

Students in Foster Care

The board recognizes that students in foster care experience mobility in and out of the foster care system and from one home placement to another that disrupts their education, thereby creating barriers to academic success and on-time graduation. Through collaboration with state, local and/or tribal child welfare agencies, the district will strive to minimize or eliminate educational barriers for students in foster care, particularly with regard to enrollment, transfer of student records, and transportation to their school of origin. The superintendent or designee is authorized to establish procedures and/or practices for implementing this policy.

Point of contact

The superintendent or designee will designate an appropriate staff member to serve as the district's point of contact for local child welfare agencies if such agencies notify the District in writing that they have designated a point of contact for the District. The point of contact will work with appropriate state, local and/or tribal child welfare agencies to receive notifications and share information regarding the status and progress of students in foster care. The point of contact will also work collaboratively with the district's Title I coordinator to provide supports for students in foster care that are enrolled or seeking to enroll in the district.

Enrollment

Whenever practical and in the best interest of the child, children placed into foster care will remain enrolled in the school they were attending upon entering foster care. When a determination of the student's best interest is necessary, it will take into account a number of factors as described in the procedures that accompany this policy, including concern for the student's safety as well as the availability of supports for the student's educational success. Such a determination should involve a district representative, a representative of the appropriate child welfare agency, the student, and the student's biological and foster families, if reasonably feasible.

If remaining in the school of origin is determined not to be in the student's best interest, the district will immediately enroll that student in their new school. Enrollment may not be denied or delayed based on the fact that documents normally required for enrollment have not been provided.

A school may not prevent a student in foster care from enrolling based on incomplete information of any history of placement in special education, any past, current, or pending disciplinary action, any history of violent behavior, or behavior listed in RCW 13.04.155, any unpaid fines or fees imposed by other schools, or any health conditions affecting the student's educational needs during the ten (10) day period that the Department of Social and Health Services has to obtain that information. Upon enrollment, the district will make reasonable efforts to obtain and assess the child's educational history in order to meet the child's unique needs within two (2) school business days.

Records Transfer

When a student in foster care transfers schools, whether within the district or to another school district, the enrolling school will immediately contact the sending school to obtain academic and other records. The sending school will respond as soon as possible to requests it receives for records of students in foster care.

Additionally, upon receipt of a request for education records of a student in foster care from the Department of Social and Health Services, the district will provide the records to the agency within two (2) school days.

Transportation

By December 10, 2016, the district will collaborate with state, local or tribal child welfare agencies, as appropriate, to implement a written transportation procedure by which prompt, cost-effective transportation will be provided, arranged and funded for students to remain in their school of origin when in their best interest for the duration of their time in foster care.

The written procedure will ensure that if additional costs are incurred in providing transportation, the district

3231 - Student Records

6100 - Revenues From Local, State and Federal Sources

Legal References:

RCW 28A.150.510 Transmittal of education records to department of social and health services – Disclosure of educational records – Data-sharing agreements – Comprehensive needs requirement document – Report

RCW 28A.225.023 Youth dependent pursuant to Chapter 13.34 RCW - Review of unexpected or excessive absences – Support for youth’s school work

RCW 28A.225.215 Enrollment of children without legal residences

RCW 28A.225.330 Enrolling students from other districts— Requests for information and permanently records—Withheld transcripts-Immunity from liability—Notification to teachers and security personnel—Rules

RCW 28A.320.192 On-time grade level progression and graduation of students who are dependent youth

RCW 74.13.550 Child placement – Policy of educational continuity

20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq. Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act [ESSA]

Management Resources:

2017 - July Issue

2016 - November Issue

OSPI list of Foster Care Liaisons/DSHS Contacts

Zillah School District

Adoption Date: **12.15.16**

Classification: **Priority**

Revised Dates: **09.28.17**