
TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) requires school districts to work with child welfare agencies to ensure the educational stability of children in foster care. In New York State, the child welfare agency is the local department of social services (DSS) or, at the state level, the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS).

Federal Law offers students in foster care the option of attending either the school district of location or the school district of origin. There is a legal presumption that maintaining the student in the district of origin is in the best interests of the student. The District is to work with child welfare agencies to make a decision regarding the district of attendance in the best interests of the student.

When a foster care student is placed in a foster care placement other than the district of origin, the District will coordinate and collaborate with the child welfare agency to make an appropriate transportation plan that supports the student's school stability plan and is fair to the District's taxpayers. Where possible, the District will seek to have the child welfare agency arrange transportation through a separate contract or provide reimbursement to the District for transportation when extra costs are incurred.

Adopted 2/4/19