

Foster Care Plan

Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

It will be the procedure of the Jackson County Board of Education to work with the child welfare agencies in ensuring educational stability for children in foster care.

Points of emphasis will be:

Children in foster care will remain in the school of origin, unless there is a determination that it is not in their best interest, when possible. The determination will be a joint collaboration with child welfare agencies and the board of education representatives consisting of but not limited to the board of education point of contact for foster care, principals involved, transportation supervisor and student services representative.

If it is in the best interest of the child to leave the school of origin, the child must be enrolled immediately in the new school even if they don't have the required documentation. Enrollment shall not be denied or delayed due to any of the following barriers: Lack of birth certificate, lack of school records or transcripts, lack of immunization records, lack of proof of residency, lack of transportation, lack of social security card, guardianship or custody requirements. Once the child is enrolled, the schools will work to obtain the normal documentation.

If transportation is needed, the board point of contact, representative of student services, and transportation supervisor will meet with child welfare agencies to determine transportation needs and expenses. Clear written procedures will be provided for the duration of the child's time in foster care.

A dispute resolution for ensuring educational stability for children in foster care will be in place.

District Dispute Resolution for Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

Enrollment should not be denied pending resolution of a dispute. Any dispute for the provision of a public education to a foster child will follow local board policy.

In the event of a dispute regarding eligibility or placement, written notification of the right to appeal will be given to the guardian. Following a written request to appeal the district's decision regarding placement, the appeal process will be initiated by the Federal Programs Director.

During the dispute resolution process, the student will be enrolled and/or remain enrolled. The term "enroll" includes attending classes and participating in school activities.

The placement decision will be made in writing or will be presented orally in language that the guardian can understand and will include an explanation of the placement decision. The communication will be provided to the guardian with ten (10) working.

The guardian may further appeal the decision to the Superintendent of Schools and or the Board of Education verbally or in writing. An explanation of the placement decision will be presented within ten (10) working days to both the Federal Programs Director and the guardian in a language they understand.