

Federal Programs

Ardmore City Schools

Foster Care School Placement Best Interest Determination Evaluation

Child's Name: _____			
Birthday: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____			
Current District: _____ Current Site: _____			
<i>Student will remain in the current school unless consideration of the following factors indicates a change of school placement is in the child's best interest (check all that apply.)</i>			
	School of Origin (A)	Receiving School (B)	Other Previous School Attended (C)
<p>Which school will better meet the relational needs of the child?</p> <p>Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Siblings <input type="radio"/> Relationships with peers <input type="radio"/> Relationships with staff <p>Describe the relationship connections at current school:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>List strategies for maintaining important connections should other best interest determination be made:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>			

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<p>Which school will better meet the individual academic needs and challenges of the child? Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> IEP <input type="radio"/> 504 Plan <input type="radio"/> Gifted Program <input type="radio"/> Career Tech <input type="radio"/> EL Services 			
<p>Which school will better meet the social/emotional needs and challenges of the child?</p> <p>Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Social <input type="radio"/> Emotional <input type="radio"/> Safety 			
<p>Which school will better meet the unique needs and interests of the child? Select all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Extracurricular Activities <input type="radio"/> Sports <input type="radio"/> Other <p>Student will describe the areas of desired school involvement:</p> <p>_____</p>			
<p>Which school will best meet the permanency goal and likelihood of reunification with parents or siblings?</p>			
<p>Which school is more appropriate for the child's age and length of travel?</p> <p>Explain: _____</p> <p>_____</p>			

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Describe the child's transfer history. <hr/> <hr/>			
Which school does the student prefer to attend? Explain: <hr/> <hr/>			
Which school does the caregiver or current placement provider recommend the student attend? Explain: <hr/>			
Identify strategies for successful transition to new school and/or support in current school: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>			

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Supporting Documentation

Attach any supporting documentation used to determine best interest of child:

- Report Cards
- Progress Reports
- Achievement Data (test scores)
- Attendance Data
- IEP or Section 504 Plans
- Other: _____

Determination

Based on the information provided and considering the best interest of the child, the team has determined the following school is the most appropriate educational placement for the child: _____

Team Members:

LEA representative: _____

Printed name

Signature

CWA representative: _____

Printed name

Signature

Education Decision Maker _____

Printed name

Signature

Other: _____

Printed name

Signature

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Foster Care Transportation Agreement

RE: Transportation of Foster Care Students

Dear Superintendent and Child Welfare Agency:

Fostering Connections Act (P.L. 110-351) is a federal law that protects and seeks to promote education stability for foster children. Under this Act, transportation to school must be provided to an enrolled foster care student, even though the student may be physically located in a different school district. Oklahoma law, however, prohibits school buses from crossing the transportation boundaries of another district, with a few exceptions. One such exception is by the mutual agreement of the boards of education. This letter is intended to be a Transportation Agreement designed to comply with legal requirements in the event that a participating school district must provide transportation services to a foster care child who is physically located in another participating school district.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1112(5)(B) stipulates: “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:

- the local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the local educational agency for the cost of such transportation;
- the local educational agency agrees to pay for the cost of such transportation; or
- the local educational agency and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost of such transportation.”

In order to comply with ESSA and to ensure educational stability, the receiving Local Educational Agency and the Child Welfare Agency (CWA) should aim for reaching an agreement in regard to how the transportation will be provided, arranged and funded for the duration of the child’s time in foster care. This letter is also intended to be a Transportation Agreement between the LEA and CWA, designed to comply with ESSA requirements in terms of transportation costs.

If you wish to participate in the Agreement, please have this document approved by the board of education and provide me with a signed copy of the Agreement. I will then provide each of the participating parties with an executed copy.

Respectfully,

Sabra Emde
Foster Care Coordinator

Child Welfare Agency Name

Transportation cost agreed to: _____

Attest: _____
Board clerk

Date: _____

Receiving School District Name

Date: _____

Transportation cost agreed to: _____

Attest: _____
Board clerk

Date: _____

School District Name

Date: _____

Attest: _____

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Board clerk

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SUBCHAPTER 10. FOSTER CARE EDUCATION COMPLAINT GUIDELINES

210:40-10-1. Purpose

Every effort must be made to resolve the complaint or dispute at the Local Educational Agency level and Child Welfare Agency (CWA) level before it is brought to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). It is the responsibility of the Local Educational Agency (LEA) to inform the complainant of the LEA's Complaint Resolution Procedures when a question concerning the education of a foster child or youth arises.

