

## PROCEDURES

Foster Care Student/Foster Care Transportation

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Children who meet the Federal definition of “foster care” will be provided a free appropriate public education in the same manner as all other students of Wyandotte Public Schools. To that end, foster care students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as foster care. Wyandotte Public Schools shall establish safeguards that protect foster care students from discrimination on the basis of their foster care status.

Pursuant to the Fostering Connections Act, “foster care” is defined as 24 –hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre adoptive homes. A child is in foster care in accordance with this definition regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and payments are made by the State, Tribal, or local agency for the care of the child, whether adoption subsidy payments are being made prior to the finalization of an adoption, or whether there is Federal matching of any payments that are made. (45 C.F.R. § 1355.20(a)).

Wyandotte Public Schools will coordinate with State and tribal child welfare agencies to ensure that educational stability off children in foster care.

- A. 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.
- B. 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
- C. 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)).

If there is a disagreement regarding the appropriate school placement for a child in foster care, the child welfare agency should be considered the final decision maker in making the best interest determination. The child welfare agency is uniquely positioned to assess vital non-educational factors such as safety, sibling placements, the child’s permanency goal, and the other components of the case plan. The child welfare agency also has the authority, capacity, and responsibility to collaborate with and gain information from the multiple parties, including parents, children, schools, and the court in making these decisions.

To the extent feasible and appropriate, Wyandotte Public Schools will ensure that a child remains in his or her school of origin while disputes are being resolved to minimize disruptions and reduce the number of moves between schools. (see ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i)).

**Effective Date: October 15, 2018**

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Additionally, Wyandotte Public Schools will conduct regular monitoring and oversight to guarantee appropriate implementation of these provisions.

Foster care students will be provided services comparable to other students in Wyandotte Public Schools including:

- A. transportation services;
- B. education services for which the foster care student meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or similar State or local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency;
- C. programs for vocational and technical education;
- D. programs for gifted and talented students;
- E. school nutrition programs;
- F. before- and after- school programs.

Wyandotte Public Schools will ensure that a child in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin receives such transportation for the duration of the time the child is in foster care.

Additionally, Wyandotte Public Schools will collaborate with the State or local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the child's time in foster care (the transportation procedures). These procedures must ensure that-

- A. Children in foster care needing transportation to their schools of origin will promptly receive that transportation in a cost effective manner and in accordance with section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act; and
- B. If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, Wyandotte Public Schools will provide such transportation if (1) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse Wyandotte Public Schools for the costs of such transportation;(2) Wyandotte Public Schools agrees to pay for the costs; or (3) Wyandotte Public Schools and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost. (ESEA 1112(c)(5)(B)).

The Superintendent will appoint a Liaison for Foster Care Children who will perform the duties as assigned by the Superintendent. Additionally, the Liaison will coordinate with the State Coordinator for the Education of Foster Care Children and Youth as well as with community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to foster care children and youth.