



SUSD Foster Care Transportation Plan

Attestation of foster care transportation for duration of time in foster care

“An LEA must 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...” (Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care)

Transportation during the BID process

“An LEA must ensure that a child in foster care remains in his or her school of origin while any disputes regarding transportation costs are being resolved. (See ESEA sections 1111(g)(1)(E)(i) and 1112(c)(5)(B)(i)).” (Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care).

Transportation Plan for Children in Foster Care to their School of Origin

Public Law 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5)(B)(i)) ‘(i) ensure that children in foster care needing transportation to the school of origin will promptly receive transportation in a cost-effective manner and in accordance with section 475(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(4)(A)); ...

Foster care transportation additional costs

Public Law 114-95 Title I, Sec. 1112(c)(5)(B)(ii)) “(ii) ensure that, if there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, the local educational agency will provide transportation to the school of origin if— (I) the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the local educational agency for the cost of such transportation; (II) the local educational agency agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or (III) the local educational agency and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation; ...” The LEA will ensure transportation to the school of origin should there be additional costs. “Additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin should reflect the difference between what an LEA otherwise would spend to transport a student to his or her assigned school and the cost of transporting a child in foster care to his or her school of origin.” (Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care).

Foster Care Transportation Plan Public Notice

The LEA will post their approved foster care transportation plan exported form from EMAC, along with the contact information for the foster care point of contact, on their website.

Transportation during the BID process

Description: (i.e. methods of transportation to use, no or low-cost transportation options considered (e.g., eligibility in another LEA program that is already providing transportation, foster caregiver already contracted to provide transportation, foster caregiver able to provide transportation, public transportation, modification of existing bus routes), LEA internal process to activate transportation, etc.)

*Children in foster care must remain at their school of origin throughout the best interest determination (BID) process. Describe how the lea, in collaboration with the CWA, will provide, arrange, and fund transportation to the school of origin during the bid process.

Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) will promptly organize and cover the expenses for temporary transportation for foster care children during the BID process, working closely with the Child Welfare Agency (CWA) to establish a long-term transportation strategy for each child. The transportation provided will match that of other students in the school district. It is crucial to ensure there are no delays in transportation arrangements for foster children while plans are being finalized. If a foster child is already receiving transportation through another program, such as one outlined in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP), funded by the IDEA Act, for example, they will continue to be transported through that program.

During the process, the Foster Care Liaison will complete [transportation process documents](#) to determine the most cost effective, prompt mode of transportation. Transportation modes may vary to meet the specific needs of foster care students, including the use of school-issued vans, public buses, CWA vehicles, youth shelter vehicles, mental health clinic vans, and outside vendors as a last resort. Gas reimbursement may be requested if foster care students violate transportation contracts or if other transportation options are not available. In cases where cost disputes arise, our LEA and the local CWA will divide transportation fees equally. The Foster Care Liaison will also submit a [Transportation Request Form and Use Agreement](#) to notify and create partnership between the SUSD Support Service and Transportation Departments. Transportation requests are provided as soon as the BID takes place. Our transportation department offers transportation services within 3 days of the Transportation Request Form being submitted

If after the BID process, adjustments are needed to accommodate the child's needs, SUSD will modify the bus route accordingly. SUSD commits to promptly and affordably transporting foster care children to their original school, as mandated by section 475 (4)(A) of the Social Security

Act (42 U.S.C. 675 (4)(A)). This may involve offering transportation options at little to no cost, with SUSD covering the expenses initially and seeking reimbursement from the local CWA. A cost-sharing agreement may be pursued after the BID process with the CWA when the student resides outside of district boundaries but requires transportation to their school of origin. This cost-sharing agreement will outline transportation methods, safety procedures, and cost-sharing arrangements.

Regarding academic support, transportation will be arranged for foster care students needing after-school tutoring or participating in extracurricular activities. Timely testing and arrangements for 504 Plans/IEP meetings will be made to ensure access to other LEA programs for all students, including those in foster care. While our LEA doesn't offer an online curriculum, we utilize platforms like Class Dojo and Google Classroom for academic communication between instructors, students, and guardians. Also, SUSD students have district issued laptops with all platforms accessible, including email and Google Classroom. Students will be given a hotspot if internet access is a barrier. After finalizing BID meetings, necessary transportation plan revisions will be promptly implemented and discussed with the local CWA.

