

**Alabama Education Stability for Foster Students
LEA Plan Template**

LEA Student in Foster Care Overview

Number of Students in Foster Care SY 2020- 2021 (15):

Number of Students in Foster Care SY 2021 - 2022 (6):

List Agencies in Collaboration:

**Albertville City Schools, Arab City Schools, Boaz City Schools, Guntersville City Schools, Marshall County Schools
And the Marshall County Department of Human Resources**

Policy Review and Revision (Describe how each agency in collaboration reviewed policies and the revisions made to policies as a result of reviews.)

Each participating agency reviewed enrollment and transportation policies/procedures currently in place. Enrollment policies/procedures have been amended to include "CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE" to the "immediate enroll" list of student groups.

Each agency also amended their policies/procedures for

"DISPUTE RESOLUTION" to contain information needed for CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE. A transportation plan for students in foster care was developed jointly by participating agencies. Each agency will be responsible for transporting students to their attendance boundary if it is determined to be in the child's best interest to remain in their school of origin. The district in which the school of origin is located will transport the child from the attendance boundary to the school. Should the school of origin not be in a neighbor school district, DHR will provide transportation. Forms are attached for determining the child's best interest, to be completed with input from DHR.

Describe Collaboration and Coordination with Agencies (Include a list of team members, positions, signatures, and agencies.):

Sign in sheet attached that includes participating agency representatives. A planning meeting was held on September 23, 2021 at the Marshall County Board of Education.

LEA(s) Point(s) of Contact:

**Andy Jones-Albertville City, Stacie Pace- Arab City, Margaret Mastin-Boaz City,
Jennifer Williams-Guntersville City, Stephanie Wisener-Marshall County**

DHR(s) Point(s) of Contact:

Marguerite Rollins-Marshall County DHR

2 C. F. R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. §76.770; ESSA SECTION 1111(1)(e) - LEAs must implement the Title I educational stability requirements of 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.

Describe procedures for implementing the above provisions.

Enrollment Policies have been revised to include "STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE" in the list of "immediately enrolled" students. Revised policies/procedures can be found in the policy book for each school system.

ESSA Section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i) – A description of how the LEA in collaboration with the local child welfare agency will ensure that in determining whether it is in the child's best interest to remain in his or her school or origin, and LEA takes into consideration all factors relating to a child's best interest.

Description of how the LEA will work with child welfare agencies to develop a clear policy or protocol on how to make best interest determinations including making every effort to gather meaningful input from relevant parties, in addition to required child welfare and school representatives, in deciding what school placement is in a child's best interest. Include a description of protocols in this description.

Forms to be used for BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION are attached to this plan and can be found in the office of the Foster Care Contact in each school system.

ESSA Section 1112(c)(5)(B) Description of transportation protocols and procedures to include how additional costs for transportation will be calculated and funded as well as a policy for LEAs to resolve best interest disputes and interagency disputes related to transportation costs. Description must include how transportation and transportation costs will be monitored. (Include LEA and welfare responsibilities for providing transportation.)

Description of Dispute Resolution Policy

Transportation procedures are attached to this plan and can be found in the office of the Foster Care Contact in each system.

ESSA Section 1111(g)(1)(E)(ii)-(iii) Describe protocol for a child in foster care to be immediately enrolled in a new school.

Upon initial enrollment, students identified as being in foster care will be immediately enrolled, even if enrollment documents are not presented, and the Foster Care Contact will schedule a "best interest determination" meeting with all necessary parties involved. This meeting may include a phone conference if all parties cannot meet within 24 hours.

Dispute Resolution Procedure for Homeless, Migratory, Immigrant, Students in Foster Care, and Limited English Proficient Students

1. Dispute Resolution. The formal dispute resolution process shall be initiated by the Director of Federal Programs following the receipt of a written or verbal notification of a challenge of the district's decision by the parent/guardian of a McKinney Vento Student/unaccompanied youth, Migratory, Immigrant or Limited English Proficient.
 - A. Should no agreement be satisfactorily reached, the parent/guardian of a McKinney Vento Student/unaccompanied youth, Migratory, Immigrant, or Limited English Proficient may further appeal the decision to the Superintendent and the Board of Education verbally or in writing. The decision will be made, presented in writing, and shall include an explanation of the decision. The communication shall be provided within ten (10) working days to the parent/guardian of a McKinney Vento Student/unaccompanied youth, Migratory, Immigrant or Limited English Proficient student.
 - B. If the dispute has not been satisfactorily resolved at the district level, parents/guardians or unaccompanied youth should be informed of their right to appeal the decision to the Alabama State Department of Education: under Federal Programs Section.
2. Dispute resolution procedures for student in foster care are listed in "Appendix A".

Transportation Procedure

Homeless and Children in Foster Care

1. Homeless Students:

Students eligible for McKinney- Vento assistance **will** be immediately enrolled in school even in the absence of required documents.

Transportation will be provided to these students in the same manner as provided to other students. Should a homeless student wish to remain in their school of origin that is **outside** the attendance boundaries of the Boaz City district, transportation will be provided to our attendance boundary. The school system that serves the school of origin will meet the student at the attendance boundary and transport to the school.

2. Children in Foster Care:

Transportation for students in foster care will be provided in the same manner as provided to other students. Should it be **determined** that it is in the best interest of the foster child to remain in their school of origin that is outside the attendance boundaries of the Boaz City School System, the student will be transported to the attendance boundary of Boaz City School System and the district in which the school of origin is located will transport the child to school. If the school of origin is not located in a system that directly borders Boaz City School System, the Department of Human Resources has agreed to provide transportation to the school of origin (collaborative planning meeting with DHR held on January 30, 2017).