210:40-10-2. School District Level & Child Welfare Agency

The following rule is a complaint resolution process recommended by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) when a dispute arises regarding the education of a foster care child or youth. To ensure the educational stability of children and youth in foster care, each Local Educational Agency (LEA) shall develop a Foster Care Plan and review it annually. If any disputes arise, such as Transportation Costs, Best Interest Determination, School of Origin, etc., the following shall be followed:

(1) Contact the foster care LEA Point of Contact (POC). The foster care point of contact serves as a liaison between the foster care child and the school the child attends. If the complainant does not know who the LEA POC is, someone in the school or in the superintendent's office shall direct him or her to the designated POC.

(A) Request access to or a copy of the district board of education policies addressing the education of foster care children and youths and review them. Make an appointment with the foster care coordinator to discuss the complaint.

(B) If the dispute is not resolved after the initial discussion with the foster care POC, the complainant may file a formal complaint in writing to the foster care POC for further review.

(C) The LEA POC shall present a proposed resolution or a plan of action to the complainant. The LEA shall give a written resolution of the dispute or a plan of action within five (5) to ten (10) business days from the date the complaint was received by the foster care POC.

(2) If the dispute is not resolved at the foster care POC level, the complaint shall be forwarded to the superintendent of the LEA for review. The superintendent may consult with the Local CWA to resolve the dispute. The superintendent shall meet with the complainant to discuss the dispute, and then shall give a written resolution within five (5) days from the date when the complaint was received.

(3) If the dispute is not resolved at the district superintendent level, the complainant may take the matter before the school district's board of education for resolution.

The final written resolution at the district level shall indicate complainant's agreement or disagreement of the resolution.

210:40-10-3. State Level

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If the dispute is not resolved in a satisfactory manner at the school district level, the complaint shall be brought to the OSDE. Complaints made under this process must be made in writing and signed by the complainant. The following steps are to be taken:

(1) Fill out the complaint form found on the OSDE's website. Address the complaint to:

Oklahoma State Department of Education

Office of Federal Programs

2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

(405) 521-2846

Include in the complaint:

(A) A detailed description of the dispute;

(B) The name(s) and age(s) of the children involved;

(C) The name(s) of involved school district personnel and the district(s) they represent;

(D) A description of attempts that were made to resolve the issue at the school district and child welfare agency level.

(2) The foster care POC at OSDE will inform the involved parties and the child welfare agency of the complaint. The POC will gather needed information including documentation and statements of the parties, and may conduct an independent investigation through an on-site visit, if necessary.

(3) Within thirty (30) days after receiving and investigating a complaint, the OSDE-POC will make a determination regarding the allegations on the complaint and will inform the parties, in writing, of the decision.

(4) If a complainant disagrees with the decision, the complainant may, within ten (10) working days, appeal the decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. This appeal must be in writing and state the reasons why the complainant disagrees with the decision.

(5) Within thirty (30) days after receiving the appeal, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will render a final decision and notify the complainant and all other interested parties in writing. Although the standard procedure allows thirty (30) days for a response, every effort will be made to resolve the complaint in the shortest possible time.

(6) While the dispute is ongoing, the child(ren) in question must be enrolled in and attending school. If the dispute revolves around which school is the school of best interest for the child, the child shall remain in the school they currently attend until the dispute is resolved, unless arrangements already implemented allow the child to attend the school of origin.

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OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOSTER CARE COMPLAINT FORM

1) **Please provide the Name, Date of Birth, and Grade Level for the child involved.**

First Name: [Click here to enter child's first name](#)

Last Name: [Click here to enter child's last name](#)

Date of Birth: [MM/DD/YYYY](#)

Grade Level: [Click here to enter child's grade level](#)

2) **The name(s) of involved school district personnel and the district(s) they represent.**

School District Name: [Click here to enter the school district name](#)

School District Personnel: [Click here to enter personnel's name](#)

3) **Please provide a description of the attempts that were made to resolve the issue at the school district and child welfare agency level. (*Please attach any supporting documentation to this form.*)**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

4) **Please provide a brief description on any resolutions to the issue provided by the district.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

5) **Please provide a detailed description of the dispute. (*Use additional space, if needed.*)**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Address the complaint to:

Oklahoma State Department of Education

Office of Federal Programs

State Foster Care Coordinator

2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105