



Troup County School System

A Place For Every Kid

***Troup County Schools  
Foster Care Program  
Information for Foster Parents  
2023 – 2024 School Year***

Troup County Schools is devoted to empowering our students who are in foster care. Our mission is to remove potential barriers to their success.

**What is the Fostering Connections Act?** The Fostering Connections Act was signed into law in October 2008. The Fostering Connections Act supports educational stability and continuity for all children in foster care.

What are the students' rights under Fostering Connections?

- Remain in their school of origin (the last school they attended), unless it is not in the child's best interest to stay. Best interest discussions usually focus on the age of the student, the length of time in the former school, or the distance from the new foster home.
- Reasonable and appropriate transportation to a child's school will be provided.
- If remaining in the same school is not in the child's best interest, immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school is required.
- If remaining in the same school is not in the child's best interest, all records must be transferred immediately upon request.
- Troup County Schools, DFCS, Foster Parents, and others will collaborate in order to provide services for the student's needs.

**What is Educational Performance Impact of Trauma on Students in Foster Care (HB855)?** The purpose of this legislation, effective in 2021, is to conduct an assessment of newly enrolled foster care students to determine whether exposure to trauma has had or is likely to have an adverse impact on the student's educational performance.

- A virtual meeting will be scheduled in order to complete the Educational Impact Screener (EIS) as a part of the Trauma Informed Education Support (TIES) Plan. The Foster Care Point of Contact, Foster Parent(s), DFCS case manager, School Counselor, School Social Worker, and teacher(s) are invited to attend. This is then shared in Infinite Campus for future monitoring.

**What services are available to foster students in Troup County Schools? Please contact the Foster Care Point of Contact for assistance:**

- School supplies — please contact the Foster Care Point of Contact if this is a need
- Transportation assistance – if your student is attending a school **outside** of your home's zoned school
- Good Sam food bag program
- Assistance with IEPs, 504 meetings, and discipline meetings
- Best interest determinations
- Clothing resources
- ***Need something else? Please ask! The Foster Care Point of Contact and School Social Workers have a wide network of resources available.***

## **FYIs and Tips for Foster Parents:**

**Enrollment** - Students do not necessarily have to change schools when they change foster homes. Please consider allowing foster students to remain in their original schools, *especially those in high school*. Transportation assistance may be available — check with your DFCS Case Manager or the Foster Care Point of Contact. Please notify the school that you are enrolling a foster child. Registration is currently online, and can be found here: <https://campus.troup.org/campus/OLRLoginKiosk/troup>. Please note that we prefer that the foster parent complete the enrollment application, not the DFCS Case Manager. Within the application, there is a question that asks if the student is in the custody of DFCS – be sure to answer yes. If you have any problems enrolling a foster student, please contact the Foster Care Point of Contact.

**Free Lunch Applications** - Foster Parents only need to complete Sections 1 & 4 on the application. **Be sure to mark the box that says “foster care” on the application.** Sometimes the application can take time to process. The free lunch application is found in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal or for a paper copy, click here <https://www.troup.org/userfiles/938/my%20files/troup%20sy23%20f-r%20application%20final.docx?id=77125>.

**Discipline Meetings** – *Please notify your DFCS Case Manager immediately if your student has a discipline meeting or hearing.*

**IEP Meetings** – *Please notify your DFCS Case Manager immediately if your student has an IEP meeting or other special education services meeting.*

**CAPS** - Funds are provided by DFCS to assist you with childcare. CAPS is accepted by Troup County Schools’ after school programs.

**Seniors** - FAFSA/financial aid applications open on October 1. Please make sure the Foster Care Point of Contact is aware of your foster care senior. We would love to recognize their accomplishments!

**Tutoring** - If your foster student is from Georgia, please talk to your DFCS Case Manager about tutoring through “EPAC”. If you need assistance, please contact the Foster Care Liaison. If your foster student is from another state, please consult the Foster Care Point of Contact for help.

**Withdrawing Students** – Foster parents are responsible for withdrawing students. If this is not immediately convenient, please notify the school OR the Foster Care Point of Contact if a student has left your home. We will follow up with DFCS to keep the student in the current school if it is appropriate.

*Thank you for the care and concern that you give these students!! Please let us know if we can assist in any way.*

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