POC Mailing Address 501 Pacific Avenue

City Bremen

Zip 30110

POC Telephone 770-537-5508

POC Fax 770-537-0610

Superintendent Signature

7/20/2018

Date

David Hicks

Print Name of Superintendent

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The Georgia Department of Education (Department) is required to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care. (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)). In coordination with state and tribal child welfare agencies, the Department must ensure that its LEAs implement the Title I educational stability requirements for children in foster care, including ensuring that:

- A child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin, unless it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in that child's best interest;
- If it is not in the child's best interest to stay in his or her school of origin, the child is immediately enrolled in the new school even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment; and,
- That the new (enrolling) school immediately contacts the school of origin to obtain relevant academic and other records. (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i)-(iii)). In fulfilling this role, the SEA should coordinate with the state or tribal child welfare agency to develop and disseminate uniform guidelines for implementing the Title I educational stability provisions. Developing uniform statewide policies and procedures for ensuring educational stability for children in foster care, as many States have already done under the Fostering Connections Act, will facilitate successful implementation at the local level. This is particularly important given the shared agency responsibility for educational stability under Title I and the Fostering Connections Act, and because a single LEA or local child welfare agency will likely have to collaborate with multiple partner agencies in implementing these provisions.

Additionally, the SEA must conduct regular monitoring and oversight to guarantee appropriate implementation of these provisions at the local level. (See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. § 76.770).

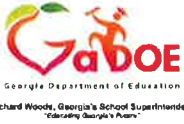
On the state level, the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), which houses the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) periodically sends a list of children in foster care that are flagged in the Department's student information system for information sharing and reporting purposes; however, on the local level, LEAs will be notified directly by foster parents, Court Appointed Special Advocate, DFCS case workers or Education Support Monitors (ESM), within the Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC) unit of DFCS. Once identified, LEAs must implement its plan to ensure educational stability for children in care. For the best interest of the children in care, LEAs should follow all mandated regulations under FERPA and keep the status of these children confidential.

As a result, the Department is requiring all LEAs, including virtual schools and charter schools that function as an LEA, to complete a Foster Care Transportation Plan. The plan should be completed in addition to the development and implementation of written transportation procedures and the identification of a Foster Care Point of Contact. Please complete this plan and return it by:

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Instructions for submission:

- After the LEA superintendent signs the assurances, scan the entire document as a PDF and save it as the "FY19 Foster Care Transportation Plan".
- Access the Consolidated Application for FY19.
- Go to the attachments tab.
- Upload the signed PDF version of the document.
- Email confirmation of your submission to the Department Foster Care Point of Contact, Ms. Whitney Mitchell, at wmitchell@doe.k12.ga.us.



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NOTE: In order to answer the questions below, refer to the [Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care](#).

I. Foster Care Transportation Plan: PLANNING			
<p>A. The LEA's role is to have a transportation plan in place for children in foster care to their school of origin. Describe your plan to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate transportation with the local child welfare agency. 2. Implement steps to be taken if additional costs are incurred. 3. Execute the local dispute resolution process. <p>Include the roles of key players (e.g. LEA Foster Care Point of Contact, LEA Superintendent, LEA Federal Program Director, EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor, Case Worker, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Juvenile Court representative, etc.) <i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i></p> <p>The Bremen City School System (BCS) will coordinate transportation with the local child welfare agency. Transporting students inside or outside of the attendance zone will be coordinated upon the request of the local child welfare agency due to the fact the system does not operate bus routes. The local child welfare agency will notify the BCS Foster Care Point of Contact directly with any such request. The BCS Foster Care Point of Contact and the local child welfare agency will explore and collaborate on "no additional cost" options. These options may include: (1) The foster parents transporting the child to school, or (2) the plan will follow the existing LEA plan for transporting children with disabilities who have transportation as a related service in their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). If additional costs are incurred, the BCS will bill the local child welfare agency for reimbursement. In the event of a dispute, the dispute resolution process will be initiated.</p>			
<p>B. What steps should an LEA and local child welfare agency take to ensure that transportation is provided immediately, even if they face difficulty reaching agreement on how to pay for additional transportation costs? <i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i></p> <p>The BCS and the local child welfare agency will work cooperatively to ensure that transportation is not a barrier to the educational stability of children in foster care. The BCS will process all requests for transportation immediately, even if there is difficulty reaching an agreement on how to pay for additional transportation costs. The local dispute process will be initiated.</p>			
<p>C. The LEA must designate a Foster Care Point of Contact that coordinates with the local child welfare agency. Describe the point of contact's role and responsibilities. <i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i></p> <p>Bill Garrett, Director of Special Programs, will serve as the BCS Foster Care Point of Contact. He will collaborate with the local child welfare agency to evaluate transportation needs for foster care children to remain in their school of origin. He will ensure that transportation requests are processed in a timely manner.</p>			
II. Foster Care Transportation Plan: GUIDING QUESTIONS			
<p>A. If a child is placed within the LEA's school attendance area and projected transportation cost are negligible, transportation should be immediately provided without supplemental assistance from the local child welfare agency. If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the LEA will provide transportation to the school of origin if:</p>			
	YES	NO	N/A
1. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation.	Yes		
2. The LEA agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation.	No		
3. The LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.	No		



Georgia Department of Education
Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Ensuring Every Child's Future"

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Describe the agreement the LEA has made with the local child welfare agency regarding transportation costs. *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

The Bremen City School System will coordinate transportation of children in foster care with the local child welfare agency. Due to the fact the BCS does not operate regular bus routes, if there is a situation where transportation is necessary, the local child welfare agency will reimburse the BCS for the cost of such transportation. If additional costs are incurred providing transportation, the local welfare agency will reimburse the BCS for the cost of such transportation.

B. All LEAs must meet the requirement to provide transportation for children who are in foster care to their schools of origin (*Similar to the McKinney-Vento requirement for students experiencing homelessness*). Does your LEA currently provide transportation services? If no, describe your plan to meet this mandate.

No

Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.

The Bremen City School System will ensure the educational stability of children in foster care. The key players will work together to coordinate transportation plans to accommodate students in their school of origin. While the district does not provide transportation services, except for students with disabilities who require such action, they will meet the transportation responsibility of foster children if necessary. In the event BCS and the local child welfare agency do not come to an agreement on "no additional cost" option, BCS will bill the local child welfare agency and follow our existing LEA plan for transporting students with disabilities who have transportation as a related service in their IEP.



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ASSURANCES

By checking the box beside each statement and by affixing my signature to these Assurances, I certify that I have read each and agree to be held accountable for the content of each of the following statements:

- The LEA will collaborate with state or local child welfare agency to 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 time in foster care.
- The LEA ensures that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin promptly receive such transportation in a cost-effective manner.
- The LEA ensures that children in foster care remain in the school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved.
- The LEA will collaborate with State or local child welfare agency to provide transportation if a child is placed in foster care placement across district, county, or State lines.
- In accordance to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Fostering Connections Act, the LEA will continue to provide transportation to children that exited foster care for the remainder of the school year, if it is in the best interest of the student.

I am authorized to sign and submit this application on behalf of the applicant. My signature certifies that all information included in the application is accurate. I understand that all information submitted is subject to verification.

Bremen City Schools
LEA Name

David Hicks
Printed Name of Superintendent


Signature of Superintendent
(Please sign in blue ink only)

Superintendent
Title

7-20-18
Date