Illinois State Board of Education

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Foster Care Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who is required to provide a point of contact (POC) and develop a foster care transportation policy/procedure?

The Local Educational Agency (LEA) is required to designate a POC and develop a foster care transportation policy/procedure. This document shall identify procedures governing how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded in order to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest.

2. What is the specific system to enter the LEA's point of contact (POC)?

The Entity Profile System (EPS) allows the LEAs to enter the POC.

3. Where should the districts register the designated foster care POC in their Entity Profile System on IWAS?

In order to create a Foster Care Contact in Entity Profile System (please see the attached "Creating Foster Care Contact," for further guidance):
   • Log in to Entity Profile System and select New Change for the district.
   • Click the "+" sign next to Contacts to add a new contact.
   • Enter the contact's information and select Foster Care Contact from the Contact Type dropdown list.
   • After clicking 'Save' you will be returned to the previous page and will see the new contact.
   • If necessary, addresses and phone numbers can be added by clicking "+ Address" or "+Phone".

4. Are there foster care policy examples or samples of plans for districts to use in order to satisfy ESSA requirements?

ISBE is in the process of developing a "Transportation Procedure for Students in Foster Care" sample policy/procedure guidance document that districts may tailor to meet their respective needs.

5. Does the local school board need to approve the plan?

Plans do not have to be approved by a local school board unless this is required by the district.

6. If a district has multiple schools serving foster care students, will each school have to provide an individual POC?

No. The district only needs one individual to serve as the LEA POC and not one for each individual school within the LEA.

7. Does the POC have to be located at each school where foster children are enrolled?

The POC is designated at the LEA level and not each school where the foster child is enrolled.

8. Do special education cooperatives need to identify and register a contact person?

No. The "Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care" states that the LEA should designate a POC at the LEA level. A special education cooperative does not need to identify and register a contact person.

9. What are the foster care transportation policy/plan requirements?

ISBE is in the process of amending the "Guidelines for Best Determination of Best Interests and Transportation and Procedures for Dispute Resolution" eBulletin.

10. Where do the LEAs submit their completed foster care transportation policy/procedure document?

Please submit completed foster care transportation policy/procedure documents to foster@isbe.net.

11. Will ISBE extend the date of January 16, 2017 for the development of the foster care transportation policy/procedure?

Yes. The deadline is June 30, 2017.

This document will continually be updated.