Transportation Plan for Children in Foster Care to their School of Origin

Description: (This response may include the following: eligibility in another LEA program that is already providing transportation, foster caregiver already contracted to provide transportation, foster caregiver able to provide transportation, public transportation, modification of existing bus routes, LEA internal process to activate transportation, additional considerations, internal forms used, stakeholders involved to execute transportation, sustainability of transportation plan, assurances that children in foster care will not have a lapse in school attendance at the school of origin, differences between interim transportation & long-term transportation, etc.).

Describe how the LEA, in collaboration with the CWA, will provide, arrange, and fund transportation to the school of origin after the BID process.

If the BID process determines it is necessary for children in foster care to maintain stability by attending their school of origin, our LEA, working alongside the Child Welfare Agency (CWA), will ensure transportation for them throughout their time in foster care. Based upon information from the BID, the Foster Care Liaison will complete [transportation process documents](#) to determine the most cost effective, prompt mode of transportation. The Foster Care Liaison will also submit a [Transportation Request Form and Use Agreement](#) to notify and create partnership between the SUSD Support Service and Transportation Departments. Transportation requests

are provided as soon as the BID takes place. Our transportation department offers transportation services within 3 days of the Transportation Request Form being submitted.

If an existing bus route serves the school of origin, the children will use it. If there is a need to modify an existing route within the LEA's boundaries, then SUSD will make every effort to reroute. If a foster child is already receiving transportation through another program, such as one outlined in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP), funded by the IDEA Act, for example, they will continue to be transported through that program.

Our commitment extends to providing transportation to the school of origin for as long as the child remains in foster care. We prioritize educational stability, considering each child's needs individually. Transportation within a reasonable radius of our LEA will be accommodated by school bus transportation. Once the BID takes place, if the school of origin falls outside our LEA's jurisdiction, we will collaborate with the CWA to share the transportation costs. Transportation modes including public transportation, youth shelter vehicles, CWA vehicles, mental health clinic/ service vans, free trolleys, and contracted outside vendors as a last resort—always aiming for cost-effectiveness. When public transportation and existing bus routes do not meet the needs of transporting students, SUSD will contract with outside service providers to ensure timely transportation. Gas reimbursement may be requested if foster care students violate transportation contracts or if other transportation options are not available. Cost disputes between our LEA and the CWA will be divided equally.

Regarding academic support, we will continue providing access to after-school tutoring and extracurricular activities for foster children. Timely testing and arrangements for individualized education plans. Accommodation will be made to ensure continuance of education during the time needed to set up transportation, utilizing SUSD academic applications (such as Google Classroom) on the SUSD issued laptop. After finalizing BID meetings, transportation plans will be revised as needed, with input from the local CWA.

Foster care transportation additional costs

*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to seek reimbursement from the CWA.

Description: (Detail your LEA's policy to determine when and how the LEA would seek reimbursements from the CWA to provide transportation for children in foster care to their school of origin (i.e. any mileage over/under X miles, any cost over/under X dollars, specific situations, when certain transportation methods are used, how will the reimbursement be collected, etc.)).

SUSD is committed to promptly providing, organizing, and covering the costs of temporary transportation for foster care children, in close collaboration with the Child Welfare Agency (CWA) to establish a comprehensive transportation plan. Children in foster care that live within SUSD boundaries will be transported in the same manner as other students within the school

district. Once a long-term transportation plan is established, our LEA will cover the transportation costs within our designated area to ensure no delays for foster care students. If a foster child is already receiving transportation through another LEA program, such as through their Individualized Education Plan (IEP), they will continue to be transported through that program.

If adjustments are needed to accommodate the child's needs, SUSD will modify the bus route accordingly. Our priority is to ensure foster care children receive prompt transportation to their school of origin in a cost-effective manner, complying with relevant regulations. We will offer no or low-cost transportation options and coordinate with CWA towards a long term shared transportation agreement, with an accompanied shared cost agreement, when transporting outside our jurisdiction.

