



## FY22 Foster Care Transportation Plan

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Jackson County School System

Superintendent Name April Howard

Mailing Address 1660 Winder Highway

Physical Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

City Jefferson Zip 30549

Foster Care Point of  
Contact (POC) Name Stacie Monroe POC Email smonroe@jcass.us

POC Mailing Address 1660 Winder Highway

City Jefferson Zip 30549

POC Telephone 706-367-5151 POC Fax 706-367-9457

April Howard  
Superintendent Signature

7/30/21  
Click here to enter a date.  
Date

April Howard  
Print Name of Superintendent

## FY22 Foster Care Transportation Plan

**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

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:

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.

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.) *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

LEA Superintendent: Dr. April Howard

LEA Federal Programs Director: Linda Bell

LEA Foster Care Point of Contact: Stacie Monroe

DFCS Foster Care Supervisor: Tonya Jones

DFCS Director: Maria Ryder

Transportation Director: David Farmer

EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor: Robin Brooks

State Foster Care Liaison: Whitney Mitchell

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? *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

If a Jackson County School student is placed in foster care outside of the school of origin, the DFCS Foster Care Supervisor agrees to contact the Jackson County School System Foster Care Point of Contact within 24 hours to discuss transportation. The Foster Care Point of Contact should then contact the Transportation Director to discuss transportation to and from the school of origin, if in the best interest of the student.

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. *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

The Foster Care Point of Contact will work to keep foster care students in the school of origin in order to minimize the disruption in the student's life, if it is determined to be in the student's best interest. Some factors to consider when making best interest determination include, but are not limited to the following: preferences of child; preferences of child's parents or education decision maker(s); the child's attachment to the school, including relationships w/staff & peers; placement of child's siblings; influence of school climate on the child, including safety; the availability & quality of the services in the school to meet the child's educational & socioemotional needs; history of school transfers & how they impact the child; how the length of commute would impact the child based on the child's developmental stage; availability of services for child w/a disability under IDEA; whether the child is EL & receiving language services; and the availability of those services.

### II. Foster Care Transportation Plan: GUIDING QUESTIONS



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Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent

<p><b>A.</b> 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>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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.	Yes		
3. The LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.	Yes		
<p>Describe the agreement the LEA has made with the local child welfare agency regarding transportation costs. <i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i></p> <p>The Jackson County School System and Jackson County Department of Family and Children Services will work together in order to keep foster care students in their school of origin if it is determined to be in the student's best interest. If additional costs are incurred providing the foster care student transportation to the school of origin, the LEA Foster Care Point of Contact and the Foster Care Supervisor will work together to determine reimbursement based on the situation of the foster care student. If it is determined that it is not in the best interest of the foster care student to remain in the school of origin, the LEA Point of Contact will work to retrieve educational records and forward to the enrolling school in a timely manner. If a dispute arises in regard to best interest determination and/or reimbursement, the student will remain in the school of origin until the dispute has been resolved.</p>			
<p><b>B.</b> All LEAs must meet the requirement to provide transportation for children who are in foster care to their schools of origin (<i>Similar to the McKinney-Vento requirement for students experiencing homelessness</i>). Does your LEA currently provide transportation services? If no, describe your plan to meet this mandate.</p>		Yes	
<p><i>Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.</i></p>			



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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.

Jackson County  
LEA Name

April Howard  
Printed Name of Superintendent

Superintendent  
Title

April Howard  
Signature of Superintendent  
(Please sign in blue ink only)

7/30/21  
Date