

FY27 Foster Care Transportation Plan

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Thomas County Schools

Superintendent Name Dr. Lisa Williams

Mailing Address 200 N. Pinetree Blvd.

Physical Address (if different from above)

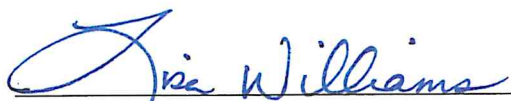
City Thomasville **Zip** 31792

Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) Name Cara Hankinson **POC Email** cahankinson@tcjackets.net

POC Mailing Address 200 N. Pinetree Blvd.

City Thomasville **Zip** 31792

POC Telephone 229-516-0084 **POC Fax** 229-225-4376



Superintendent Signature

6/4/2026
Click here to enter a date.
Date

Lisa Williams
Print Name of Superintendent



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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.*

If the Best Interest Determination decision is that the student will remain in the current school, the foster care point of contact will coordinate with the appropriate child welfare worker and the LEA transportation department to arrange transportation to the school of origin. School of origin transportation will be provided through the end of the current school year

Thomas County School System will consider the following options to provide School of Origin (SOO) transportation:

1. Use an existing bus route.
2. Use Specialized transportation offered to other students.
3. Use of transportation not owned directly by, or supported by, the school system.

If SOO transportation is needed to The Renaissance Center, and the student is not covered under IDEA, then modes of transportation not owned by, or directly supported by, the school system will be utilized. If the student is going to, or coming from, another LEA, arrangements shall be made with the other LEA to transfer the child.

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.*

Thomas County Schools will provide SOO transportation within the guidelines of this policy until the completion of the Best Interest Determination or until any conflict is resolved.

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.*

- Some of the roles and responsibilities of the Thomas County LEA, POC include:
- Coordinating with the corresponding child welfare agency POC on the implementation of the provisions
- Leading the development of a process for making the best interest determination
- Documenting the best interest determination
- Facilitating the transfer of records and immediate enrollment
- Facilitating data sharing with the child welfare agencies, consistent with FERPA and other privacy protocols
- Developing and coordinating local transportation procedures



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- Managing best interest determinations and transportation costs disputes
- Ensuring that children in foster care are enrolled in and regularly attending school
- Providing professional development and training to school staff on the Title I provisions and educational needs of children in foster care, as needed.

II. Foster Care Transportation Plan: GUIDING QUESTIONS

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:

	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.	No		
3. The LEA and local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.	Yes		

Describe the agreement the LEA has made with the local child welfare agency regarding transportation costs. *Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.*

If a student is placed in a school district outside the student's SOO, the LEA's will arrange a meeting point at the closest countyline location to transport student to and from the SOO. Any cost sharing arrangement reached between LEA's and the local child welfare agency will be made in the best interest of the child.

B. All LEAs must meet the requirement to provide transportation for children who are in foster care to their schools of origin (*Similar to the McKinney-Vento requirement for students experiencing homelessness*). Does your LEA currently provide transportation services? If no, describe your plan to meet this mandate.

Yes

Please limit the response to 1,000 characters.

LEA currently provides transportation services.

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.

Thomas County School District
LEA Name

Lisa Williams
Printed Name of Superintendent

Superintendent
Title

Lisa Williams
Signature of Superintendent
(Please sign in blue ink only)

6/4/2026
Date