If in the BID process, the CWA and SUSD determine that SUSD will provide transportation outside of school boundaries both ways, then SUSD will seek reimbursement from the local CWA. This could occur when If this situation costs SUSD more than \$50, it would trigger the need for reimbursement from CWA. The process of requesting reimbursement is based off of the DCS Cost Share Document, where

1. The DCS Specialist completes the student information portion of the Cost Share Request Memo and submits to the EducationPOC@azdcs.gov mailbox.
2. The DCS Education team sends the Arizona Substitute W9 form to the LEA to complete and return to the EducationPOC@azdcs.gov mailbox.
3. The DCS Education team reviews and forwards the completed memo and W9 to the Procurement team for processing.
4. The Procurement team will load the LEA into Guardian as a provider, set up the purchase order and notify the Education team when complete.
5. The Education Team notifies the LEA and CentralizedInvoicing@azdcs.gov of the Purchase Order number.
6. The LEA submits billing monthly to CentralizedInvoicing@azdcs.gov

Transportation modes may vary to meet the specific needs of foster care students, including the use of school-issued vans, public buses, CWA vehicles, youth shelter vehicles, mental health clinic vans, and outside vendors as a last resort. Gas reimbursement may be requested if foster care students violate transportation contracts or if other transportation options are not available. Cost disputes will be divided equally between our LEA and the local CWA.

**Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to solely provide transportation.*

Description: Detail your LEA's policy to determine when and how the LEA would solely provide transportation for children in foster care to their school of origin (i.e. any mileage

over/under X miles, any cost over/under X dollars, when certain transportation methods are used, specific situations, etc.).

SUSD is dedicated to promptly providing foster care children with transportation to their school of origin in a cost-effective manner, in compliance with section 475 (4)(A) of the Social Security Act. If an existing bus route is available, foster care children will utilize that route to reach their school of origin. Additionally, if transportation is listed as a related service on their Individualized Education Program (IEP), the LEA will be the sole provider of transportation.

We offer no or low-cost transportation options and will cover the transportation costs initially, seeking reimbursement from the local Child Welfare Agency (CWA) only when appropriate. SUSD will offer transportation to the school of origin while the BID is taking place. After the BID, we will work with the CWA to establish a cost-sharing agreement to determine transportation methods, timing, and safety procedures. SUSD will cover costs associated with transporting students within our jurisdiction- regardless of the number of miles and at any cost, but will enter a cost-sharing agreement with CWA for students transported outside of our school boundaries.

Various modes of transportation may be utilized to meet the specific needs of foster care students, including school-issued vans, local public buses, CWA vehicles, youth shelter vehicles, mental health clinic/services vans, foster/guardian personal vehicles, and outside vendors as a last resort. Our LEA will consider costs to ensure a cost-effective transportation solution, with cooperation from the local CWA. Gas reimbursement may be requested if foster care students violate transportation contracts or if *other transportation options are not available*.

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), school districts and child welfare agencies are mandated to collaborate on clear written procedures governing transportation for children in foster care to maintain their enrollment in their school of origin, when it's in their best interest. It's our LEA's legal obligation to uphold these duties outlined in the Act.

*Describe the circumstances that would trigger the LEA to agree to share the cost with the CWA.

Description: Detail your LEA's policy to determine when and how the LEA would share the cost with the CWA to provide transportation for children in foster care to their school of origin (i.e. any mileage over/under X miles, any cost over/under X dollars, when certain transportation methods are used, specific situations, etc.).

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), school districts and child welfare agencies must work together to establish clear procedures for providing, arranging, and

funding transportation to maintain foster care children in their school of origin when it's in their best interest.

If transportation falls outside our LEA's jurisdiction, we will collaborate with the Child Welfare Agency (CWA) to share the costs. Any dollar amount and any amount of mileage would trigger a request for reimbursement if the student's residence was outside of our school boundaries. The CWA will provide transportation either to campus or to the nearest bus stop within our campus zoning area, from which point our LEA will take over transportation responsibilities.

When transportation costs are shared between our LEA and the CWA, our LEA will allow CWA to select the AM or PM route and SUSD will accommodate the other half. If necessary, alterations or switches of routes can be discussed and determined between our LEA and the CWA.

Modes of transportation may vary to meet students' needs, including school-issued vans, local public buses, CWA vehicles, mental health clinic vans, foster/guardian personal vehicles, and contracted vendors as a last resort. Gas reimbursement may be requested if foster care students violate transportation contracts or if *other transportation options are not available*. Our LEA will consider costs to ensure a cost-effective transportation solution, with cooperation from the local CWA. We will seek a cost-sharing agreement with the local CWA to determine transportation methods, timing, safety procedures, and other relevant factors.