



FY26 Foster Care Transportation Plan

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Emanuel County

Superintendent Name Denise Warnock

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City Swainsboro **Zip** 30401

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POC Mailing Address P.O. Box 130

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Denise B. Warnock

Superintendent Signature

6/18/2025

Date

Denise B. Warnock

Print Name of Superintendent

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The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is required to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)). In coordination with state and tribal child welfare agencies, GaDOE must ensure that its LEAs implement the Title I educational stability requirements for 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 (ESEA section 1111(g)(1)(E)(i)-(iii)). In fulfilling this role, the SEA should coordinate with the state or tribal child welfare agency to develop and disseminate uniform guidelines for implementing the Title I educational stability provisions. Developing uniform statewide policies and procedures for ensuring educational stability for children in foster care, as many States have already done under the Fostering Connections Act, will facilitate successful implementation at the local level. This is particularly important given the shared agency responsibility for educational stability under Title I and the Fostering Connections Act, and because a single LEA or local child welfare agency will likely have to collaborate with multiple partner agencies in implementing these provisions.

Additionally, the SEA must conduct regular monitoring and oversight to guarantee appropriate implementation of these provisions at the local level. (See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.331(d), 200.328(a); 34 C.F.R. § 76.770).

On the state level, the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), which houses the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) periodically sends a list of children in foster care that are flagged in GaDOE's student information system for information sharing and reporting purposes. On the local level, LEAs are now able to retrieve a list of children in foster care to better identify and provide services. LEAs are to continue collaborating with their local child welfare agencies and may periodically receive information directly from foster parents, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), DFCS case workers, or Education Support Monitors (ESM), within the Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC) unit of DFCS. Once identified, LEAs must implement its plan to ensure educational stability for children in care. For the best interest of the children in care, LEAs should follow all mandated regulations under FERPA and keep the status of these children confidential.

As a result, GaDOE is requiring all LEAs, including virtual schools and charter schools that function as an LEA, to complete a Foster Care Transportation Plan. The plan should be completed in addition to the development and implementation of written transportation procedures and the identification of a Foster Care Point of Contact. Please complete this plan and return it by:

Monday, June 30, 2025

Instructions for submission:

- After the LEA superintendent signs the assurances, scan the entire document as a PDF and save it as the "FY26 Foster Care Transportation Plan".
- Upload the signed PDF version of the document to the CLIP online portal via the Consolidated Application for FY26.



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NOTE: In order to answer the questions below, refer to the [Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability and Success for Students 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.*

Procedures have been drafted to coordinate transportation for students placed in foster care in Emanuel County. The Emanuel County Foster Care Point of Contact will meet monthly with EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor or designee, Social Services Supervisor, DFACS Case Worker(s), any Court Appointed Special Advocate(s), and other Juvenile Court representatives to review current cases. In the case of an emergency placement, the Foster Care Point of Contact and the Case Worker will coordinate efforts to determine transportation needs of student. The Transportation Rubric will be completed on students to determine if there is a need to transport them to their school or origin outside of Emanuel County. The rubric will be completed by the Transportation Committee that will include the LEA Foster Care Point of Contact, EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor, Case Worker, Court Appointed Advocate, and any other Juvenile Court Representatives.

- 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.*

Emanuel County Schools and the local child welfare agency through consistent and professional communication will ensure that transportation is provided immediately to students determined to need transportation. The LEA and local child welfare agency will consider and utilize all allowable funding sources, including Federal funds, to cover additional transportation costs. The agencies will maximize all possible funding sources in this manner to ensure that transportation costs for children in foster care do not become unduly burdensome on any agency. The Foster Care Transportation Committee agreed that any cost associated with transportation within Emanuel County will be the responsibility of the Emanuel County School System. Cost associated with a student being transported to another system will be calculated at \$ per mile based on current fuel prices (6/18/2025). Any disputes of expenses will be settled by a neutral moderator and will not hinder transportation of students.

- 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.*

Emanuel County Foster Care Point of Contact will meet at least monthly with the EPAC Unit Education Support Monitor (or designee), Social Services Supervisor, Case Worker(s), any Court Appointed Special Advocate (s), and other Juvenile Court representatives to review current cases. All agencies involved will be updated on current status of foster care students within our district. The local child welfare agency (LCWA) will be the point of contact for the Emanuel County School System. The LCWA in conjunction with the Foster Care Point of Contact will monitor transportation being provided to foster care students to insure the safety and well-being of the student as well as submitting appropriate documents for reimbursement for transportation costs.

II. Foster Care Transportation Plan: GUIDING QUESTIONS



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<p>A. 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>			
	YES	NO	N/A
1. The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost of such transportation.	No		
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>If a child is placed within the Emanuel County School's attendance area and projected transportation cost are negligible, transportation will be immediately provided without supplemental assistance from the local child welfare agency. If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to maintain child in foster care in their schools of origin, Emanuel County Schools will provide transportation to the school of origin and the school system and the local child welfare agency will agree to share the cost of such transportation. Cost associated with a student being transported to another system will be calculated at \$3 per mile based on current fuel prices (6/18/2025).</p>			
<p>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> <p>Emanuel County Schools will use the plan outlined in this document to insure that all transportation needs of students in foster care are met.</p>			

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.

Emanuel County Schools
LEA Name

Denise B. Warnock
Printed Name of Superintendent

Superintendent
Title

Denise B. Warnock
Signature of Superintendent
(Please sign in blue ink only)

06.23.25
Date