

Students in Foster Care

Student Rights and School Supports



*Presentation adapted from ODE

Foster care means...



Substitute care for children placed by the Oregon Department of Human Services or a Tribal child welfare agency away from their parents and for whom the department or agency has placement and care responsibility, including placements in:

- foster family homes (known now as "resource parents")
- foster homes of relatives
- group homes
- emergency shelters
- residential facilities (Not OYA, juvenile detention, mental health treatment)
- child care institutions and pre-adoptive homes.





Students in foster care have rights

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), children in foster care have the right to:

- Remain in their school district and school of origin (within reason), for the duration of time in foster care, even when their foster home placement changes and/or they are living outside of their school boundary.
- Immediately enroll in school, with or without all required documents typically needed to enroll. The resource parent may only have a generic placement letter from ODHS - this is considered proof of guardianship.
- Automatic eligibility for free school meals.
- Participate in school-related activities.
- Transportation to their school of origin, as requested by the ODHS caseworker.



School of Origin



Definition: "The School of Origin" is the school district/school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement into ODHS Child Welfare Foster Care.



******A school district/school of origin **ONLY** changes when there is a Best Interest Finding made by the Juvenile Court.



ESD's Foster Care POC's

(Point of
Contact)



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What is a Foster Care Point of Contact?



A Foster Care Point of Contact (POC) is a designated staff member within a school district who is responsible for coordinating with the ODHS child welfare system and ensuring federal policies are being followed - ESSA and Fostering Connections.

****Each school district is required by law to have a POC**



School Notification Form



ODHS caseworkers should fill out the School Notification form for each child in foster care.

Please encourage the caseworker to complete the form and send it to the Foster Care POC.



****This form is NOT needed for immediate enrollment.**



Transportation



Children in foster care have the right to school of origin transportation, no matter the address.



ODHS caseworkers must fill out a special transportation request form and send it to the Foster Care POC in order for transportation to be arranged.



Free School Meals

Children in foster care have the right to free school breakfast and lunch.

At this time, Estacada School District students are provided with free breakfast and lunch, so no additional paperwork is required.*



*This is dependent on district Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) eligibility



Resource Parent and ODHS Caseworker

Who can consent to what?

Foster Parents	DHS Caseworker
❖ Enrollment ❖ Unenrollment ❖ Routine school related activities and records ❖ Routine medical (immunizations, medications at school, school health center) ❖ IEP Testing or Assessment	❖ School Approval for foster parent (if different than school of origin: ❖ Private, charter, alternative and Home school ❖ International Study Abroad ❖ GED ❖ Psychological Evaluation

Who is considered a parent?

(22) "Parent" means:

(a) One or more of the following persons:

(A) A biological or adoptive parent of the child;

(B) A foster parent of the child;

(C) A legal guardian, other than a state agency;

(D) An individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative) with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare; or

(E) A surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with OAR 581-015-2320, for school-age children, or 581-015-2760 for preschool children.

TAM pages 14 and 30
OAR 581-015-2000(22)
IDEA

POC Responsibilities

- Coordinates with DHS/Child Welfare on implementation of foster care provision
- Responsible for receiving and disseminating School Notification Forms (each district may develop its own process)
- Facilitates transfer of records and immediate enrollment
 - Schedule team meeting with school counselor, POC, caseworker, school admin
- Develops and coordinate school/district of origin transportation procedures
- Facilitates data-sharing, consistent with FERPA and other privacy protocols

Caseworker Responsibilities

Caseworker

- ❖ Primary contact between children in foster care and school staff
- ❖ Establish a process to notify a school when a child has been placed into foster care or there has been a change in foster care placement
- ❖ Complete School Notification form and give to POC
- ❖ Fill out transportation request (if needed) and give to POC
- ❖ Provide records/information
- ❖ Work with POC to provide immediate enrollment
- ❖ Work with POC to coordinate transportation



For more information

Visit the Oregon Department of Education's webpage:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/fosteringconnections>

